



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday June 9th, 2016

PR TOK 010-16

RE: Kentville Town Council Reflects on Healthy Financial Status

KENTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA - At the May 30th meeting of Kentville Town Council, staff were directed to provide a report describing the relationship between the healthy financial condition of the Town and the strong services it delivers. As Council reflected on five (5) straight years of reducing the commercial tax rate and holding the residential rate for as many years, it was felt that an alternative communication method would help to provide a clearer message to Kentville residents, home owners and businesses about the healthy state of the Town. This discussion is current as the Town passed the 2016/17 budgets at the May meeting and as Council reflects on the various discussions around the province regarding the financial state of Towns.

“Achieving a healthy financial condition within a municipality is very similar to how an individual or family would hope to do so in their own household”, states Deputy Mayor Mark Pearl. “We hope to deliver the very highest service level we can to our residents and do so within our financial means. This Council has been able to do this over their term”, he further stated.

Balancing the core services Kentville is accustomed to and the associated increased costs year after year is possible with the Town’s ongoing positive financial outlook. The report is expected to highlight the steady growth of property and population in Kentville, healthy reserve accounts, its ability to increase service levels supporting the business community, recreation services and road maintenance and further; how it’s faced financial challenges associated with provincial agreements, policing and new programs.

In addition, Kentville has delivered many new projects and looks forward to those in the immediate horizon. Success stories include the New School site on Gary Pearl Drive, Miner’s Marsh, the expansion of trails in the Gorge, recent purchase of Industrial Lands, the remediation of the former rail yard, current upgrades to Chester Avenue and future projects like the Skateboard Park, Memorial Pool upgrades and the Business Community’s Façade Improvement Program.

“Being in a strong financial position is not a sign of being complacent”, says Mayor Corkum. “Kentville is delivering higher service levels, conserving healthy reserves, delivering a strong capital

program while working within our financial means. We want this report to reflect the Town's current healthy position", he further states.

Staff were further directed to incorporate the opinion and perspective of the Department of Municipal Affairs as they provide oversight to Municipal units within the province. The draft report is expected by the July CAC meeting of Council or sooner.

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