

Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair
Councillor Ralph Gidney
Councillor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Carl Hawkes
Chris McNeill, CAO
Christine Watson, Admin. Assistant – Planning & Development

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Kevin Muise

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

2.0 CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Fancy that the Agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 RCMP – S/Sgt. Daniel Archibald

Mayor Norman welcomed S/Sgt. Daniel Archibald to council (copy of presentation attached to original set of Minutes).

Some highlights included:

- Fiscal year runs April 1 – March 31 and are approaching the end of the performance planning set out by Division Headquarters. Priorities are:
 - Road safety
 - Crime prevention
 - Cybercrime
 - Increase connection with First Nations

- New initiatives will be forthcoming in the new fiscal year and they need to determine RQM priorities, and to fit them in line; i.e. traffic issues, road safety.

- Worked with the Integrated Child Exploitation Team from head office.
- Compliance and breach checks were conducted.
- Road safety – issuance of tickets is normally between 300-400/year and so far this year are at 350.
- Looking to increase the number of check stops performed.
- 350 curfew checks performed so far this year.
- 2122 calls for service performed so far this year.
- The traffic radar is being repaired and is expected to be here within a month.

Councillor Brown enquired about enforcement of noise complaints. S/Sgt. Archibald stated they cannot enforce noise issues under criminal code legislation.

Councillor Fancy enquired about harassment/fraud calls and to whom they should be reported to. S/Sgt. Archibald stated these kind of calls can be reported through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

Mayor Norman enquired about the sharing of intimate pictures by youth. S/Sgt. Archibald stated they are still receiving complaints and is very challenging. The Community Policing Officer is in the schools regularly.

3.2 Queens Day Care Association

Mayor Norman welcomed Scott Christian, Chair, Queens Day Care Association to Council (copy of presentation attached to original set of Minutes).

Some highlights included:

- Who we are? – Sole provider of licensed childcare services, employing 7 full-time early childhood educators and 4 part-time staff
- What we do – Childcare and development services for children between 18 months and 12 years old, but are in the process of expanding for infant care which is suitable for children 3 – 18 months. Dependent on grant funding, expanding hours of operation to 13 hours.
- Challenges
 - Loss of enrollment/revenue for 4 – 5-year old children and loss of skilled educators due to Pre-Primary Program.
 - With ownership of building, spent over \$70,000 in necessary maintenance and expect to spend as much again in the next few years.

- Infant care facility construction over budget by \$90,000.
 - Reduced revenue and increased cost due to Covid-19.
 - Insufficient funding from Province.
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- What's at stake - The Day Care will not be able to remain open without financial support and could be forced to close. With the loss of the only licensed day care in the community it will be difficult to attract and retain young professionals, e.g. Queens Regional Hospital currently has approximately 30 employees of childbearing age. The closure would impact families who use the day care services who rely on subsidized childcare.
 - The solution – All avenues are being explored, i.e. Covid-relief programs, grant applications, fundraising, private donors / foundations, petition of all levels of government.
 - Ask – Immediate financial assistance of \$50,000 for the Infant Care Facility and ongoing partnership and support of \$30,000/year for 36 months.

Mayor Norman thanked Mr. Christian for his presentation and stated his requests will be discussed through budget discussions.

4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT SESSION

Leon Robertson, 45 College Street, Liverpool – Mr. Roberson noted in the RCMP report on the number of times they were called to Carter's Beach last year and enquired if the committee that was set up with members from the Province, members from the community and Deputy Muise, if the parking situation was rectified. Chris McNeill, CAO, stated he is not part of the committee and that Deputy Muise would be the best one to answer that question.

