



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Municipal Capital Growth Plan (MCGP)

Date: November 18, 2023

Our Vision

Argyle is the community of choice to invest, live and play.

Our Identity

*Argyle **invests** time & talent in growth opportunities in fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors.*

*Argyle provides affordable taxation while providing safe and **livable** communities and strives to engage and inform our residents on decisions that affect them most.*

*Argyle provides world class, accessible recreational and cultural facilities for health and for **play**.*

Recommendation:

Recommend that the Municipality submit 2 applications to the MCGP, one to support the East Pubnico Tank urgent repair and the second for the Tuskent Wastewater expansion phase one. It is unlikely we would obtain funding for both. Council should be aware that a successful application enables the project but requires Council to invest its own funds to support the project. This investment is estimated low at \$175,000, and up to \$550,000. The investment may be supported with Gas tax if the Tuskent project is successful. In assessing the priorities of the project, and the ability to pay for the project using Gas Tax funds, they both point to the Tuskent Wastewater project as the number one choice. Nevertheless, there is considerable urgency for the East Pubnico Tank retrofit, so while it may not meet the project criteria as strongly, its urgency cannot be ignored, which is why the recommendation is for both.

Suggested motion:

Move we submit two applications for funding to the Province of NS under the MCGP program, in the following order of priority:

1. Tuskent Wastewater Expansion phase 2
2. East Pubnico Water Utility tank restoration.

Background:

The Province of NS recently announced new funding to support municipalities. The Municipal Capital Growth Program supports investment in municipal infrastructure projects. Municipalities and villages can apply for funding from the Municipal Capital Growth Program to help reduce the cost of infrastructure projects that support the province's growing population. You can apply until 13 December 2023.

Use the Municipal Capital Growth Program Application Form to apply for funding to support the cost of municipal infrastructure projects. You need to use the funding for municipally owned infrastructure projects like:

- water and wastewater (including storm-sewer separation)
- accessibility
- climate change adaptation
- brownfield redevelopment preparation (restore contaminated land to allow for future development)

Projects that address critical capacity issues or expand infrastructure services in the municipality are given priority. Priority is also given to projects that build more accessible or adaptable communities and restore contaminated land to allow for future development.

Funding amount

The Municipal Capital Growth Program may fund up to 50% of eligible costs for each project. The applicant needs to fund the remaining balance of the costs.

Eligibility

Municipalities and villages can apply for funding. Villages need to have a council resolution from the municipality confirming support for the project. The application needs to demonstrate that the project is a priority for the municipality. It also needs to indicate if the project will support the province's growing population. Projects can be multi-year but need to be completed by 31 March 2026. You need to apply for funding by 13 December 2023. Only money spent on costs between the project approval and 31 March 2026 is eligible for funding.

Staff assessment of the application

Funding from the Department of Municipal Affairs amounts to 38 million dollars and is designed for Municipalities and Villages. Argyle should apply for this funding if it has a project that fits the eligibility criteria listed above. The likelihood of funding is reasonably good, projects that fit the eligibility priorities and ready to advance increase that likelihood.

Assessment of relevant Capital Projects:

Staff has prepared a draft capital master plan, enclosed with the Capital Investment Plan request. This list requires Council approval and was prepared by staff. The list attempts to identify all relevant capital projects that are considered by Council. Staff has rated these projects based on several criteria, including end of life of the asset, ability to obtain third party funding, strategic priority etc. The result is that the projects have been ordered by importance. The list is extracted below, with the yellow representing projects that are underway and funded, and the purple are not eligible for the MCGP funding.

Extracted Capital Master list, by priority:

Mariners Center Expansion	Build aquatics, track and fitness center
Track and Field - phase 2 synthetic	Install accessible synthetic track and field components
Wedgeport phase 2 septic	Install 28 septic systems in Wedgeport
Rural internet phase 2	Broadband installation in MODA - 10% final
West Pubnico Red cap overflow	Treatment of overflow at Red Cap location
Eel Brook Fire Dept contribution	Contribution to Eel Brook Fire for new station
Tusket Sewer Sand Filtration study	Get detail design on new filtration system for tusket
East Pubnico Tank repair - phase one	Reconstruct bottom of tank
Jumps Start Multi Purpose Court	Construct new multi purpose court
JE Hatfield Study	Study of expansion
Tusket Brewery ww solution	Identify and install solution for brew water waste
Admin bldg accessibility improvements	install internal and external access improvements
JE Hatfield sewer expansion	Phase 3 sewer expansion of road for housing
Interpretative Panels Project /Clare	Enhance/add new panels with Clare partnership
Bannieres CMA2024	Banners for marketing CMA
Mariners Center rink replacement	Replace coolant/piping of ice 1
Fleet electrification	Study to review fleet and charging stations
Tusket Sewer Sand Filtration	Recapitalize existing filtration and add new for growth
Accessibility audit	Hire consultant to audit argyle owned assets
Intermunicipal solar application	Application fee for multi municipal solar application
Accessibility audit Phase 2	Phase 2 audit of non-owned assets
East Pubnico Tank repair - phase two	upgrades and coating to remaining tank
AT sidewalk study - Plymouth School	Detailed design of Plymouth School to Newell Road
AT sidewalk study - Tusket (PEB)	Detailed design of PEB to Courthouse Rd
AT sidewalk study - West Pub extension	Detailed design of WP School to Abbotts Harbour Rd
AT sidewalk study Wedgeport ext.	Detailed design between Ch de l'eglise and church
JE Hatfield Road extension	Extend Je Hatfield - final extension
Court House Renovations/Painting/Roof	Painting, windows and new roof for Courthouse

Projects that remain for consideration include two phases of the Tusket wastewater expansion project. The sewer line extension on JE Hatfield is funded, but neither the road extension nor the Tusket treatment plant replacement and expansion are. All three elements are necessary to

expand and grow the community and attract housing in the area. The MCGP funding prioritizes this type of investment.

The second project is the East Pubnico Tank repair – which is desperately needed to support industrial water use for Comeau Sea and to support future potential commercial growth. Its replacement is urgent but does not fit the criteria as precisely as the Tusket project does.

Both projects have Class D costing and information collected today sufficient to apply for funding.

Financial considerations:

It is not recommended that Argyle solely fund the Tusket Sand filtration project nor phase two of the East Pubnico Water project. It requires assistance from other levels of government. Our practice for projects of this magnitude was to seek assistance before executing it. Total cost for the Tusket filtration/road extension project and the East Pubnico Phase 2 is \$1,075,000 and \$1,500,000 respectively.

The Tusket project was split to indicate that a portion of it is already funded. However, the sewer and road extension, along with the Tusket sand filtration replacement are all required for housing and growth in Tusket, it is essentially one project.

The Tusket project is not yet funded. The application will be for 50% of \$1,075,000.

The East Pubnico application will be for both phases at \$1,500,000, with confirmed funding from the municipality and Comeau Sea Foods of \$350,000. (ACOA has an outstanding application for \$375,000)

Should either application be successful, the municipal contribution is estimated at:

Tusket	\$537,500
East Pubnico	\$175,000 (\$550,000 if ACOA funding is not successful)

Tusket project is gas tax eligible, and East Pubnico is not.

MGA Considerations

The projects shall be eligible for investment under Section 65 of the Municipal Government Act.