

Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor David Dagley, Chair
Councillor Kevin Muise
Deputy Mayor Heather Kelly
Councillor Brian Fralic
Councillor Susan MacLeod
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Raymond Fiske
Councillor Gilbert Johnson – via telephone
Chris McNeill, CAO
Christine Watson, Admin Assistant – Planning & Development

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

2.0 CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add Item 14.3 – Back to School – Councillor MacLeod

Add Item 9.1 – Highway Signage – Councillor Fancy

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kelly that the Agenda be approved as amended.

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 – College Street, Liverpool – Mr. Robertson enquired under Item 14.1 – Council Implementation Report if RQM received the financial statement for the Privateers Hockey Team. Mayor Dagley stated a partial statement has been received and are in ongoing discussions with them.

Mr. Robertson further stated under Item 14.1 – Carters Beach Report that he hoped there would be action with the newly formed committee.

Bonnie Stapleton, 129 Carters Beach Road, Port Mouton – Ms. Stapleton asked if the residents on Carters Beach Road could be notified more in advance of meetings pertaining to the beach, i.e. notices in their mailboxes, in order for everyone to provide their input. Mayor Dagley stated the Department of Lands & Forestry maintain meeting information and RQM could provide meeting information on our website if known.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 Regular Council – August 25, 2020

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

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held August 25, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.2 Public Hearing – August 25, 2020

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

THAT the minutes of the Public Hearing held August 25, 2020 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.

9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES

9.1 Highway Signage – Councillor Fancy

Councillor Fancy stated as part of discussions previously held on Old Falls Road has asked that signage be included to instruct motorists that the exit to Keji / Caledonia is at the set of lights, be revisited as a resident on Old Falls Road has had many motorists turning in their driveway once it was realized that they are on the wrong road with no thru traffic or exit to the highway.

Notice of Motion – Old Falls Road, Liverpool

Councillor MacLeod gave the following notice of motion:

I hereby give notice that I intend to reintroduce a motion at the next Council meeting which was defeated at a regular Council meeting held on May 26, 2020 and reads as follows:

"AND THAT the Region of Queens Municipality make contact with Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to include "Exit to Highway 8 is at the set of lights".

10.0 ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

There were no items to come before this meeting.

11.0 FINANCE

11.1 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance, provided Council with a written draft of a possible motion should their discussion lead them in that direction. She stated the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Nova Scotia from July 2019 to July 2020 decreased by 0.5%. The Canada CPI for the same period increased by 0.1%. The budget included an estimated increase of 2.0%. There is no increase being recommended by staff for this year.

As noted in the report, both the CUPE and IBEW Unions agreed to a 2% increase as per their Collective Agreements and the new Council will receive at the end of October 2020 a 7% increase in pay as per Municipal Policy which is based on 4 years previous CPI's.

Mayor Dagley asked for an explanation of how CPI's are calculated. Ms. Keating-Hubley stated that CPI figures are calculated by a number of factors and has been in effect for decades and includes energies, food, fuel, gas, insurance and the maintenance and running a household. There were a number of factors that were positive and increased more than 5%. The main driver holding the CPI back this particular July was the drop in gas prices and the per barrel cost of oil. If you exclude the gas, which dramatically decreased, the other factors did increase.

Councillor Fralic asked the CAO, Chris McNeill, for his opinion. Mr. McNeill stated often times we have to live with good and bad. RQM has had a difficult budget this year and may end up in a deficit. During Covid, no staff were laid off.

12.0 RECREATION AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

There were no items to come before this meeting.

13.0 PLANNING

There were no items to come before this meeting.

14.0 REPORTS

14.1 Council Implementation Report

Councillor Johnson enquired under the June 9, 2020 recommendation for a strategy document on a solid waste strategy plan, as he felt the July 29, 2020 follow-up meeting fell short of expectations for creating a strategic document and felt the discussions held at the meeting was a review of everything RQM does today, but it wasn't a strategy going forward to do more.

Councillor Fancy concurred with Councillor Johnson and stated it was unclear where the group was going from here or if there were going to be meetings scheduled. Mayor Dagley suggested that the committee schedule a meeting to discuss.

Mr. McNeill stated an Adhoc Committee met with members of Council and staff and had a discussion of unsecured loads. Staff were going to reach out to Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and further communication would be given

to the committee member when information is available. If members of Council feel the need for further follow-up, staff could arrange another meeting.

Councillor Johnson further stated that an unsecured load is one element of the strategy but the entire need to keep litter contained in our landfill is what the committee should deal with, and build a strategy and not deal with what RQM are now doing.