Carol Smith, 132 Waterloo Street, Liverpool – Ms. Smith stated she is on the Board of the Queens Day Care. She offered her opinion on the value of the day care with many young professionals moving into the area and taking part on the Board. They are looking for a qualified, licensed day care. The Day Care is a busy place and staff are fabulous, and hopes that Council will support them.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 Regular Council – January 26, 2021

It was moved by Councillor Hawkes and seconded by Councillor Brown:

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held January 26, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.2 Public Hearing – January 26, 2021

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held January 26, 2021 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 Appointments to Audit and Internal Control Committee

It was moved by Councillor Gidney and seconded by Councillor Charlton:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality appoint the following people to the Audit and Internal Control Committee immediately for a term to expire on March 31, 2023:

**Bill Rafuse, Hunts Point
Kendall Farmer, West Berlin**

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

10.0 ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

10.1 Solid Waste Management Facility – Tipping Fees

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the tipping fees schedule as attached, for Residual Municipal Solid Waste, Sorted Construction and Demolition Material, Mixed Construction & Demolition Material, Blue Bag Recyclables, Metal/White goods, Contaminated Soil and Septage effective April 1, 2021.

Scott LeBlanc, Solid Waste Clerk/Safety Officer, stated RQM holds multiple contracts for the disposal of various solid waste streams. Within these agreements are mechanisms for annual fee increases in which the rolling ten-year average of CPI is used. The proposed increase is 1.64%, with the recycling being 2% as per the negotiated contract.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

10.2 Region 6 Solid Waste Management – 2021-2022 Budget

It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Charlton:

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve Region 6 Solid Waste Management's proposed budget for the year 2021-2022.

Mr. LeBlanc stated Region 6 Solid Waste Management serves 13 Municipal units which includes Shelburne County, Queens County, Lunenburg County and part of West Hants. Their letter of request for budget approval was received on December 10, 2020. RQM's contribution for 2021-2022 is projected to be \$8,272, which is a decrease of \$864 from last year. Provincial enforcement for all of Region 6 remains the same at \$89,425. Last year we received \$10,240 and expect similar this year. Diversion credits are expected to rise slightly compared to last fiscal year of \$45,532.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

11.0 FINANCE

11.1 Tax Exemption Bylaw, first reading

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Hawkes:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality gives first reading to Bylaw 14 respecting Tax Exemptions.

Mayor Norman stated this is a yearly item, tax exemption of \$240,000, which is not charged to not-for-profit organizations. The province deems these as taxable; therefore, RQM pays from the general rate. RQM is one of some in Nova Scotia that does this as a way to take a financial burden off not-for-profits.

Mallory Plummer, Acting Director of Finance, stated that Queens General Hospital Foundation purchased a building and we are recommending that at 50% because there is a component of rental income which can't be exempt from taxes. North Queens Fire Department sold a property to a private individual so it would no longer be exempt.

Mr. McNeill noted that properties such as legions and churches are exempt by legislation and are not listed.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

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 African Heritage Month - Proclamation

Information on African Heritage Month attached for information purposes.

15.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Amirault that the proceedings go In-Camera at 10:25 a.m. to discuss the following:

15.1 Sale of Municipal Property

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

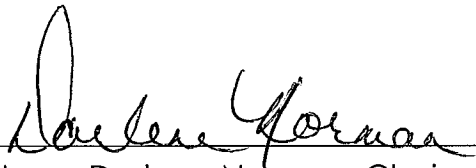
Mayor Norman announced a 5-minute recess at 10:25 a.m.

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Amirault that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 11:20 a.m.


MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

16.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair



Chris McNeill, CAO



Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

Date Approved: February 23, 2021



COUNCIL REPORT

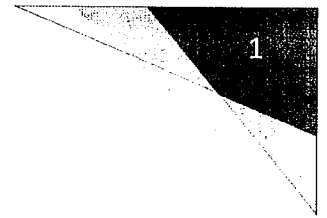
Region of Queens

ABSTRACT

Report on policing activity in Queens County
February 3rd, 2021

Queens Detachment

902-354-5721



PERSONNEL

Current Personnel Capacity:

Current Compliment:	District Commander	S/Sgt. Dan Archibald
	Team Leader	Cpl. John Harris – Operations NCO
	Team Leader	Cpl. Rob Frizzell – Operations NCO
	Members	Cst. Ron Duffney Cst. Dave Cowan Cst. Christa Pye Cst. George Walsh Cst. Chad Burrige Cst. Rick Ellens Cst. Tara Davis Cst. Vladimir Dounin Cst. Steve Murphy Cst. Devin Pulsifer
	Assistants	Community Policing Officer Caledonia Community Officer
	Senior Safety	Ms. Elise MacLennan Ms. Lydia Goodick
		Ms. Shelly Walker





ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANNING

Our objectives remain the same this year as last year;

1. Road Safety

- Maintain or increase Provincial Statute Charges
- Maintain or increase Impaired Driving Charges
- Maintain or increase Checkstops

2. Crime Prevention and Reduction

- Offender Management Checks
- Crime Prevention Presentations and Youth Advisory Meetings
- Increase in Media Releases / Warrant Publication

3. Cybercrime

- Increase Cybercrime Awareness/Presentations to Youth and Senior

4. Increase Connections with First Nations

- Communicate with Acadian First Nation on quarterly basis as well as attend commercial business on reservation land in Queens County





INFORMATION OF INTEREST

- Queens RCMP started posting on social media platforms about individuals with outstanding warrants in an effort to get these individuals back into the court systems and deal with outstanding charges. RCMP successfully posted about 5 individuals with warrants and all 5 turned themselves in, several within 24hrs. Members of the public are asked to contact Queens District RCMP asking anyone with information on the whereabouts of these people mentioned on social media to contact them in Queens County at 902-354-5721. Should you wish to remain anonymous call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca, or use the P3 Tips App
- Queens RCMP responded to a missing young person in the Caledonia area. In partnership with multiple Ground Search and Rescue teams the youth was quickly located safe and sound and brought home.
- Queens RCMP attended a single vehicle roll over collision on Hwy 8. Officers identified a single male driver who was possibly impaired as well as injured. The officers followed the driver to the hospital to obtain a sample of his blood to determine if he was in fact impaired. Due to the detailed and thorough investigation conducted by officers the driver plead guilty to impaired operation at his first court appearance.
- Queens RCMP prioritized Traffic enforcement as a key priority this year and conducted multiple check points, issued hundreds of tickets, and created multiple radio broadcasts educating the public on Traffic Safety. Parking at Carters Beach was also targeted with multiple dedicated patrols just to that area and enhanced shifts over a long weekend with the sole goal of traffic/parking enforcement.
- COVID-19 Compliance and Breach checks constituted a significant amount of Queens RCMP officers time. Queens RCMP have conducted multiple PSA and Q/A on COVID-19 rules as they are regularly changing as well as multiple enforcement strategies from preventive education with the public and local businesses to issuing tickets. Most recently Queens RCMP broke up a New Years Eve party that exceeded COVID-19 restrictions and issued the host a ticket.
- Queens RCMP have seen an increase in young persons sharing intimate images online. A focus group between several Queens youth and RCMP was formed and an educational video created and distributed speaking about the dangers of sending intimate images. Numerous age appropriate presentations conducted by the Community Policing Officer at multiple schools. RCMP also investigated multiple reports of creating and distributing child pornography charges in partnership with the provincial RCMP Integrated Child Exploitation Team (ICE) that resulted in 2 individuals being arrested and charged.





YEARLY STATISTICS (April 1st to March 31st is our fiscal year)

TRAFFIC

- Number of Impaired Drivers – 9
- Roadside Suspensions - 10
- Number of Tickets - 352
- Number of Check-stops –34
- Number of warnings issued – 146
- Inspection (Defect) issued – 10

The speed radar trailer has needed major overhaul and is almost completed. To be utilized throughout the County once repairs are completed.

CRIME REDUCTION

Since April 1st, 2020, Queens District has conducted 350 curfew checks resulting in several breach of court ordered conditions. This strategy will continue to any court ordered released individuals who residing in the Region of Queens.

We have conducted over 20 media releases which include proactive public service announcements as well as investigations of significance.

