

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY  
REGULAR COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019  
9:00 A.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Dagley, Chair  
Councillor Susan MacLeod  
Deputy Mayor Heather Kelly  
Councillor Brian Fralic  
Councillor Jack Fancy  
Councillor Gilbert Johnson  
Chris McNeill, CAO  
Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

**REGRETS:** Councillor Kevin Muise  
Councillor Raymond Fiske

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Dagley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2.0 CHANGES / APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Fancy that the Agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations to come before this meeting.

**4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS:**

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

**5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION / COMMENT SESSION:**

Leon Robertson, 45 College Street, Liverpool – Mr. Robertson enquired under the budget, if the water utility rates would stay the same. He offered his opinion on the 3-way stop, stating he thought it was working well.

David Huskins, 160 Church Street, Liverpool – Mr. Huskins commented the new public washroom was very nice.

Christopher Clarke, 34 Bootlegger Road, Liverpool – Mr. Clarke stated that he was in favour of the fish farm in Liverpool Bay and was encouraged by the reports from the Medway River Association, Dalhousie and Department of Fisheries, and the restoration of salmon in the Medway River. He offered his opinion on the recent loss of fish by Cooke Aquaculture, stating 2 – 3% is common. He further stated he visits Beach Meadows Beach regularly and has over a 60 year period, and it continues to be a nice beach.

Brian Muldoon, 980 Brooklyn Shore Road and owner of an Air B&B at 968 Brooklyn Shore Road, Beach Meadows – Mr. Muldoon stated in mid-February a 5 foot buoy from Cooke Aquaculture fish farm broke up and washed up along the shore in front of his home as well as the Air B&B. He wrote about his concerns to Mayor Dagley and Cooke Aquaculture. He commented seeing 6 transfer trucks in which he assumed they were removing the 10,000 fish which had died.

He further asked for clarification on a comment Mayor Dagley stated on receiving funding from the provincial government if the Municipality took a stand with the members of Protect Liverpool Bay.

He further enquired about holding a referendum with their group paying or inviting members of the public. Mayor Dagley advised that this would not be a proper process would be at a significant cost to tax payers.

Mayor Dagley stated that contact would be made again with Cooke Aquaculture for a cleanup of debris.

Andrea Van Wilgenburg, 124 Fostertown Road, Port Medway – Ms. Van Wilgenburg enquired to the benefit of having Cooke Aquaculture in Queens County.

Annabelle Singleton, 105 Medway River Road, Mill Village – Ms. Singleton stated she was present as both a concerned citizen and member of the group Protect Liverpool Bay and is against the proposed expansion of the fish farm by Cooke Aquaculture, as there will be long term negative effects to the physical and social economic world, and would be an injustice to future generations. The group will be opening their head office at 279 Main Street in Liverpool to share information and concerns with lobster fisheries, tourism industry and current property values. The group is starting a Go Fund Me campaign to raise \$50,000 to hire experts to understand the true costs of contamination. She asked Council to stand with them against the proposed expansion.

Kate Milan, Louis Head, Shelburne County – Ms. Milan stated that she has in the past lived in an area where Cooke's Aquaculture had purchased all the smaller fish farms. She offered her opinion that Cooke Aquaculture and the government were working together and the need to get the community involved.

Kristin Lewis, Milford Street, Milton – Ms. Lewis offered her opinion and stated her concerns on the pollution that Cooke Aquaculture fish farm generates and is against their proposed expansion in Liverpool Bay.

Anne Laws, Old Meeting House Road, Beach Meadows – Ms. Laws thanked the many volunteers in the region who took part in the World Junior Curling Championships.

She stated she was present in Council as part of the group Protect Liverpool Bay. She asked Council to consider the following questions: 1. What do you think of the group, Protect Liverpool Bay, does Council think they are uneducated? 2. The group has a large network of connections, are Council aware? 3. Are Councillors acknowledging that Cooke Aquaculture and the government are working together? 4. The need to have the Minister's role removed as part of the application process, as he selected the members on the panel. She further asked that Council stand up for them. Mayor Dagley advised her there will be a discussion later on in the agenda and Councillors could address her questions at that time.

Shirley Shot, 382 Brooklyn Shore Road, Brooklyn – Ms. Shot stated that she is against the proposed expansion of the fish farm. She stated that she, along with other members in the gallery, had stood behind the Councillors during election, and asked that Councillors now back them in their fight against Cooke Aquaculture.

Betsy Hartt, 42 East Berlin Road, East Berlin – Ms. Hartt stated that for the last 26 years she has run a business in selling seaweed to many businesses around Nova Scotia. She expressed her concerns of the government not holding Cooke Aquaculture accountable for having an inspector on site more than a few times a year.

Stan Wentzell, 980 Brooklyn Shore Road, Beach Meadows – Mr. Wentzell circulated debris from the buoy from the fish farm which washed up along the shore in front of his house. He encouraged and invited anyone interested in viewing to stop by and see for themselves.

Josh Morash, Brooklyn Shore Road, Beach Meadows – Mr. Morash stated he is against the proposed expansion of the fish farm which would have pens in front of his house, and he has made assessment appeals and encouraged others to do the same, which will reduce income to the Region.

Ron Neufeld, Louis Head Road, Shelburne - Mr. Neufeld stated the province's goal is to reestablish wild salmon in rivers across Nova Scotia and they have had some success as shown in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans science reports, but salmon aquaculture sites do not coincide with establishing wild salmon and asked Council not to support the proposed expansion application.

Mary White, 1022 Brooklyn Shore Road, Beach Meadows – Ms. White thanked everyone for coming and offering their opinions, as not all people have this right. She talked about complacency and urged Council to take a stand and to not give in to fear mongering.

Donna Dexter, 826 Eastern Shore Road, Beach Meadows – Ms. Dexter was present representing the Queens Day Care and enquired under the Community Investment Fund about an appeal process as the Queens Day Care application was not approved. Mayor Dagley advised Ms. Dexter to contact Meaghan Roberts, Director of Recreation and Healthy Communities.

Matthew Collins, Milton – Mr. Collins offered his opinion on the number of jobs versus the environment. He also voiced his concern over if the farmed salmon escaped and bred with the wild salmon, causing a vulnerability for the wild salmon.

## 6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

6.1 Council Minutes – March 12, 2019

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kelly and seconded by Councillor MacLeod:**

**THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held March 12, 2019 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

## 7.0 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES:

There were no items to come before this meeting.

## 8.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

There were no items to come before this meeting.

Mayor Dagley announced a 5 minute recess at 10:13 a.m.

## 9.0 FINANCE

9.1 Budget Presentation

Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance, presented to Council on the Financial Condition Indicators (copy attached to original set of Minutes). Some highlights included:

- FCIs – The Region did not meet the provincially defined threshold on 1 FCI; uncollected taxes, which showed an improvement over last year.
- 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure – These are uncontrollable expenses, defined by Provincial calculations, contracts and rates and represent a third of the total budget. These include payments to the education levy, PVSC, RCMP and Corrections, and Housing Authority.
- General Government Services – Include general administration services, taxation costs, legal services, maintenance of RQM building, new community investment fund, communications, council.

- Protective Services – Include By-Law, building inspection, Fire protection, hydrant costs, EMO, court house building, less RCMP and Corrections at approximately \$2.26M which is a Transfer Payment.
- Transportation Services – Includes the public works department, general operations, snow clearing, sidewalk maintenance (road and streets) and streetlights, less road levy costs of approximately \$254,000.
- Environmental Health Services – Includes solid waste management and collection, MRF (materials recycling), and sewage treatment costs of approximately \$3.4 million.
- Public Health & Welfare Services – Hillsview is totally funded by Department of Health, Mount Pleasant School has been offered to sale to Queens Day Care less Regional Housing Authority \$100,000, which is considered a Transfer Payment.
- Environmental Development Services – Includes Planning Administration of approximately \$325,000 and Economic Development including the new Façade Program and Branding in the amount of \$866,000.
- Recreation Facilities and Cultural Services – Includes Queens Place Emera Centre (\$1.1 Million) and recreation department's programming, maintenance of Pine Grove and various other parks and playgrounds, outdoor pools in North Queens and Milton (\$1.7 Million), library and old Town Hall, burial grounds, summer staff and aquatic training (\$54,000).
- Transfers, Conditional and Own Reserves – Includes a transfer payment of approximately \$2.9 Million for School Board Levy, and \$1.2 Million remains in our reserve funds for equipment, capital and special operating.

Mayor Dagley gave budget remarks on the 2019-2020 Budget (copy attached to original set of Minutes).

9.1 (1) Brooklyn Recreation Committee

**It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve a four and one-half cent (\$.045) area rate for the Brooklyn Recreation Committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

9.1 (2) Brooklyn Cemetery Committee

**It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Fralic:**

**THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve a one and one-half cent (\$.015) area rate for the Brooklyn Cemetery Committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

9.1 (3) Area Rates

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Fralic:

**THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approves that area rates be charged to residential, commercial, and resource assessments;**

**AND THAT the rates are applied as follows:**

**Assessment Districts 1-12**

**Except Assessment Account Numbers 10148820, 10462223 and 00132837:  
Road Levy 75%**

**Assessment District 13**

**And Assessment Account Numbers 10148820, 10462223 and 00132837:**

Debt Charges District 13	- 100%
Roads, Streets & Sidewalks	- 75%
Equipment Costs	- 75%
Hydrant Charges-Central Water System	- 100%
General Paving Out of Operations	- 100%

**Assessment Districts 1, 3, 5, 6: Hydrant Charges – Properties connected to the Liverpool Central Water System or that have the ability to connect to the system.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

9.1 (4) Operating Budget and Tax Rates

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Fralic:

**THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the 2019 – 2020 Operating Budget reflecting an operating surplus of \$5,986 and expenditures in the amount of \$20,806,642 which represents the tax rates for Assessment District 13 and assessment accounts 10148820, 10462223 and 00132837 as follows:**

- **Residential Base rate of \$1.03 per \$100.00 of assessment; plus an Area Rate of \$0.91 per \$100.00 of assessment or \$0.78 per \$100.00 of assessment not connectable to the Liverpool Water Utility;**
- **Resource Base rate of \$1.03 per \$100.00 of assessment; and an Area Rate of \$0.91 per \$100.00 of assessment or \$0.78 per \$100.00 of assessment not connectable to the Liverpool Water Utility;**
- **Commercial Base rate of \$2.13 per \$100.00 of assessment; and an Area Rate of \$0.91 per \$100.00 of assessment or \$0.78 per \$100.00 of assessment not connectable to the Liverpool Water Utility;**

**AND THAT the following represents the tax rates for Assessment Districts 1-12 with the exception of assessment accounts 10148820, 10462223 and 00132837 as follows:**