Mr. McNeill stated there needs to be clarity around what the issue is and what the problem is. If the problem is not secured loads, then we shouldn't be talking unsecured loads. If the issue is litter, then we should strictly be talking about litter. Litter is different from illegal dump sites. Litter is a single, small act, which becomes an enforcement issue, so the RCMP would have to be involved. RQM doesn't have the authority to issue litter tickets. The committee would need to get back together and decide what issues they want addressed; if it is a public education campaign, then we would work with Region 6; if an enforcement issue, then we'd have discussions with RCMP. If the issue is around having more waste receptacles, that's a RQM responsibility. RQM needs to know the problems to come up with solutions. He suggested the committee members have a meeting and decide what the priorities are and then staff can come up with a document for implementation, recognizing what RQM does now. If there are several areas identified, focus on each item individually would be recognized, one at a time.

Mr. McNeill stated he will ask staff to organize a meeting to have a clearer understanding of what needs to be done, prioritize issues so that staff can investigate options and cost implications.

14.2 Carters Beach

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize a letter to the Nova Scotia Minister of Lands and Forestry requesting that his Department establish a Carters Beach Committee with representatives from the Municipality, Queens-Shelburne MLA, Nova Scotia Departments of Lands and Forestry, Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, and Environment, along with Queens RCMP, Acadia First Nations, one local West Queens business representative, and two residents of Carters Beach Road.

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipality's representative on the Committee have power to authorize all non-financial decisions and financial decisions that would not exceed \$2,500 in spending by the Municipality on behalf of Council, and bind the Municipality to such.

AND FURTHER THAT the Minister of Lands and Forestry be requested to authorize the required human and financial resources from his department to facilitate this Committee's work and action plan including any external consulting studies required.

Chris McNeill, CAO, stated that recently a local group of residents met with the Mayor and himself to request more action by the Municipality, and specifically that the Municipality request the formation of a multi-party committee to address the ongoing issues associated with Carters Beach and Carters Beach Road. The MLA was invited to attend.

As outlined in the report, the citizens believe that the current Community Liaison Committee does not have the authority or power to enact changes and wish for the Municipality to advance with the province a more robust committee that has power to put restrictions and controls in place. The suggested committee by the community members includes representation from the citizens, the Mayor, MLA, Minister of Natural Resources or designate, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal or designate, Minister of Environment or designate, Queens RCMP Staff Sergeant or designate, one local Port Mouton business representative, and two community members that live on Carters Beach Road.

The citizens are requesting that the new Carters Beach Committee have a mandate to address and have these tasks completed by April 30, 2021 and a new management approach implemented by June 1, 2021:

- Determine the role, use and designation of Carters Beach.
- Preserving the environmental and archaeological attributes of Carters Beach.
- Identify a visitor carrying capacity threshold for Carters Beach.
- Address ongoing impact of the livability of Carters Beach Road residents.
- Remedy ongoing parking, access and enforcement problems.
- Provide an infrastructure framework to manage Carters Beach.
- Devise an administrative framework to manage Carters Beach.
- Ensure that Carters Beach continues to be a public resource asset.

Council had previously endorsed and agreed to fund the establishment of 75 additional parking spaces with egress onto Central Port Mouton Road, an agreement to provide a 3-stream waste receptacle which would be managed by Lands and Forestry, and if permanent washroom facilities were installed, the Municipality would have the waste removed with the provision of supplies and daily cleaning the responsibility of the province. Council also endorsed the designation of all lands above the high water mark as a nature reserve. To date, the province has not accepted or adopted these offers.

It must be noted that the Carters Beach property is provincial land and only the province has the authority to determine any action.

MOTION CARRIED with 6 in favour, 2 against.

14.3 Back to School – Councillor MacLeod

Councillor MacLeod stated today, September 8, 2020, is the first day of students returning to Queens County Schools. It will be much different than other years due to Covid-19 health measures in place for everyone's safety.

We as Council care for the families and students and teachers, who have fears and concerns about the process and about whether the right decision has been made by the Department of Education. As the general population has adapted to changes in our lives, our younger generation are resilient and open to change. Let's give our blessing to them on their new journey in education.

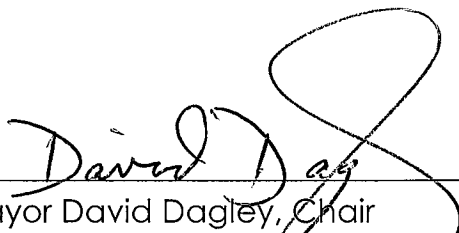
15.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

There were no In-Camera items to come before this meeting.

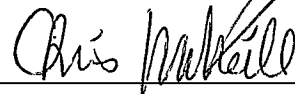
16.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councillor Fancy and seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the meeting be adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.



Mayor David Dagley, Chair



Chris McNeill, CAO



Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

Date Approved: September 22, 2020