CALLS FOR SERVICE BREAK DOWN

In total 2122 incidents were reported to date this fiscal year. A break down of some of those calls for service are as followed;

- Assaults – 49
- Robbery with Firearm- 1
- Harassment/Treats/Extortion/Intimidation – 62
- Sexual Offences – 7
- Drug Possession/Trafficking - 11
- Thefts/Possess Stolen Property – 44
- Mischief – 136
- Break and Enter - 32
- Arson - 19
- Fraud/Forgery – 71
- Mental Health Act – 82
- Suspicious Person/Vehicle - 47
- False Alarms – 25
- Trespass - 2
- Well Being Check – 79





Since the COVID-19 outbreak in mid March, 2020, we have had 153 calls for service regarding the Health Protection Act, Emergency Management Act and Quarantine Act (23 Tickets Total).

Thus far in 2020/2021, 28 prisoners have been held at the Detachment cells.

COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT

The community policing officer duties have been temporarily modified due the COVID-19 outbreak but continues to be regularly active in all the schools throughout Queens County with a decrease in presentations. All community and senior based events have minimal to nil events and activities since the pandemic.

S/Sgt. Dan Archibald
District Commander
RCMP Queens District





Presentation to the Region of Queens Municipality

Scott Christian, Chair – Queens Day Care Association

February 9, 2021



Who we are:

- Sole provider of *licensed* childcare services in the community (eligible for subsidies)
- Employer of 7 full-time Early Childhood Educators, 4 part-time staff
- Charitable organization (as of 2020)

What we do:

- Fully inclusive, affordable, accessible childcare and development services for children between the ages of 18-months and 12 years old (currently)
- In the process of expanding our services to meet the needs of the community
 - Infant care facility (suitable for children 3-18 months)
 - Extended hours care (expanding hours of operation to 13 hours – 7am to 8pm) – pending ESDC grant

The challenges we face:

- Introduction of the Pre-Primary Program in SSRCE in September 2018
- Loss of enrollment/revenue for 4-5 year old children (8 enrolled children left for Pre-Primary this fall)
- Loss of some of the most experienced/skilled Early Childhood Educators (4 previous staff)
- Ownership of the old Mt. Pleasant school
 - Previously owned and operated by RQM, low-rent
 - Since taking ownership we have spent over \$70,000 in necessary maintenance, another \$50-\$80,000 required in the next few years
- Infant care facility construction is over budget by \$90,000 – largely due to sprinkler modifications required to meet fire code without a pressurized water supply (\$250,000 funding from province, expected cost is \$390,000)
- Impact of Covid-19
 - Reduced revenue
 - Increased costs (window replacement, enhanced cleaning, cohort separation)
- Insufficient Provincial Funding



The harsh reality:

- The daycare will not be able to remain open without financial support from alternative avenues (could be forced to close by this summer)
- The Infant Care Facility construction project requires additional funding of \$130,000 (required by Spring 2020)

Systemically underfunded:

- With current funding levels from the provincial government, based on projected operational costs, we are still in a loss position with full enrollment

Enrollment	25 + 8 infants	35 + 8 infants	42 (full) + 8 infants
Net loss/year	-\$71,430	-\$52,448	-\$4,455



What's at stake:

- Economic impact - if we lose the only licenced daycare in the community it will be difficult to attract and/or retain young professionals with young families to our community
- Queens Regional Hospital currently has 30+ employees of childbearing age
- Young families generate economic growth and contribute to the community
- Social determinants of health – many of the families who use our services rely on subsidized childcare, without our facility they will have no access to these services
- The loss of our daycare could have a devastating impact on the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable children in our community and their families



The solution – all hands on deck:

- All avenues are currently being explored (Covid-relief programs, grant applications, community-base fundraising activities, request to private donors/foundations, petitioning all levels of government for support)
- Private donors are interested and in talks – want to see public support
- Local MLA very supportive – pushing for future change in system
- We are working toward a position of financial solvency
- Lobbying for more appropriate funding levels provincially
- Working toward full capacity enrollment by 2023

The ask:

- Immediate financial assistance for the Infant Care Facility (\$50,000)
- Ongoing partnership and support (\$30,000/year for 36 months)