- **Residential Base rate of \$1.03 per \$100.00 of assessment and an Area Rate of \$0.03 per \$100.00 of assessment;**
- **Resource Base rate of \$1.03 per \$100.00 of assessment and an Area Rate of \$0.03 per \$100.00 of assessment;**
- **Commercial Base rate of \$2.13 per \$100.00 of assessment and an Area Rate of \$0.03 per \$100.00 of assessment;**
- **Commercial Seasonal Base Rate of \$1.60 per \$100.00 of assessment and an Area Rate of \$0.02 per \$100.00 of assessment.**

**AND THAT an area rate of \$0.13 per \$100.00 of residential, commercial, and resource assessment in Assessment Districts 1, 3, 5 and 6 that have the ability to connect to the Liverpool Water Utility.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

9.1 (5) Water Utility Operating Budget

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kelly:

**THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the 2019 – 2020 Water Utility Operating Budget reflecting revenue of \$720,255 and expenditures of \$716,165 and a surplus of \$4,090;**

**AND THAT Council approves the submission of the three year Water Utility Operating Budget for the fiscal years 2019 – 2020, 2020 - 2021 and 2021 – 2022 to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

9.1 (6) Capital Budget

It was moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Fralic:

**THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the Capital Budget for 2019 – 2020 reflecting expenditures of \$8,374,123 to be funded as follows:**

Long Term Borrowing	\$ 1,679,789
Provincial/Federal/Other Funding	\$ 5,416,334
<u>Transfer from Reserves</u>	
➤ Capital Reserve	182,000
➤ Gas Tax Reserve	<u>1,096,000</u>
	<u>\$ 8,374,123</u>

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

9.1 (7) Capital Investment Plan

It was moved by Councillor Fancy and seconded by Councillor Johnson:

**THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the FIVE YEAR Capital Investment Plan for years 2019-2020 through 2023-2024;**

**AND THAT Council approves the submission of the five year Capital Investment Plan to the Department of Municipal Affairs.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

9.1 (9) Due Date on Taxes

It was moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Fralic:

**THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approves the due date for taxes for the Region's Assessment Districts 1 – 13 for the 2019 - 2020 taxation year of June 3, 2019;**

**AND THAT one month's interest is to be forgiven if the taxes are paid on or before July 2, 2019.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Mayor Dagley announced at 11:45 a.m. that Council would recess until 1:00 p.m.

9.2 RFP Janitorial Services

**It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor Johnson:**

**THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality accepts the proposal for Janitorial Services from JASPRO Services Limited for a flat monthly fee of \$4,725, for a one-year term with such term able to be extended for two further one-year terms at the discretion of the Municipality at the same price.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**10.0 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:**

Mayor Dagley welcomed Meaghan Roberts, Director Recreation and Healthy Communities, Jenny Rockett, Director of Economic Development and Dana Henley, Administrative Assistant.

10.1 Community Investment Fund Recommendations

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Fralic:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Eventide Festival in the amount of \$1,000 from 2019-2020 Community Investment Fund budget.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kelly:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Friends of Hank Snow Society in the amount of \$10,000 from 2019-2020 Community Investment Fund budget.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**It was moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to North Queens Board of Trade in the amount of \$3,610 from 2019-2020 Community Investment Fund budget.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor MacLeod:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Privateer Days in the amount of \$10,000 from 2019-2020 Community Investment Fund budget.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor MacLeod:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Queens County Blades for up to \$5,000 for 2019-2020 Winter Canskate Learn to Skate program from 2019-2020 Community Investment Fund budget, whereby a subsidy of \$100.00 will be provided for each participant registered in the Learn to Skate program from October 2019 – March 2020.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**It was moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor MacLeod:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Queens County Fair Association in the amount of \$10,000 from 2019-2020 Community Investment Fund budget.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Johnson:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Queens County Museum in the amount of \$5,000 from 2019-2020 Community Investment fund budget.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

## **11.0 CORPORATE SERVICES:**

### **11.1 Fire Department and Medical First Responder Annual Registration**

**It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Johnson:**

**THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approves the 2019-2020 fire department and medical first responder registrations effective April 1, 2019, for Greenfield and District Fire Department, Liverpool Fire Fighters Association, Mill Village and District Fire Department, North Queens Fire Association, Port Medway Fire Department, and West Queens Medical First Responder Society, according to the service levels for each department included on their 2019-2020 Application for Registration.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

### **11.2 Job Description – Customer Service Manager**

**It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor MacLeod:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the revised Customer Service Manager Job Description.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

### **11.3 Job Description – Customer Service Representative (CSR)**

**It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor Johnson:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the revised Customer Service Representative (CSR) Job Description.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

### **11.4 Job Description – Accounts Receivable Clerk**

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Fralic:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approves the Accounts Receivable Clerk Job Description.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

#### 11.5 Discussion Concerning Liverpool 3-Way Stop

Councillor Fancy stated he felt the 3-way stop on Main Street in Liverpool was unsafe and offered the following suggestions for improvement:

- Remove the seat in front of the post office, congestion of residents confusing at times to drivers;
- The pole in front of the Bank of Nova Scotia needs to be a brighter color to bring attention to it;
- Poles holding road signs needs to be a brighter color;
- Remove taller bushes/trees in front of the Physio Clinic for better viewing when leaving parking spots;
- Stop sign in front of lawyer's office on the corner a brighter color as it such a short distance to the crosswalk;
- Consider the use of flags when crossing.

Councillor Fralic stated that he had recently posted on his Facebook page asking for comments from residents with concerns or near misses. There were 68 responses. He suggested the consideration of installing flashing lights at the crosswalks, which will give pedestrians more security while crossing, not necessarily the installation of traffic lights. He agreed with some of the suggestions made by Councillor Fancy, which would make the area more visible.

Deputy Mayor Kelly and Councillors MacLeod and Johnson agreed that there needs to be improvements to alleviate the safety concerns.

Mayor Dagley stated staff will review and bring a report forward for consideration at a future Council meeting.

#### 12.0 PLANNING

There were no items to come before this meeting.

#### 13.0 ENGINEERING AND WORKS:

There were no items to come before this meeting.

#### 14.0 REPORTS

##### 14.1 Council Implementation Report

The Council Implementation Report was circulated for information purposes (copy attached to original set of Minutes).

##### 14.2 Liverpool Bay Aquaculture Application Discussion

A roundtable discussion was held on the comments and concerns brought forward by members of Protect Liverpool Bay on the proposed expansion. Some highlights included:

Councillors felt that the answers received from Cooke Aquaculture were vague and did not provide enough information.

An explanation on procedures if RQM was to become an intervenor at the public hearing was provided by the CAO, providing a rough estimate of costs associated. He stated that Council's role is only to be an advocate as aquaculture is outside the Municipal's legal jurisdiction.

A letter was sent to Cooke Aquaculture to require them to be accountable to the research requested in response to the questions submitted by RQM.

Concerns were raised should Cooke Aquaculture decide to sell their license.

There was a suggestion to have a representative at the public hearing to provide a letter from RQM against the expansion of the fish farm.

Concerns were raised on the lack of economic benefits to RQM from Cooke Aquaculture.

To allow Mayor Dagley the opportunity to offer comments, Deputy Mayor Kelly took the chair.

He enquired if RQM were to become an intervenor, is there adequate staff to manage the professionals RQM may hire. Chris McNeill, CAO, responded that he would have to manage and other projects will not be completed this year. The need to hire additional staff will be necessary to compile an application and reports.

Mayor Dagley resumed as chair.

Deputy Mayor Kelly stated reasons for requesting a report from staff advising Councillors of steps and estimates of costs to become intervenors against the open pen fish farms in Liverpool Bay so that they are aware of their options.

## **15.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

**It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Fralic that the proceedings go In-Camera at 3:20 p.m. to discuss the following:**

### **15.1 Contract Negotiations**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**Mayor Dagley announced a 5 minute recess at 3:20 p.m.**

**It was moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Fralic that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 3:55 p.m.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

### **15.1 Contract Negotiations**

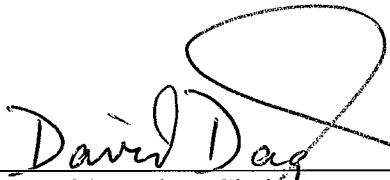
**Councillor MacLeod gave a notice of motion that at the next regular Council meeting she intends to bring forward the following motion for rescission that was passed by Council on February 27, 2018:**

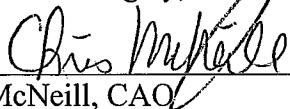
**“THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality agrees to donate usage of the land adjacent to the Mersey Skate Park, located at 72 Old Cobb’s Road, for the installation of a inclusive playground by Autism N.S. and that the Region enter into a renewable Partnership Agreement with Autism N.S. for a period of five years, which allows Autism N.S. to manage construction and ongoing maintenance of the playground, and that the Region of Queens provide up to a maximum of \$25,000 in support as requested in the “ask” by Autism N.S.”**

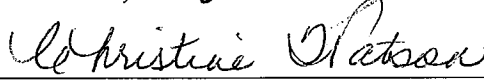
17.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the meeting be adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor David Dagley, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris McNeill, CAO

