

**Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

Present: Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Kevin Muise  
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: Councillor Ralph Gidney

**1.0 Call to Order**

Mayor Norman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2.0 Changes / Approval of Agenda**

**Add In Camera Item 15.1 – Personnel Matter**

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Brown 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, 45 College Street, Liverpool – Mr. Robertson enquired about the 4 cent increase in taxes under Item 7.1. Mayor Norman stated this would be discussed during the budget. He further commented on the transfer from reserves of \$550,000 in order to balance the budget and if the amount required for the RCMP could be negotiated. Mayor Norman stated if the amount was negotiated, it would require a reduction in policing services.

Mr. Robertson further enquired on the proposed replacement of Hillview Acres. Mayor Norman stated if approval is given to proceed with the replacement, RQM would need to borrow the money for a replacement, and any decisions would be a discussion for Council.

He further commented on the deficit of QPEC and noted that the sound system upgrades for the Council Chambers were not in the budget and offered his opinion that having mics at each Councillor's desk may help.

Sandy Cross, 219 East Berlin Road, East Berlin – Mrs. Cross provided a copy of the Seaside Recreation and Community Centre's budget to Council for discussion. She stated when the Seaside Recreation Centre applied for the area rate they knew they were not going to get it. They applied for the Operating Investment Funds grant for \$10,000 and understand they are to receive \$5,000. Their year-end was March 31, so what they submitted was an early assessment to the end of December. The budget circulated is a full year. She commented that the Centre is in need of \$10,000. There are projects that they wish to do, but cannot without funding. They did receive a grant from New Horizons for \$25,000 that will be used for accessibility for the Centre, i.e. bathrooms remodeled and ramps built.

Currently the net income for the Centre is \$975. Many bills are expected, i.e. alarm system, chair lift, insurance and hope RQM can give them \$10,000.

## **6.0 Approval of Minutes**

6.1 Regular Council – April 13, 2021

**It was moved by Councillor Hawkes and seconded by Deputy Mayor Muise:**

**THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held April 13, 2021 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

6.2 Variance Appeal Hearing – April 13, 2021

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

**THAT the minutes of the Variance Appeal Hearing held April 13, 2021 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

## **7.0 Finance**

7.1 2021-2022 Operating Budget

7.1.1 Brooklyn Recreation Committee Area Rate

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

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize the levying of a four point five (4.5) cent area rate in Assessment Districts 5 and 6, to be provided to Brooklyn Recreation Committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

7.1.2 Brooklyn Cemetery Committee Area Rate

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

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize the levying of a one point five (1.5) cent area rate in Assessment Districts 5 and 6, to be provided to Brooklyn Cemetery Committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

### 7.1.3 Area Rate Allocations

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Muise and seconded by Councillor Hawkes:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize the levying of area rates for all assessment accounts according to the following rules:**

**Assessment Districts 1-12, excluding assessment account numbers 10148820, 10462223, and 00132837, a road levy charge of 75% of the provincially mandated road charge, as well as those properties in Assessment Districts 1, 3, 5, and 6 that are connected to, or have the ability to connect to, Liverpool's Water Utility hydrant charges at 100%.**

**Assessment District 13, as well as assessment account numbers 10148820, 10462223, and 00132837, debt charges for Assessment District 13 at 100%, roads, streets, and sidewalk expenses at 75%, engineering and public works equipment expenses at 75%, Liverpool street paving expenses at 100%, and Liverpool Water Utility hydrant charges at 100%.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

### 7.1.4 Tax Rates

**It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Amirault:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize the levying of the following tax rates for Assessment District 13, as well as assessment account numbers 10148820, 10462223, and 00132837, effective April 1, 2021:**

**Residential and Resource base rates of \$1.07 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 89 cents per \$100 of assessment for those properties connected to, or have the ability to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility, or 78 cents per \$100 of assessment for those unable to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility.**

Commercial base rate of \$2.17 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 89 cents per \$100 of assessment for those properties connected to, or have the ability to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility, or 78 cents per \$100 of assessment for those unable to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility.

