



STAFF REPORT

To: Council

From: Michelle Williams, Director of Finance

Approved by: Warren MacLeod, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: February 28, 2024

Subject: **Barrington Lake Wildfire Tax Reduction AAN01242393**

ORIGIN

In January 2024 we were contacted by a resident who was affected by the Barrington Wildfire, but whose AAN was not on the list provided by DNRR.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne approve a tax reduction for AAN01242393 totaling \$382.19 using GL 00-21243-300.

DISCUSSION

In January 2024, we were contacted by a resident who was affected by the Barrington Wildfire, but whose AAN was not on the list provided by DNRR. The finance department got in touch with PVSC who in turn provided a 2023 reassessed value on the property affected for the Municipality of Shelburne so they may use this value for a potential tax reduction based on the Municipality's Tax Reduction on Destroyed Property Policy. It is important to note that the revised opinions of values provided herein will not be reflected on the current [2023] year assessment roll. The local fire department report has now confirmed that this property likely was destroyed in the fire as there were no other reports of a fire during this past year. As well PVSC has confirmed in an email as they have access to images in their database that the property is destroyed and there is a lot of damage to the surrounding area.

Below is the summary of the property being recommended for a tax reduction.

AAN	April 1 - May 28 = 58 days	May 29-March 31 = 307 days	Tax Bill Using Reassessment Value	Original Tax Bill	Tax Reduction Credit
001242393	\$107.60	\$187.33	\$294.93	\$677.12	\$382.19

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The total amount of \$382.19 will be taken from Allowance for Appeals GL#00-21243-300 which has a budget of \$14,000, and is currently over budget by \$15,273.14 due to previous Barrington Wildfire adjustment approved by council in fiscal 2023/2024.

ATTACHMENT

Tax Reduction on Destroyed Property Policy



50.1 Authority

This policy has been developed pursuant to s.69A (1) of the Municipal Government Act.

50.2 Purpose

To establish a uniform policy for the reduction or reimbursement of overpaid taxes on properties where buildings are destroyed or partially destroyed by fire, storm or otherwise and the assessment of the property does not reflect that the building has been destroyed or partially destroyed.

50.3 Applicability

This Policy shall apply to property upon which a building has been destroyed or partially destroyed by fire, storm or otherwise that has not been directly caused by actions or willful neglect of the owner of the property or any tenant thereof. For the purpose of this Policy, a building is destroyed or partially destroyed where all or a portion is unfit for any occupation and must be substantially reconstructed.

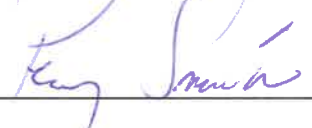
50.4 Policy Details

- a. For the purpose of the Policy "taxes" includes all applicable area rates which are calculated by reference to assessed values.
- b. A taxpayer may submit a written request to the Director of Finance asking for a reduction in, or reimbursement of, their taxes, if their property has been destroyed or partially destroyed by fire, storm or otherwise. The request shall have a sworn Declaration confirming the date, cause and extent of the destruction, the location of the property and eligibility pursuant to section 4.0.c of this Policy.
- c. This reimbursement or reduction shall only apply to owners who have no intention of repairing the structure within 6 months of the application date. Tidying up or securing a fire site to avoid injury, unsightliness or further deterioration of the property shall not be deemed a repair for the purposed of this section.
- d. Upon receipt of the request the Director of Finance shall submit a written request to the Provincial Director of Assessment to value the property.
- e. The Municipality of Shelburne may ask the Building Inspector to confirm the complete destruction of the building(s) and/or the Fire Chief to confirm the building(s) was destroyed or partially destroyed by fire, confirming the date, extent of destruction, and location of the property.
- f. The Director of Finance will then prorate and apply the tax reduction, based on the difference between the valuation and the original assessment, for the remaining portion of the taxation year, between the date of the destruction and March 31 of the same taxation year.
- g. The Director of Finance can seek approval from the CAO for a reduction of up to \$500 in taxes payable on the destroyed building. Reductions of over \$500 require approval by Council.

- h. If the destruction is too late to be reflected in the annual assessment cut-off date of December 1 for the following taxation year, then the tax reduction shall be in effect for that following taxation year as well.
- i. The tax reduction shall not follow into future years as the taxpayer has the option of appealing their assessment if it continues to reflect pre-destruction values.
- j. If the destruction occurred during the 12 months immediately preceding the adoption of this Policy, the application for a tax reduction must be submitted within 6 months of the date this Policy is adopted. In all other cases the application must be submitted within six months of the date the destruction occurred.
- k. The Director of Finance may revoke any tax reduction granted pursuant to this Policy if any aspect of the Declaration made pursuant to section 4.0.b is found to be inaccurate or is not adhered to, in which case the full amount of the taxes which would otherwise have been payable shall become due and payable forthwith, plus interest.
- l. This Policy comes into force upon adoption.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne duly passed the policy respecting Tax Reduction on Destroyed Property on the 10th day of May, 2021.

SIGNED this 10th day of May, 2021,



Warden Penny Smith



CAO Trudy Payne

Approved by Council: May 10, 2021

Effective Date: May 10, 2021

**PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION DAMAGE TO BUILDING
APPLICATION FORM**

Please complete and return to the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, 136 Hammond Street
Shelburne NS BOT 1W0. Please attach a copy of the Tax Bill or Assessment Notice.

Assessed Owner _____

Assessment Account Number _____

Property Location (please use civic address) _____

Applicant _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Information _____

Date Damage Occurred (Month/Day/Year) _____

Type of Damage (Fire, wind, etc.) _____

Please attach a brief explanation of the situation that occurred (attach copies of any outside
information such as Fire Department, Insurance, etc.)

I hereby request Municipal Council to consider a reduction in taxes on the above noted property based
on the information provided. I also declare that the information contained in the application is true
and correct to the best of my knowledge. Any approved reduction does not cover area rates, tax
arrears, ore related interest charges.

Signature Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Assessed Value of Building Destroyed _____ Related Current Taxes _____

Remaining months in taxation year after loss _____ Extent of Damage _____

Total Dollar Value to credit to the AAN _____

Tax Clerk: _____ Date: _____

Director of Finance: _____ Date: _____

CAO: _____ Date: _____