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

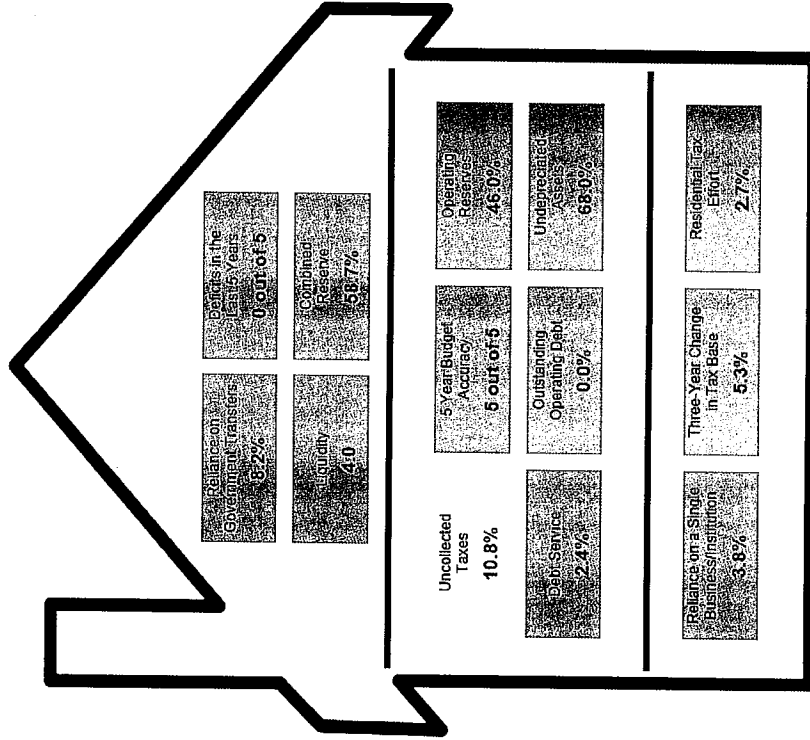
Date Approved: April 9, 2019

# Financial Condition Indicators

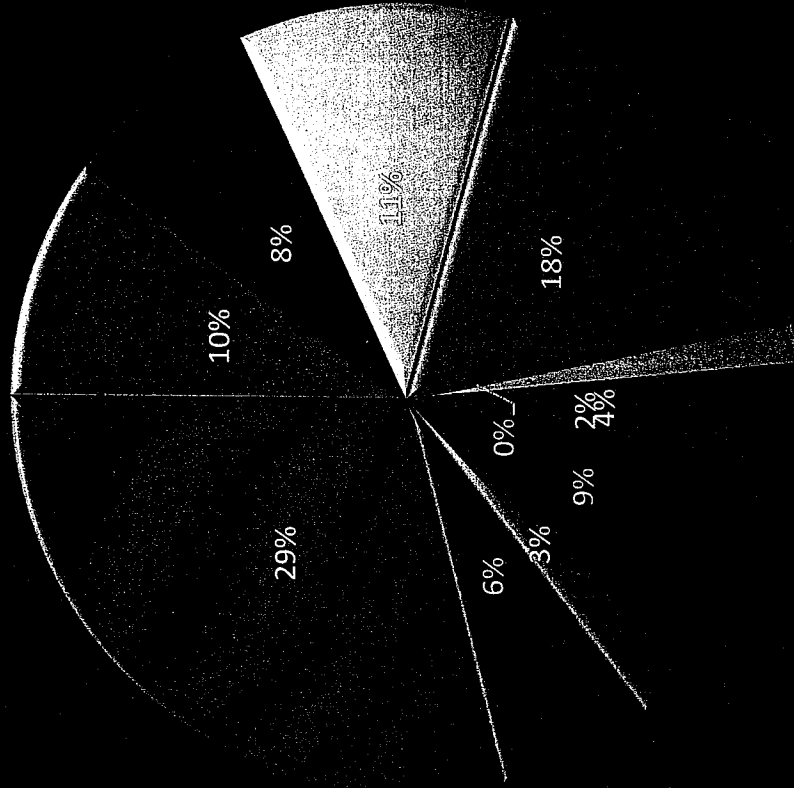
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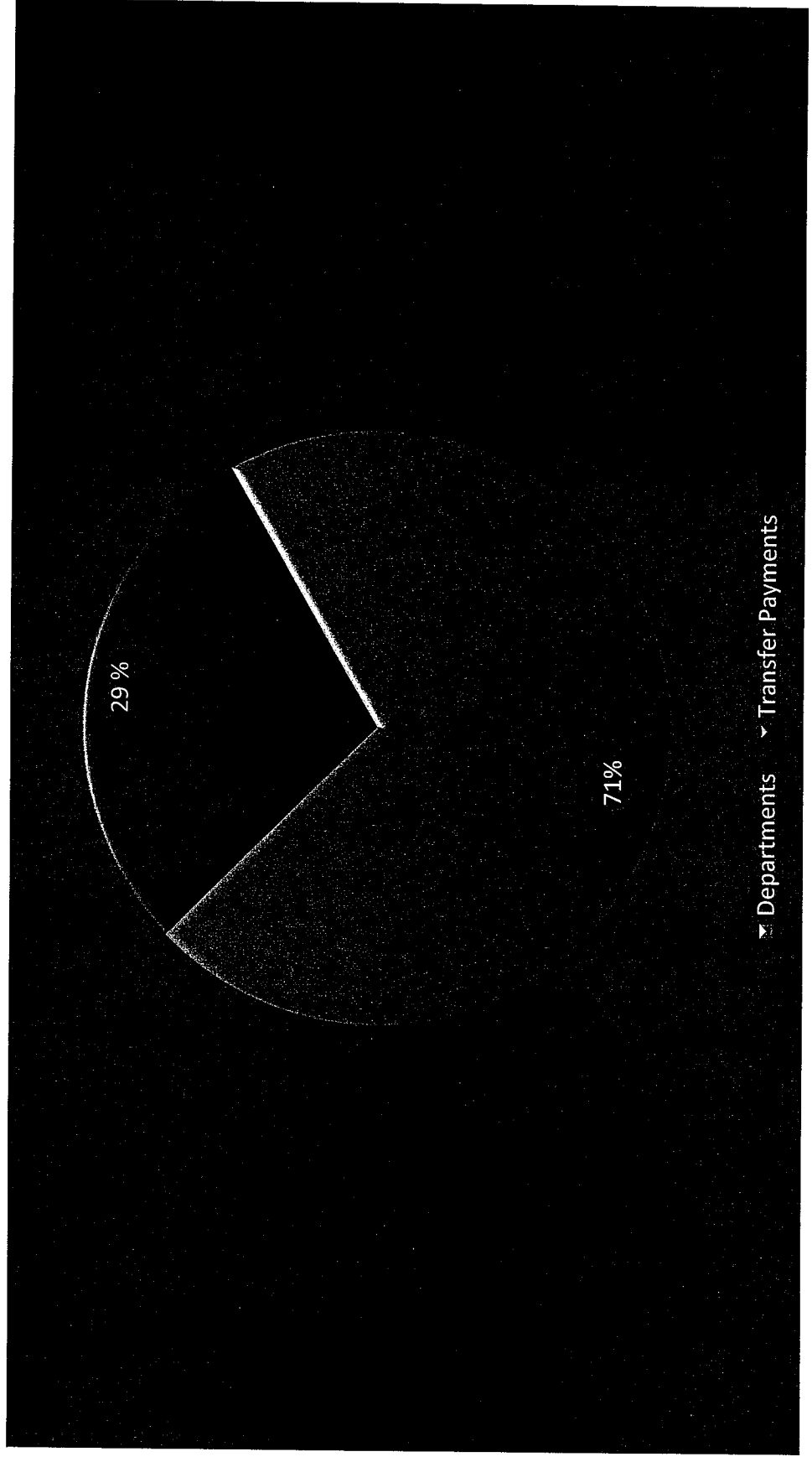


# 2019/2020 Budgeted Total Expenditure by Department

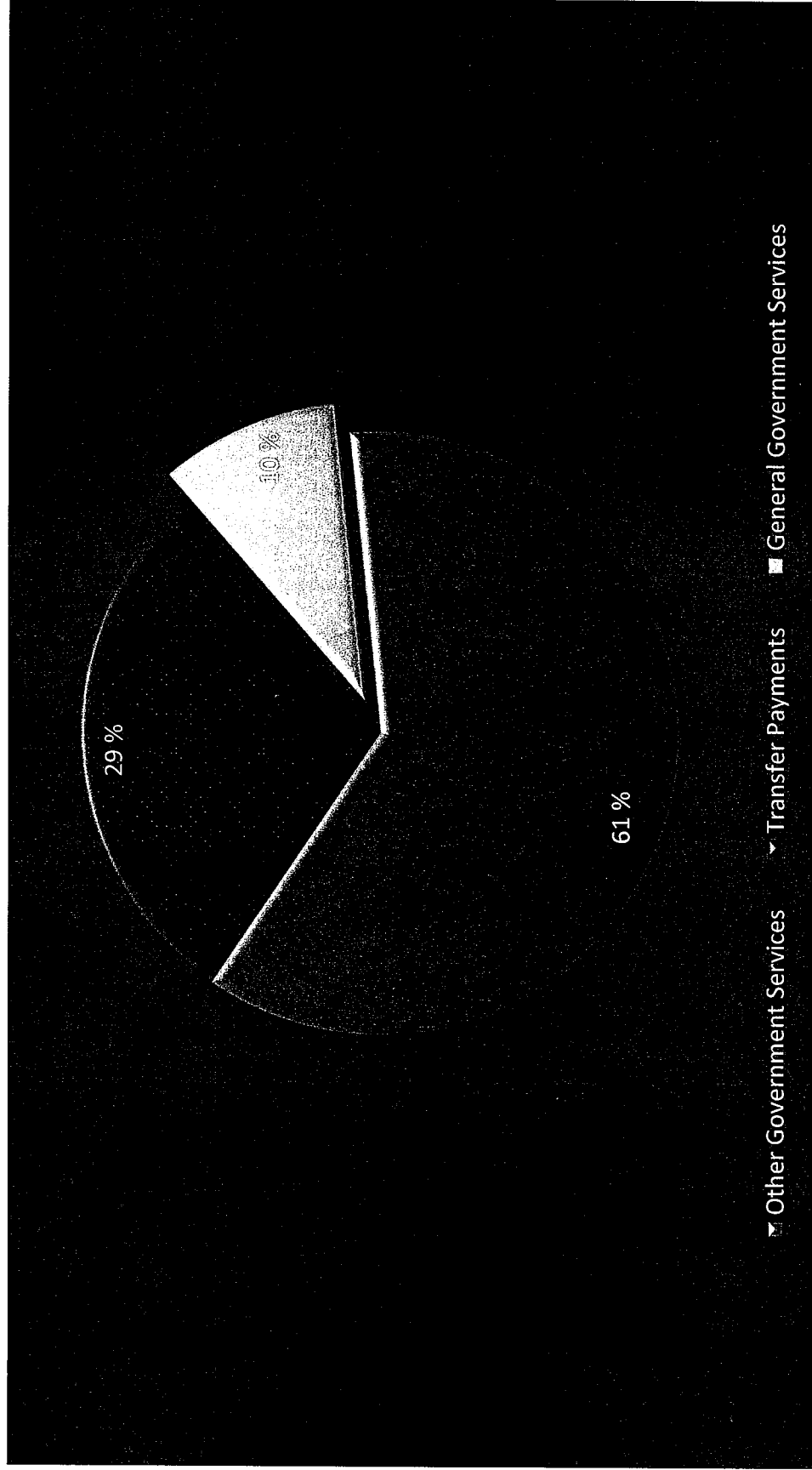


- ▾ General Government Services
- ▣ Transportation Services
- ▣ Public Health & Welfare Services
- ▾ Environmental Development - Economic Development
- ▾ Environmental Development - Planning
- ▾ Cultural Services
- ▾ Transfer Payments
- ▾ Protective Services
- ▾ Environmental Health Services
- ▣ Transfers, Conditional and Own Reserves

