

## **Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

**9:00 a.m.**

Livestream on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn14i8LsydE&t=737s>

### **Present:**

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton, District 2

Councillor Vicki Amirault, District 4

Councillor Wanda Carver, District 7

Councillor Jack Fancy, District 5

Councillor Stewart Jenkins, District 6

### **Regrets:**

Councillor Roberta Roy, District 1

Councillor Courtney Wentzell, District 3

### **Staff:**

Joanne Veinotte, Acting CAO

Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

### **1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and gave a land acknowledgement to recognize that the meeting is taking place in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

### **Councillor Roberta Roy Leave Request**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins,  
THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve a leave  
of absence for Councillor Roberta Roy for the March 11, 2025, and March  
25, 2025, regular meetings of council.

Motion Carried.

## **2.0 Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Jenkins,  
THAT the Region of Queens Municipality approve the March 11, 2025  
agenda as presented, with the addition of items 7.2: NSFMR request for  
letter of support; 8.2: South Shore Housing Action Coalition; 6.3: Queens  
County Transit presentation; 8.2: Region 6 Solid Waste Management  
Committee; and 12.2: South Shore Flying Club Request.

Motion Carried.

## **3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests**

There were no declarations of conflict of interests.

## **4.0 Approval of the Minutes**

4.1 February 25, 2025

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver,  
THAT the Region of Queens Municipality approve the February 25, 2025  
meeting minutes as circulated.

Motion Carried.

## **5.0 Public Comment**

Mayor Christian opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Councillor Amirault read an email sent to her by Robin Anthony, Brooklyn, who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Anthony's email was regarding area rates, and she requested that Council should reconsider implementing area rate taxes and take on the responsibility for recreational assets in Brooklyn.

Mayor Christian called three times for additional speakers. No speakers.

## **6.0 Delegations and Presentations**

### **6.1 African Nova Scotia Affairs**

Troy Lawrence, African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) Program Administration Officer (PAO) for South Shore/Southwest Nova Scotia. ANSA is a provincial office within the Department of Communities culture and heritage. It is the only government office in Canada dedicated to addressing the unique needs of provincial citizens of African ancestry. There are more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities in Nova Scotia. As a PAO, Mr. Lawrence and his colleagues provide program support, respond to requests for information and available resources, assist grant writers, help to identify emerging local issues, and research, analyze and investigate issues to develop solutions. Mayor Christian suggested that the Municipality's draft plan for dismantling racism and hate be sent to Mr. Lawrence for review. ACTION ITEM

### **6.2 South Shore Chronic Pain Support Community: Janice MacMillan**

Janice McMillan spoke regarding the formation of a South Shore support group for sufferers of chronic pain. The group is in the final stages of preparation for submission to Registry of Joint Stocks to be registered as a non profit society. There are numerous challenges faced by those suffering from chronic pain with no visible scars in many cases, but the pain is real. There is no support group for the chronic pain community on the South Shore. This group is needed and requests the support of Council. Among the wishes of the group is to have Council write a letter of support to assist as they seek donations, grants and more; municipal staff support for grant writing and to be a source of information and knowledge; and for the Municipality to receive grants on behalf of the

organization and administer it to the group. Mayor Christian said that once the group has non profit status, that he would be in favour of Council providing a letter of support.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Fancy,  
THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality write a letter in support of the South Shore Chronic Pain Support Community in support of their advocacy efforts to be used in future grant applications and fundraising activities.

Motion Carried.

### **6.3 Queens County Transit:**

Gil Johnson, Chair of Queens County Transit, thanked Council for their ongoing support over the years. He spoke about Queens County Transit's vision of Keeping Queens County Connected and their mission to provide inclusive, accessible, and affordable transit service that is efficient and sustainable for all residents. Their fleet of 8 vehicles includes 5 accessible vans, and their ridership so far this year includes 763 wheelchair rides. Overall, the ridership has increased year over year, with over 9,100 rides so far this year (year ends April 2025), compared to 8,218 rides last year. September 2025 marks the seven-year anniversary of the organization. Although there are many positives, there are some challenges; including reliance on grants for operational funds, vehicle maintenance costs, driver recruitment and unknowns. He stated they are hoping for Council's continued support of \$50,000 in the upcoming budget and requested an additional \$20,000 for their vehicle acquisition account, as well as continued promotional support from the Municipality.