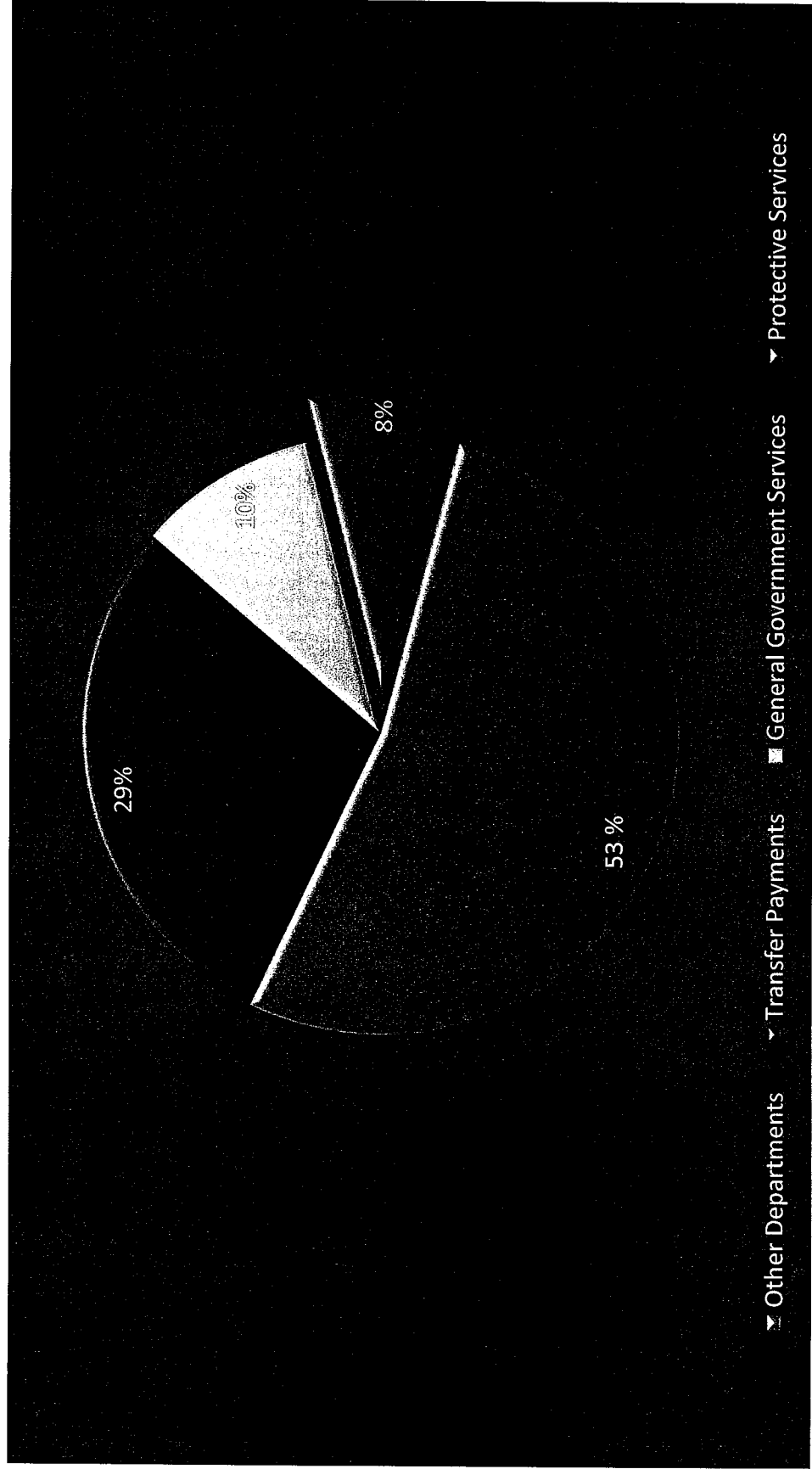
# 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure



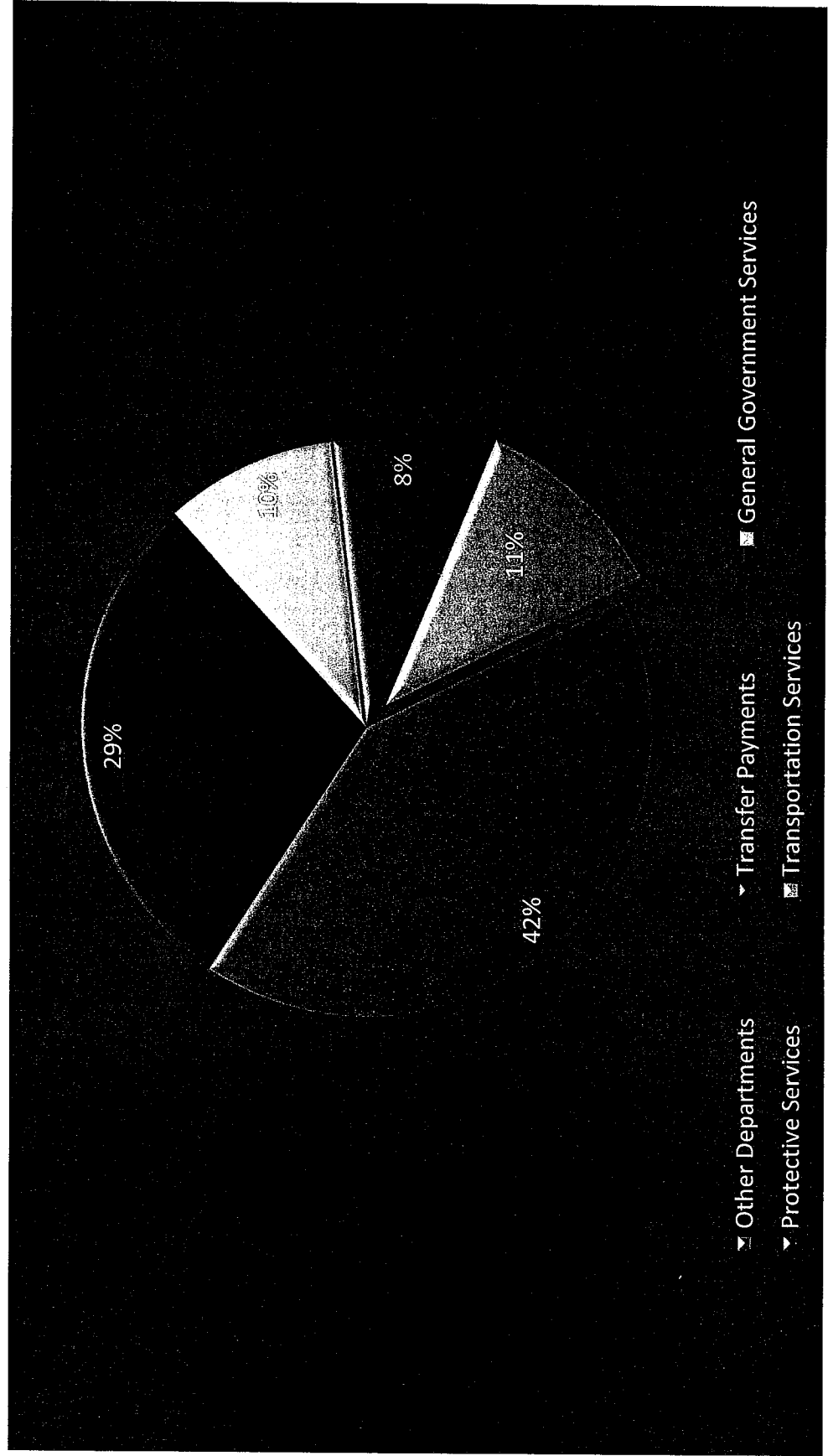
# 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure



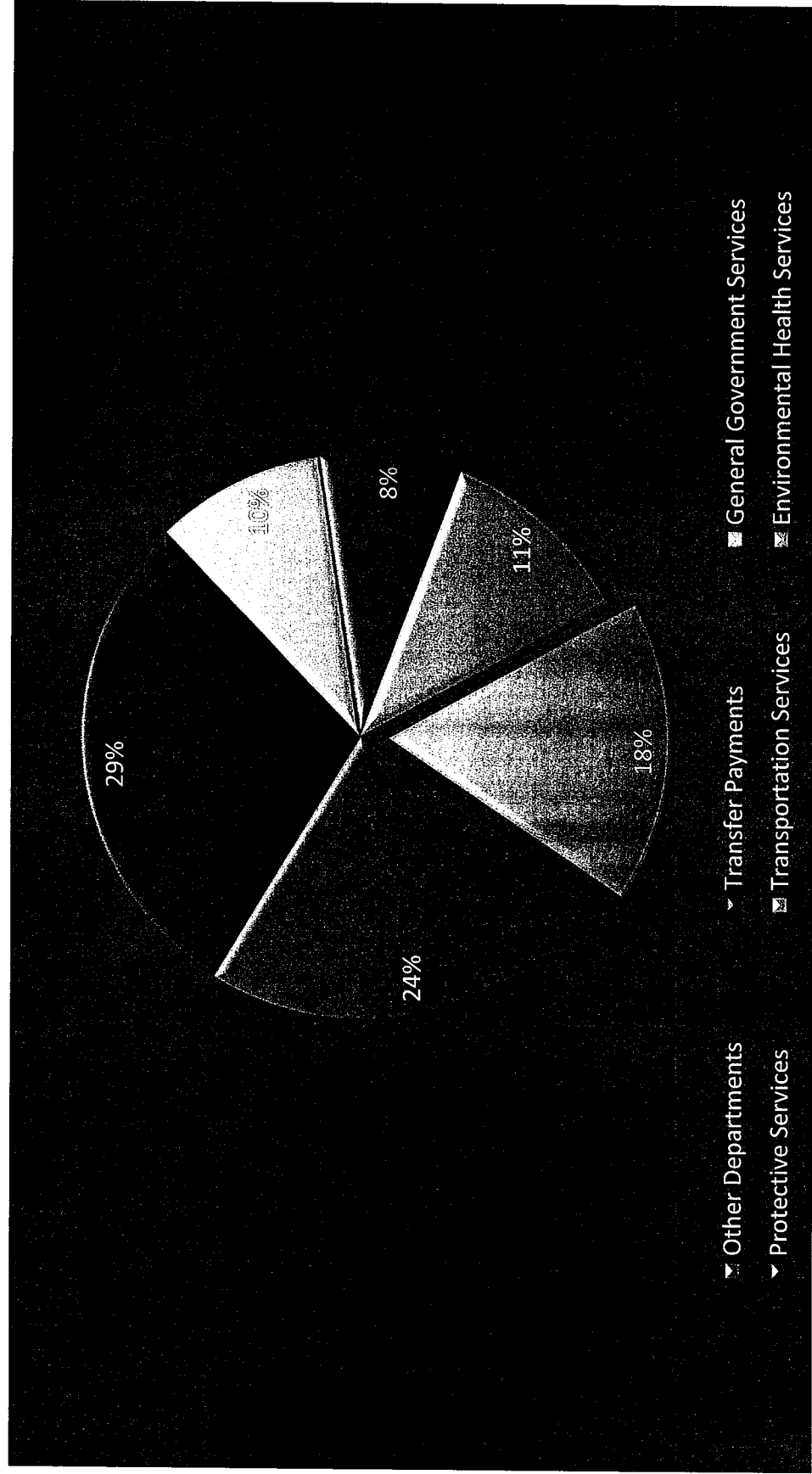
# 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure



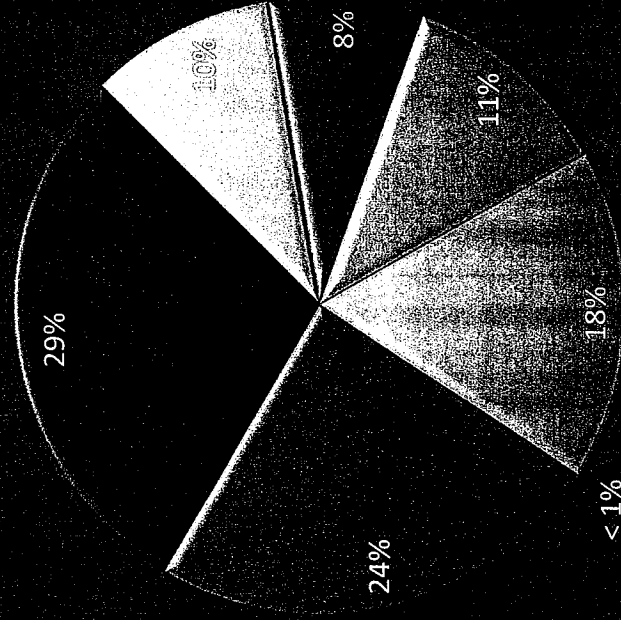
# 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure



# 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure

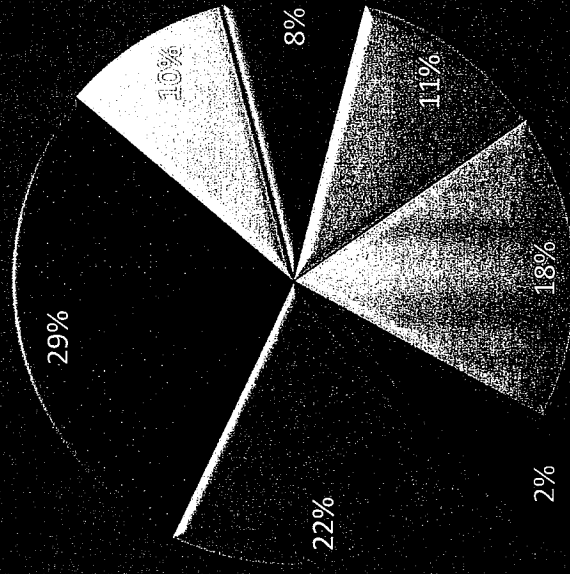


# 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure



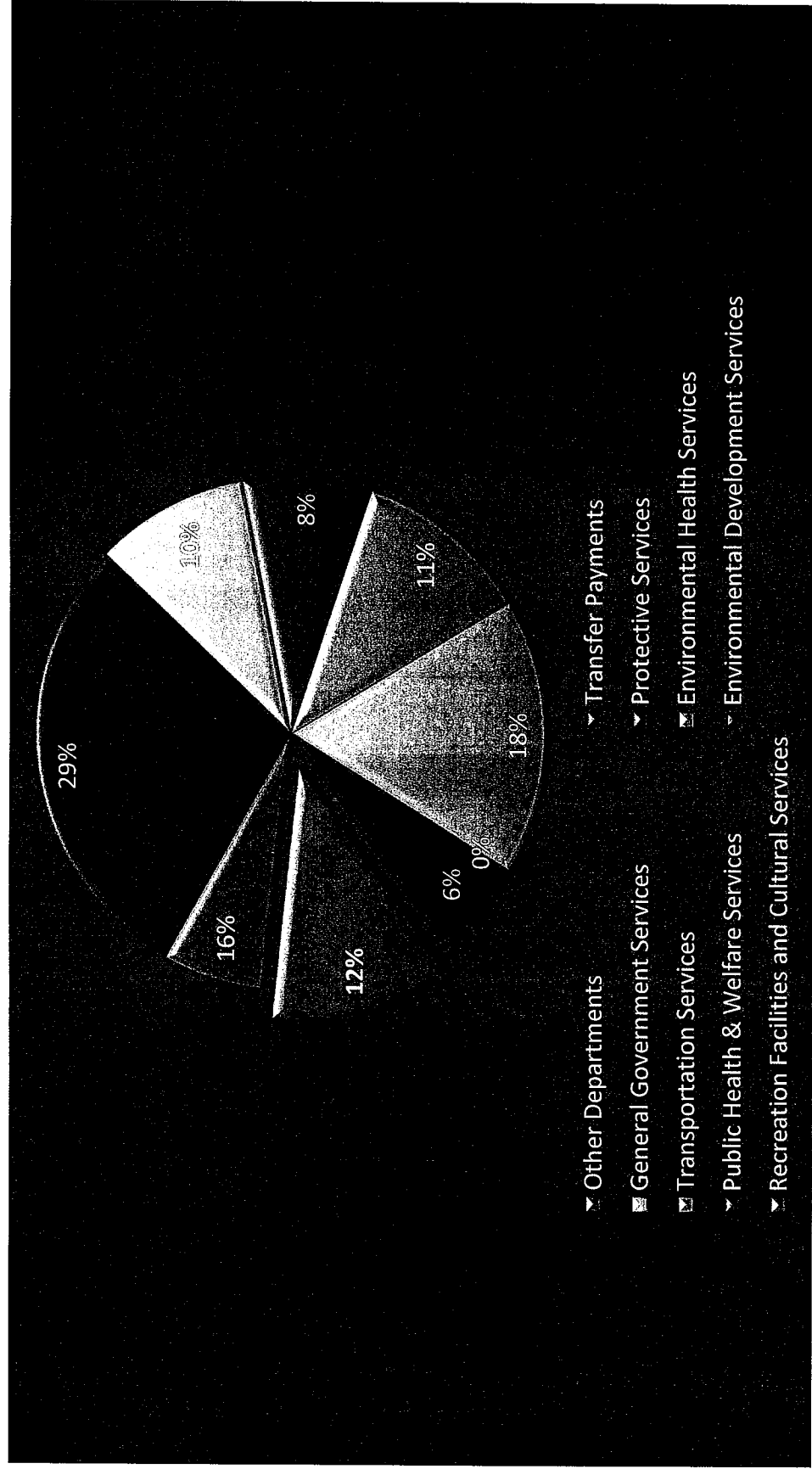
- ▣ Other Departments
- ▣ Protective Services
- ▣ Public Health & Welfare Services
- ▣ Transfer Payments
- ▣ Transportation Services
- ▣ General Government Services
- ▣ Environmental Health Services

# 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure

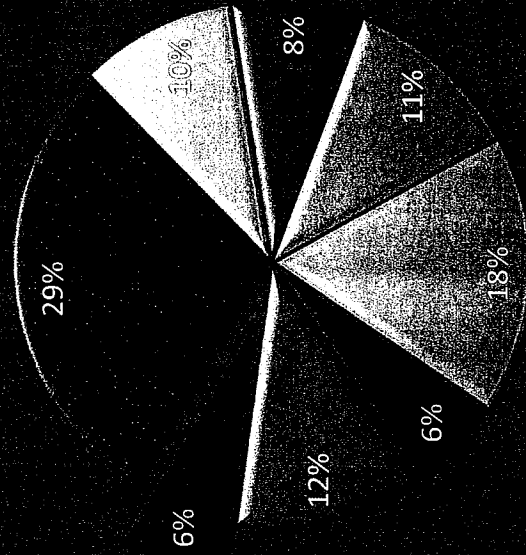


- Other Departments
- General Government Services
- Transportation Services
- Public Health & Welfare Services
- Transfer Payments
- Protective Services
- Environmental Health Services
- Environmental Development Services

# 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure



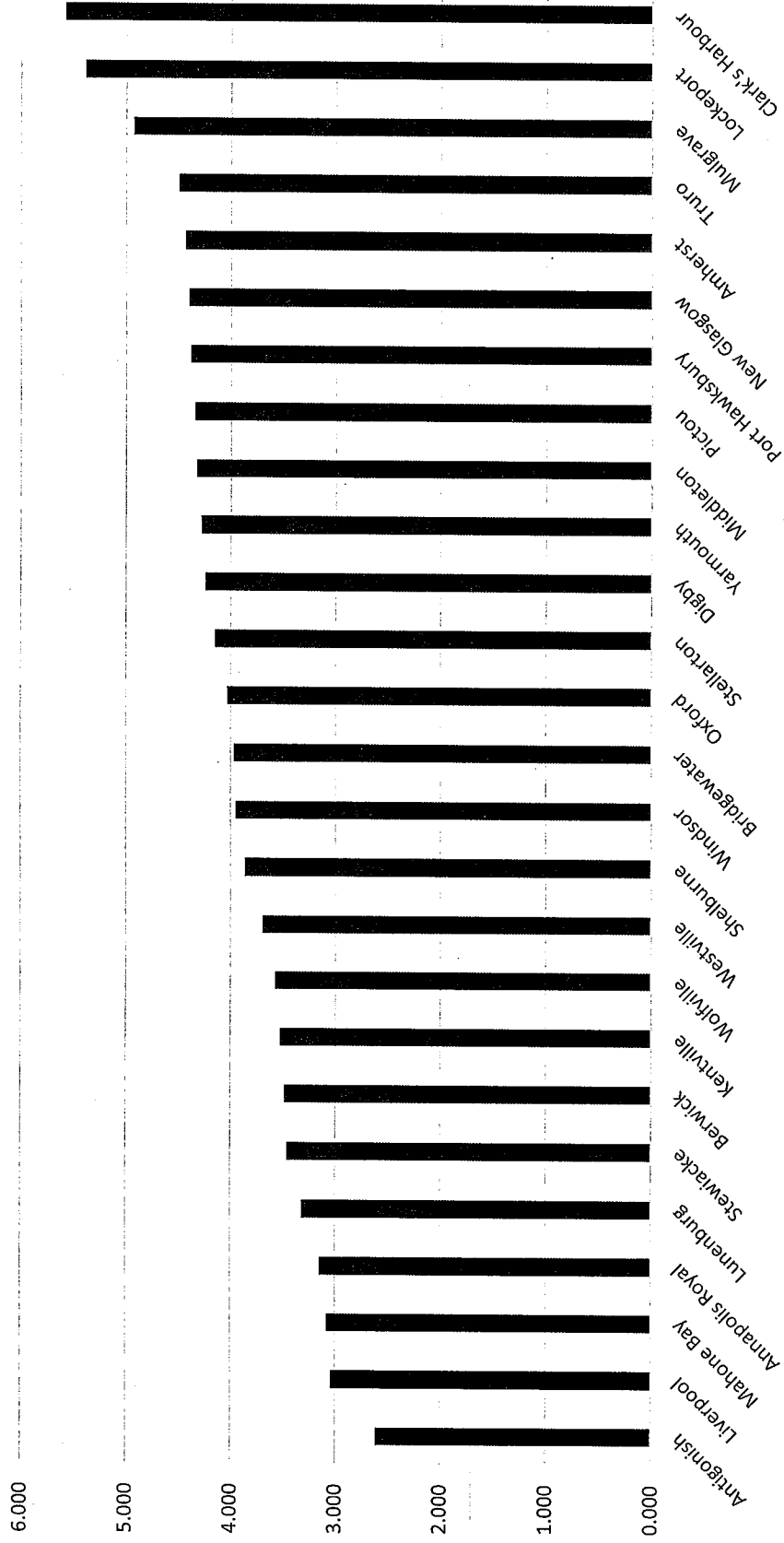
# 2019/2020 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure



- ▼ Transfer Payments
- ▼ Protective Services
- ▼ Environmental Health Services
- ▼ Environmental Development Services
- ▼ Transfers, Conditional and Own Reserves
- ▼ General Government Services
- ▼ Transportation Services
- ▼ Public Health & Welfare Services
- ▼ Recreation Facilities and Cultural Services

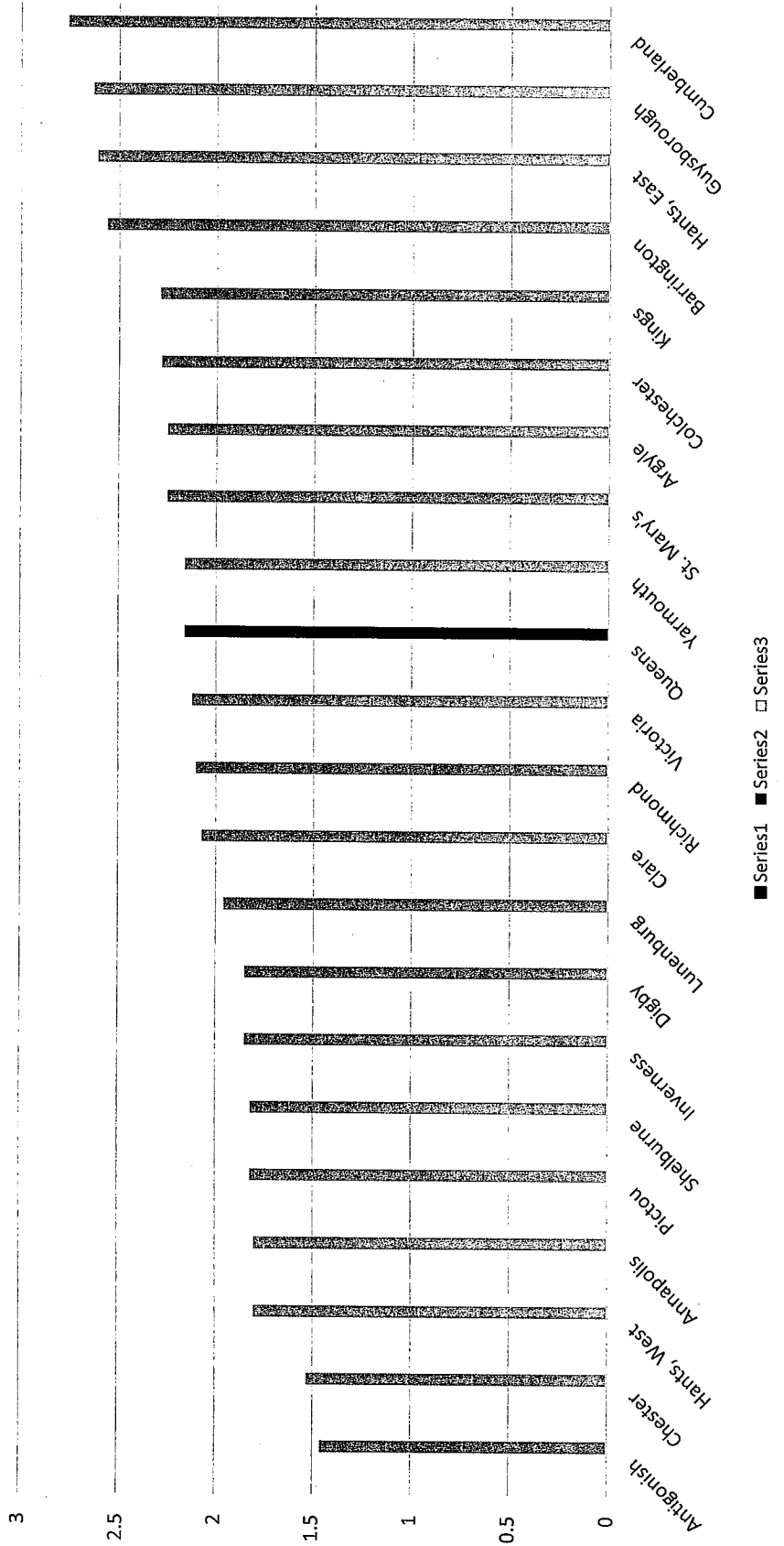
# 2018/19 Commercial Rates - Town

Chart Title



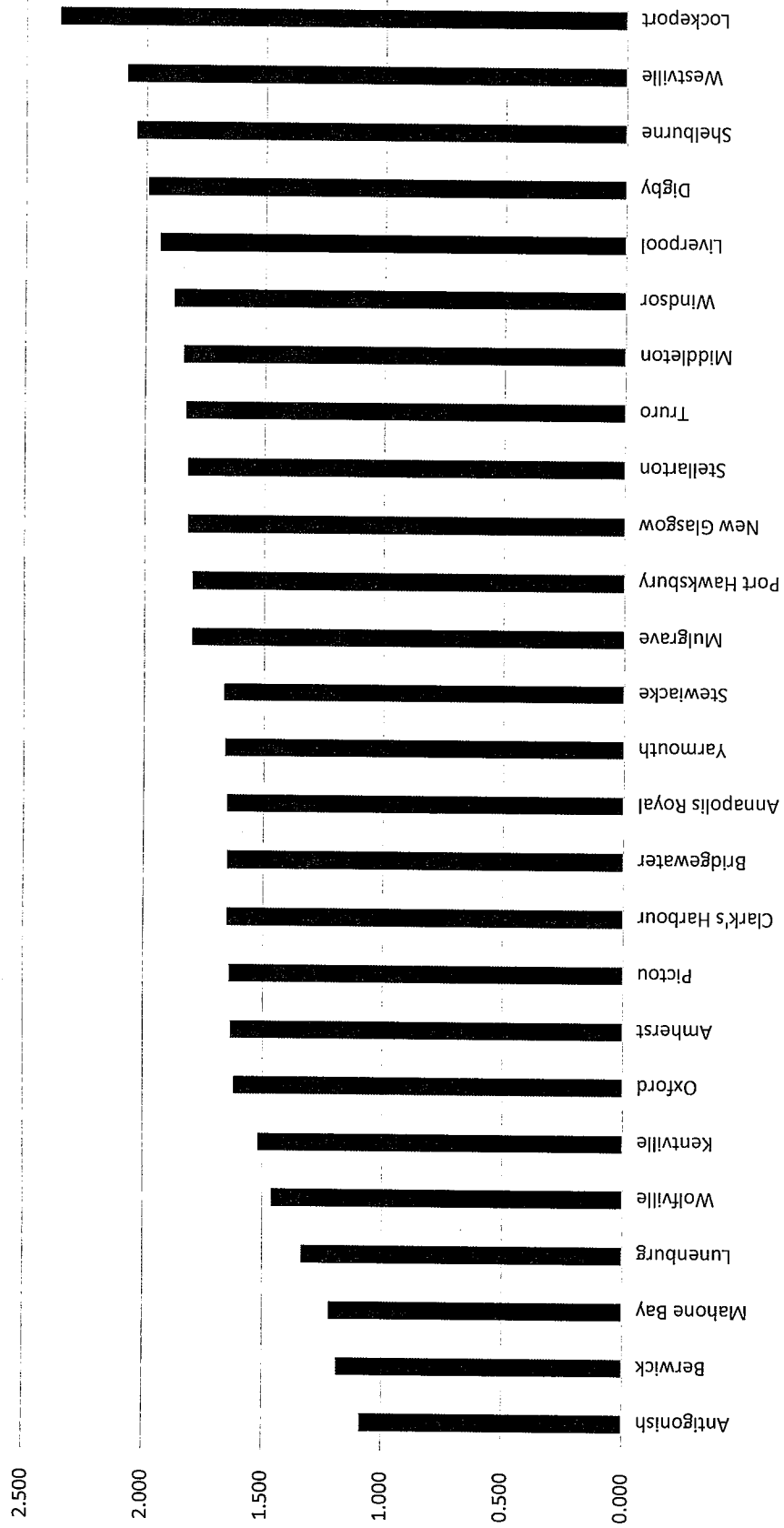
# 2018/19 Commercial Rates - Rural

Chart Title



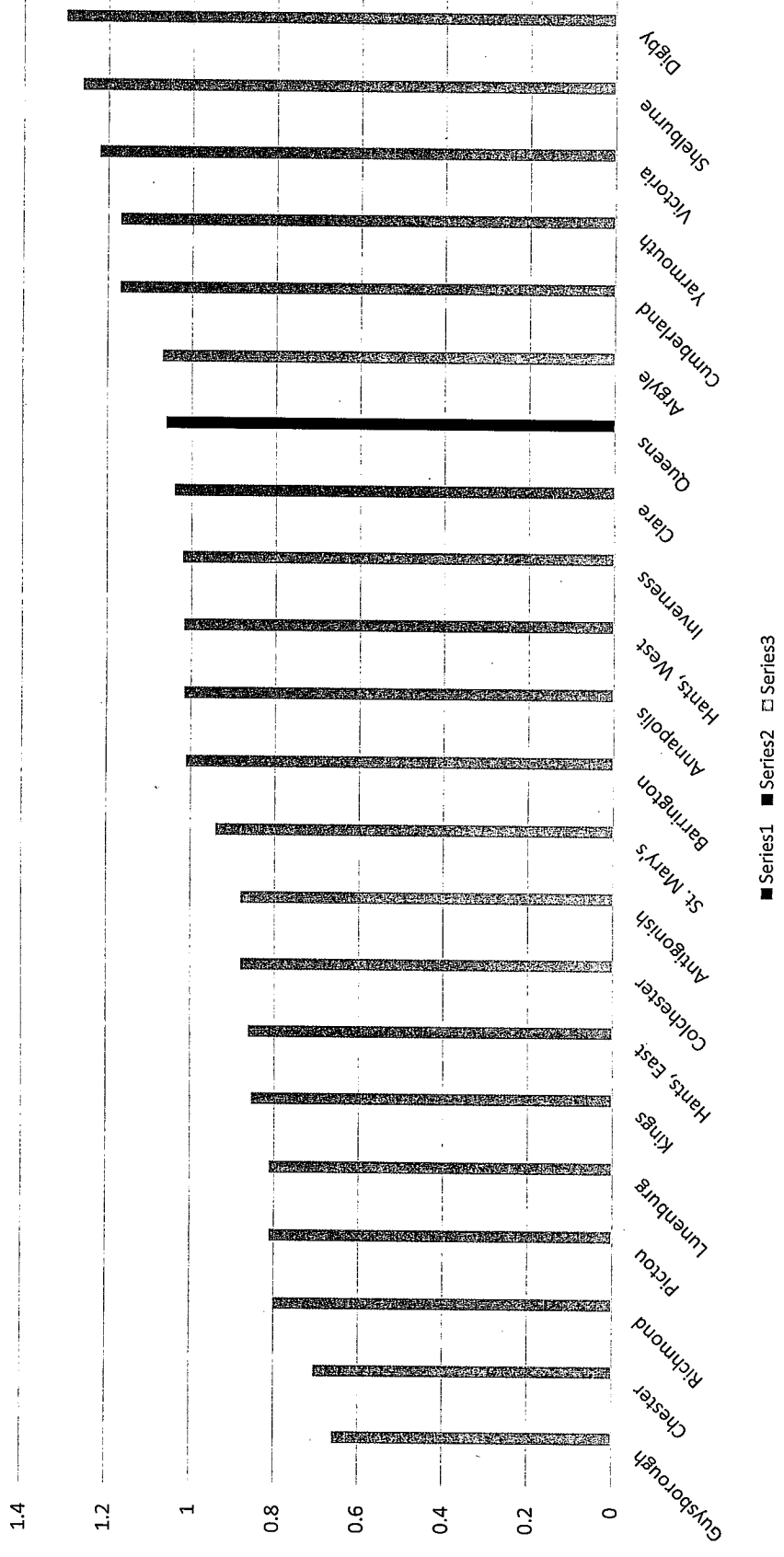
# 2018/19 Residential Rates - Town

Chart Title



# 2018/19 Residential Rates - Rural

Chart Title



# Region of Queens Municipality 2019-2020 Budget Address

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Albany New, Bangs Falls, Beach Meadows, Beech Hill Farms, Brooklyn, Buckfield, Caledonia, Charleston, Danesville, Eagle Head, East Berlin, East Port l'Hebert, East Port Medway, Greenfield, Harmony Mills, Hibernia, Hunts Point, Kejimikujik National Park of Canada, Kempt, Labelle, Lake Rossignol, Liverpool, Medway River Reserve, Mersey Point, Middlefield, Mill Village, Milton, Molega, Molega North, Moose Harbor, Mount Pleasant, New Grafton, North Brookfield, Northfield, Pleasantfield, Pleasant River, Ponhook Reserve, Port Joli, Port Medway, Port Mouton, Riversdale, South Brookfield, South West Port Mouton, Summerville Centre, Tobeatic Wildlife Management Area, Wentworth Lake, West Berlin, West Caledonia, Westfield, Western Head, Whiteburn Mines, White Point, Wildcat Reserve

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

Over the past several months, as Council has worked with staff to prepare the 2019/2020 Operating, Capital, and Water Utility Budgets for Region of Queens Municipality, Council has had time to reflect on the goals accomplished to date in our mandate, the changes in our Municipality since Council came into office in October 2016, and to determine the strategic path forward. Last year, we focused on community investments through a strategy that focused on growth by investing in our communities and people. Much was accomplished, and we plan to build on that momentum in the coming year – Queens County is vibrant, with a strong business and cultural community, passionate volunteers, and involved residents.

Staff from all departments have worked hard to ensure funding to advance our economic development goals are supported in this budget. Their efforts are appreciated. This year, Council is happy to move forward with many projects to advance communities throughout Queens. The budget before us for approval today continues to advance our strategic priorities of investing in the community through infrastructure, community development, investment readiness, local economy, community engagement, and staff and council.

As one of only three amalgamated municipalities in Nova Scotia, and the only community to voluntarily amalgamate, Queens has been looked to as a leader, and an example of how to successfully move forward as an amalgamated unit. Queens is growing – families are moving here, we are seeing growth and reinvestment in the business community, and multi-unit housing construction is occurring to help meet housing needs.

Our revenues originate mainly from residential and commercial taxation. We will see an increase in assessment in 2019-2020 as CAP values are increasing by Consumer Price Index of 2.85%. Federal and Provincial contributions to our revenue are expected to be a similar to last year.

Staff have worked diligently over the first two years of our mandate to decrease the amount of uncollected taxes, and have made great strides in reducing that percentage. Last year, Council set a goal to decrease uncollected taxes from 14% to 7.5% of our tax roll over a two year period, and we are well on the way to reaching that goal. Staff work with residents to arrange repayment and payment schedules, and in some cases, where this is not possible, properties have gone to tax sale. This year, we will continue efforts to ensure that the percentage of uncollected taxes continues to decline.

Total operating expenditures in 2019-2020 are projected at \$20,806,642, a \$1,025,864 or 5.19% increase over the previous year. This increase is partially the result of new investments of significance on the expenditure side of the budget, which Council deems necessary to implement and invest in this year. At this point in time, growth in the community, while occurring, is not sufficient to cover these investments. A small increase in the tax rate is necessary to help pay for these investments to support future growth and positive developments.

There are also many significant investments that Council has determined are priority areas. Council will continue to invest in training and workshop attendance for Council members and staff. This year, three Council members will attend Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Quebec at a cost of \$10,800, and many will attend Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities conference in the Spring and Fall at a cost of approximately \$18,000. Attendance at conferences was in the budget last year, and continues this year at essentially the same cost. Attending them provides Council with information about programs and opportunities that may benefit Queens, as well as connect us to peers in other municipalities to share best practices. Resolutions to the Provincial government by Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities members are determined by Municipal representatives, and Queens must remain involved in this process.

An Information Technology (IT) Manager will be hired to administer and oversee the growing technological needs of the Municipality. While the position is full time, it replaces a part time contract currently in place. The IT Manager will also install the upgraded server for the administration building and oversee the new internet system at Queens Place Emera Centre. The server, at a cost of \$15,700 ensures that the Municipality continues to meet Federal regulations regarding data security. Technology is constantly evolving and Region of Queens must keep pace.

Safety, emergency preparedness and security for the community is essential, and there are budget considerations to ensure Queens has policing, fire and emergency services in place at appropriate levels. The RCMP contract for policing services is expected to increase 1% in 2019-2020, at a total cost of \$2,080,499. This increase is less than the amount of the prior year's increase. Queens Detachment of the RCMP provides our community with exceptional service. We are also pleased to contribute funding of \$5,000 to support the Senior Safety Coordinator position at the Queens RCMP detachment, a part time position that provides valuable support to seniors living in our community.

We continue to provide substantial funding to our volunteer fire departments and other emergency service providers. Our contribution to the five fire departments will be \$756,736 in operational and capital funding. This proposed budget also provides continued support for both Ground Search and Rescue organizations in Queens, with an increase of \$8,400 for the North Queens Ground Search and Rescue to assist with their operations. South Queens Ground Search and Rescue and West Queens First Responders will continue to be funded at the same level as in previous budgets.

This is the second and final year of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw Review. This review is undertaken every 8 – 10 years, and ensures that the land use needs of our residents, nonprofit organizations, and business community are being met, and that zoning and land use bylaws are reflective of those needs, and encourage and support population growth and business development across Region of Queens Municipality. An additional \$70,000 is budgeted this year to complete this work.

Each year, Region of Queens Municipality is billed for 12.5% of the end of year deficit of the Western Regional Housing Authority. This year, that amount is estimated at \$110,000. This is a legal requirement from housing agreements signed prior to amalgamation.

Queens Place Emera Centre revenues exceeded budgeted figures in 2018-2019, with ice rentals and room rentals contributing to this increase. We anticipate continued growth in these areas in 2019-2020, and have budgeted for ice rentals to end 18% higher than the 2018-2019 budget, based on actual usage. There is currently one budgeted special event – the Brett Kissel concert on April 12. We will also start implementing some of the Queens Place Board of Directors recommendations on April 1<sup>st</sup>, including non-prime time ice rental rates being reduced to 50% of prime time ice rental rates. This reduced rate is in effect Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is our hope that this low non-prime time rate will encourage usage in times that are traditionally underused. A 2% increase in all ice rentals will take effect starting September 1, 2019, however the ice rental rates remain competitively priced in comparison with other South Shore arenas.

We are continuing to invest in our local economy and in our local business community through a number of directives under our Economic Development Department.

With the windup of the South Shore Regional Enterprise Network, we will now look to strengthen our local economic development through various other avenues. A plan for this will be prepared shortly.

A Request for Proposals was issued earlier this month for interested parties to assist with a Municipal branding project and community engagement to develop a brand that represents the entirety of Queens County. In the 23 years since amalgamation, there has been no universal brand for Queens. It is expected that there can be a strong Queens County identity, which we would like to share with others, encouraging them to establish their business and home here, and to establish a unified community pride. A budget of \$50,000 has been allocated to begin this project, over the course of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. When the community engagement sessions begin, be sure to take part and help shape how we present Queens to the world.

We are happy to continue to support our local business community in putting their best foot forward through year two of the Business Façade Improvement program. We had very good participation in the program last year, and received positive feedback from those businesses in Liverpool and Caledonia who took part. There is \$50,000 in the budget this year for continuation of this downtown program to support business property owners in Liverpool and Caledonia in improving their building exteriors, in anticipation of 50% funding from the Province in support of this project.