Mayor Christian thanked Mr. Johnson and the Board for the presentation and providing this needed service.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

### **7.1 Accessibility in Council Chamber – Janet Perry**

Deputy Mayor Charlton noted that while many upgrades have been made to make Council meetings more accessible, but they are still not where they want to be yet.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins,

THAT Council direct staff to come back with recommendations on accessibility improvements in Council Chambers to be considered in 2025/2026 Budget Deliberations.

Motion Carried.

**7.2 Rural Transit Solutions – Queens County Transit** – letter of support for their application to the Rural Transit Fund from Mayor Christian on behalf of Council.

### **7.3 NSFM Request for Letter of Support**

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Carver,

THAT Mayor Christian , on behalf of Council of Region of Queens Municipality, write a letter of support for Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities pursuant to their advocacy work with respect to the pending legislation.

Motion Carried

## **8.0 Committee Reports**

### **8.1 South Shore Housing Action Coalition (SSHAC)**

Councillor Fancy attended a SSHAC meeting recently, and one of the focus areas was homelessness. Among the concerns for those who are homeless are adequate heating and access to safe drinking water. Barriers preventing people from becoming homed include rent being too high (higher than 30% of their income), low income (62% did not have sufficient income to afford rent), and poor options for housing and conditions of housing. Also discussed were women's shelters and concerns that the closest is in Kentville. Councillor Fancy also noted that counterparts in Lunenburg County were able to access the Housing

Accelerator Funds when it was available. In Queens, we will be more vigilant in watching for these types of funds.

## **8.2 Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee**

Councillor Jenkins attended a Steering Committee meeting on March 7. Among the key takeaways were to remind residents to download the R6 Recycles app to assist with waste collection notifications and sorting support. Sharps being placed in household recyclables is a concern as people working on the sorting lines often come in contact with them. If poked with a sharp, there is a year of testing and treatment required. Improper disposal of lithium batteries is a concern as they can cause fires in waste materials. Region 6 Recycles will be promoting drop off locations for used lithium batteries. As well, it was noted that people should be made aware that if they are not sorting their waste properly, contaminated bags of recycling will not be recycled and will move directly to the garbage.

## **9.0 Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

## **10.0 New Business**

### **10.1 Audit and Internal Control Committee Appointments**

Councillor Jenkins stepped out of Chambers at 10:52 am - there was still Quorum with 5 remaining council members.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver,

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "Audit and Internal Control Committee Appointments" and appoint the following people to the Audit and Internal Control Committee immediately for a term to expire on March 31, 2028:

Bill Rafuse

Kendall Farmer

Loris Azzano

Robert Perry

Motion Carried.

Mayor Christian called for a 10 minute recess at 10:54 am. Councillor Jenkins returned to Chambers at 10:54 am.

Mayor Christian called the meeting back to order at 11:04 am

### **10.2 Request for Budget Direction**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Fancy,  
THAT to receive the budget package on March 27 and to direct staff to notify the public of the the Special Council meeting on April 1 for budget preparation.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver,  
THAT Council receive the report titled request for Direction – Budget Process for information.

Motion Carried.

### **10.3 Area Rate Requests**

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton,  
THAT Council receive the report titled Area Rate Requests for information; and consider them for budget approval.

Motion Carried.

### **10.4 3rd Quarter Financial Report**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver,  
THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled “2024-2025 Quarter 3 Financial Update” for information.

Motion Carried.

## **11.0 Mayor's Report**

There was no Mayor's Report presented.

## **12.0 Business from Members of Council**

### **12.1 Liverpool Fire Hall Heat Pumps – Councillor Fancy**

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Jenkins,

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens direct staff to provide a report detailing costs and timeline to transition the Liverpool Fire Hall heating system to heat pumps.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Carver,

THAT the motion be amended to read "THAT the Council of the Region of Queens direct staff to provide a report with a cost benefit analysis, and detailing costs and timeline to transition the Liverpool Fire Hall heating system to heat pumps."

The Motion to Amend Carried.

The Amended Motion Carried.

### **12.2 South Shore Flying Club – Councillor Jenkins**

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Carver,

THAT Region of Queens Municipality's Council approve forgiveness of the rent fee for South Shore Flying Club in the amount of \$4,000 rent due to financial limits the club is experiencing.

A motion to TABLE was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault,

THAT the motion be tabled and brought back to the March 25 Council meeting when staff will provide a package with financial statements.

Motion TABLED.

**13.0 Closed Session**

**14.0 Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Carver at 12:14 pm.

---

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

---

Dan McDougall, Interim CAO

---

Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_