Access to reliable rural internet service continues to be a concern in communities throughout Queens, and while we have been part of some projects in the past two years that have laid groundwork for improved service, and the pioneering TV white space project implemented by the North Queens Business and Innovation Hub, there is still much work to be done. We await the announcements of Federal and Provincial funding programs to increase their funding to implement rural internet solutions in underserved areas. Region of Queens Municipality is prepared to contribute \$500,000 toward this initiative to improve rural areas of Queens' access to high speed internet, and have included this figure in the 2019-2020 capital budget. It will be funded by gas tax and has no impact on our tax rate. Spending our gas tax revenues on integral significant infrastructure upgrades like this allows us to expand the level of service in communities throughout Queens with no effect on the tax rate.

Research on waterfront development and waterfront flood mitigation will be undertaken simultaneously this spring and summer. Funding to implement these projects is not included in the 2019-2020 budget, as further exploration is required to determine alternatives, costs, and funding sources.

We are pleased to have been selected as one of three communities to pilot the Redefining Retirement program this year. Redefining Retirement is a series of five workshops held over approximately ten weeks, supported by Nova Scotia Department of Seniors and facilitated by the Acadia Entrepreneurship Centre and Third Sector Enhancement. The pilot program is in its second year and provides participants, who are at or near traditional retirement age, an opportunity to explore entrepreneurship, a new venture or career, or simply how to best stay engaged and support their community. Redefining Retirement has a goal of "Finding purpose, passion, and opportunity as an older adult", and we look forward to the provision of this program in Queens.

Our Economic Development staff will continue to work with South Queens Chamber of Commerce and North Queens Board of Trade to provide supports to assist in strengthening the programs and services offered to their member businesses and the broader business community in Queens. Additionally, they will work with businesses to develop more training and value added tourism opportunities.

Community organizations offer many services, programs and coordinate special events and recreational opportunities that benefit our community, and Council sees the great value that community organizations and their many volunteers provide in Queens. The new Community Investment Fund provides the ability for community organizations to access operational funding, and to make capital improvements on a larger scale than previously available. Funding guidelines under this program support the varied needs of the many Queens County community organizations to allow their volunteers to continue to do the outstanding work they do, offering programs, services and recreational opportunities throughout Queens. Funds available through the Community Investment Fund total \$175,000 in the 2019-2020 budget.

There are also other groups who we have partnerships with, who provide beneficial services in our community. As Queens County Transit continues to move forward, we are pleased to increase our funding to them to \$22,000 to continue their county wide on-demand transit model. They provide a service to many residents, enabling them to attend appointments, run errands, and deliver students to the community college. Queens County Transit has added a layer of support to our residents that did not previously exist.

North Queens Visitor Information Centre provides valuable services to visitors in North Queens, and will receive an additional \$5,000 this year, a total of \$15,000 for them to assist visitors to the community.

There are a number of capital projects included in 2019 -2020 budget, which will improve and enhance Municipal infrastructure.

Brooklyn will see its water and sewer project advance along Brooklyn Shore Road this year, picking up where we finished last fall at Brooklyn Waterfront Park. The \$430,000 project will extend from the Waterfront Park to the Brooklyn Marina, with work to take place in the roadway in front of the Marina and the park.

We are awaiting confirmation of funding from Federal and Provincial governments to begin water and sewer upgrades this year on lower Waterloo Street in Liverpool. The project proposed this year is year one of a multiyear project. Work will begin at the lower end of William and Waterloo Streets to connect properties on the lower end of Waterloo Street and William Street. Total project costs are \$4.7 million for this project, which we anticipate Federal and Provincial contributions totaling 73.33%, with the remaining 26.67% funding from Municipal borrowing. When we are able to access funding programs such as this, the Region can do much more work with minimal impact on the tax rate and sewer rates.

The Municipal portion of these two projects in Liverpool and Brooklyn will be paid for through a long term borrowing, financed through reserves, which are reserves that are funded by users of the system, and has no impact on the tax rate.

This year, there is a \$100,000 investment in maintenance upgrade for the Caledonia Sewage System. There is a need to identify sources of infiltration, and manhole maintenance.

We have also applied to Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for cost sharing on paving a portion of Old Port Mouton Road near the entrance to Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy. The Municipal portion, if TIR approves the application, is \$32,000, or 50% of a total cost of \$64,000, for approximately 700 feet of roadway.

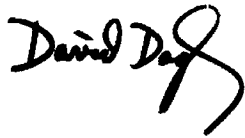
When compiling a budget, there is a long wish list of projects and additions to services, and we faced challenges this year as we have done each year in balancing the wants and the needs, and increasing costs to develop a budget that allows funds for growth within a reasonable tax rate. As you can see, provision of essential service comes with a cost. Delivery of investments in our community under this budget requires a requested tax rate increase for all districts of 2 cents per \$100 assessment, for residential, resource and commercial assessments.

In early budget discussions, all upgrading and wish list items would have meant an increase of 12 cents per \$100 assessment. We quickly went back to the table, and tabled a number of the desired but not immediately required projects, and reduced the projected tax rate increase to 3.5 cents. With careful financial management, we are able to today present you with a tax rate increase of 2 cents per \$100 assessment. A 2 cent increase equates to \$30 a year in additional taxes on a property valued at \$150,000. Each cent on the tax rate equates to approximately \$91,200 in revenue.

To minimize the impact of this increase on those least able to afford it, our low income tax rebate will continue and the maximum household income will rise. The program is for residents who earn less than \$25,086 per year, with a rebate of up to \$250. In 2018-2019, there were 298 property owners who took part in the program. This year, we have increased the funding for the rebate, and hope more will take advantage of it if they are eligible. A similar Provincial rebate is available for those who are eligible.

We believe today's proposed budget is a strong balance between new investments and expenditure controls. We were elected to serve the residents of Queens, and this is a responsibility we take seriously. Council's goal is to ensure Queens County continues to thrive and grow, while respecting wise use of taxpayers' dollars.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Dagley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

David Dagley  
Mayor  
Region of Queens Municipality

## Region of Queens Municipality

## COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT – JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2019

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
January 8, 2019	Submit a Funding Application under the Green Environmental Quality Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program of the Lower Waterloo Street Project Infrastructure Upgrades in the amount of \$4,493,530.00 + HST.	B. Rowter	Application submitted January 18, 2019.
Jan. 22, 2019	<p>Declare the property located at 3578 Highway 3, Brooklyn, Queens County, Nova Scotia and identified as PID #70086509 as dangerous and unsightly as defined in the <i>Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia</i>;</p> <p>AND THAT the Region of Queens Municipal Council cause an Order to be served upon the owners of the property requiring that, within thirty (30) days of the date of the service of the Order, the following work be carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demolition of structure;</li> <li>2. Demolition materials to be delivered to Queens Solid Waste Management Facility; and</li> <li>3. Levelling of property.</li> </ol> <p>AND THAT, if the owner fails to comply with the Order, the Administrator may cause the requirements of the Order to be carried out and all expenses incurred by the Region of Queens Municipality become the responsibility of the owners.</p>	K. Hurley	John Henley Excavation Ltd. awarded tender. An extension was given for the demolition to the week of March 25, 2019.
Jan. 22, 2019	Approve the Region 6 Waste Management proposed budget for the year 2019/2020.		Letter to Region 6 was sent February 20, 2019.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
Jan. 22, 2019	Approve a purchase and sale agreement with Queens Daycare Association for the sale of properties identified as PID #'s 70182902 and 70046792, known as the former Mount Pleasant School, for the purchase price of \$1.00.	M. MacLeod	Agreement has been signed by both parties with a closing date scheduled for on or before July 2, 2019.
Feb. 12, 2019	Approve the draft loan agreement with Port Medway Fire Department in the amount of up to \$35,000 to allow for the replacement of two bay doors on its fire department truck bay garage with the loan to be repaid over seven years.  AND THAT this be funded from the Special Operating Reserve.	C. McNeill	Agreement signed and cheque issued March 19, 2019.
Feb. 12, 2019	Approve Policy 23 – Respecting Regular Meetings of Council.	C. McNeill	Website and Policy Manuals updated with new version.
Feb. 12, 2019	Nominate Raya Stewart of Liverpool and Lauren Amirault of Liverpool as the Region of Queens 2019 Volunteers of the Year.  AND THAT they will represent the Region of Queens Municipality at the Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony to be recognized with an award for their commitment to volunteerism.	H. Cook	Volunteers notified that they were chosen. Media release issued. Detailed selection information submitted to Provincial Volunteer Ceremony. Tickets reserved for 2 members of Council to attend the ceremony.
Feb. 12, 2019	Approve the purchase of a 2018 4x4 Chevrolet Colorado from South Shore Chevrolet at a price of \$36,693.74 + HST to be funded from Equipment Reserve.	M. MacLeod	Vehicle has been acquired.
Feb. 12, 2019	Gives first reading to Bylaw 14, respecting Tax Exemptions.	C. McNeill	Proposed Tax Exemption Ad will be published on February 27, 2019 in The Chronicle Herald/South Shore Breaker.
Feb. 12, 2019	Approves Temporary Borrowing Resolution – File No. 2019-01 in the amount of \$775,000 for Brooklyn Sewer/Water (Shore Road to Park).	J. Keating-Hubley	Requisite paperwork will be sent to MFC to participate in Spring 2019 borrowing issue.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
Feb. 12, 2019	Approves Administrative Policy 9 Respecting Tax Exemptions, as amended.	J. Keating-Hubley	Manuals and website updated with new version.
Feb. 12, 2019	Approve the tipping fees schedule as attached, for Residual Municipal Solid Waste, Sorted Construction and Demolition Material, Mixed Construction & Demolition Material, Blue Bag Recyclables, Metal/White goods, Contaminated Soil and Septage effective April 1, 2019.	J. Keating-Hubley	Letters have been sent to solid waste contract accounts notifying of the new tipping fees effective April 1, 2019.
Feb. 12, 2019	Maddie Charlton be appointed to the Planning Advisory Committee as representative to District 3, for a term to expire on October 31, 2020.	M. MacLeod	Ms. Charlton has been advised of her appointment.
Feb. 12, 2019	Approve the submission of the proposed questions to Kelly Cove Salmon Limited concerning the proposed aquaculture expansion plans for Liverpool Bay.	Mayor	Memo submitted Wednesday, February 13, 2019 to aquaculturegrowsns.ca with letter attached.
Feb. 26, 2019	Provide \$5,000 in grant funding to Queens County Senior Safety Association from its 2019-2020 operating budget.		Funding will be provided after budget is approved and when required by Association.
Feb. 26, 2019	Approve- amended Operational Policy 79 – Queens Place Emera Centre Facility Usage – Not for Profit Community Groups.		Website and Policy Manuals updated with new version.
Feb. 26, 2019	Give budget approval for a Tournament/Special Events Assistance Grant of \$500.00 to Gary L Wentzell Tournament Chair to help with the costs associated with hosting the 2019 Gary L Wentzell March Break Tournament.	M. Roberts	Letter and cheque sent March 19, 2019.