AND THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize the levying of the following tax rates for Assessment Districts 1-12, excluding assessment account numbers 10148820, 10462223, and 00132837, effective April 1, 2021:

Residential and Resource base rate of \$1.07 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 3 cents per \$100 of assessment for the provincially mandated road charge, and on all assessment accounts in Assessment Districts 1, 3, 5, and 6, for those properties connected to, or have the ability to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility, 11 cents per \$100 of assessment.

Commercial base rate of \$2.17 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 3 cents per \$100 of assessment for the provincially mandated road charge, and on all assessment accounts in Assessment Districts 1, 3, 5, and 6, for those properties connected to, or have the ability to connect to Liverpool's Water Utility, 11 cents per \$100 of assessment.

Commercial Seasonal base rate of \$1.64 per \$100 of assessment plus an area rate of 2 cents per \$100 of assessment for the provincially mandated road charge.

**MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

2021-2022 Operating Budget

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the proposed 2021-2022 Operating Budget reflecting a surplus of \$1,450.

**MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

2021-2022 Water Utility Budget

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

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the proposed 2021-2022 Liverpool Water Utility Operating budget reflecting a deficit of \$40,253;**

**AND THAT Council also adopt the proposed three-year operating budgets for the years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024, for submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

2021-2022 Capital Budget

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

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the proposed 2021-2022 Capital Budget reflecting expenditures of \$22,459,135.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Due Date on Taxes

**It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality establish June 1, 2021, as the due date for all property taxes, with no interest being charged for any taxes being paid on or before June 30, 2021.**

Councillor Charlton asked for consideration to extend the due date on taxes as we are still in a pandemic and last year the due date was extended by a month.

Chris McNeill, CAO, stated there was an extension on due dates last year to the end of July. Most of the province was shut down and it was new and different. Now everyone is somewhat familiar with the pandemic and the operations. If Council wishes, we can delay it, but RQM will need to use money in reserves to pay bills for a month.

Councillor Charlton further stated effective tomorrow we are going into lockdown for 14 days with no guarantee that we can return to normal at that time. We have this tax increase, but this will effect many of our small businesses, and feel this needs more consideration.

**MOTION CARRIED with 6 in favour and 1 against.**

## **8.0 Economic Development**

### **8.1 New Liverpool Walking App**

Jenny Rocket, Director of Economic Development, provided a demonstration on the new Liverpool Walking App.

She stated RQM began work on this app last summer starting with the collection of and editing of stories, and procuring photos for each location. The museum was critical in pulling this together, helped choose locations, provided most of the text, all of the photos and lent their voices for the audio.

We received funding from both ACOA and the province, which allowed expansion on the original idea. This includes 31 locations and video for half of them. It is a progressive web app, which means you can use it on a desktop or mobile device. People could be here geographically to do the tour or explore on line. On a mobile device, It has a near me function, so when you're close to restaurants, bakeries, cafes and other points of interest, you can click on it and it will open up and take you there.

There are 31 locations on the tour. Our plan for promoting is to put the link on our website, have posters at all visitor location centers locally, as well as the museums, Fort Point and our social media sites. You can do a full tour or custom tour. This can be expanded to include other communities where we now have a base design, and we are presently considering one for the old burial grounds.

## 9.0 Corporate Services

### 9.1 Extension of Agreement with PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society

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

**THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the proposed amending agreement with PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society for the establishment of an inclusive playground;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and Deputy Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on Council's behalf.**

Mayor Norman stated on April 10, 2019 a 2-year agreement with PAC Autism Nova Scotia Society was entered into for the erection of a playground. The agreement expired, as the local South Shore Autism Chapter were \$100,000 short on funds. They contacted RQM to ask for an extension. This will allow the extension and we are hopeful that by fall they will have the funds. They can reapply to the Community Investment Fund at that time and move forward with the project.

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

### 9.2 Proposed New Noise Bylaw

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

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality give first reading to a Bylaw Respecting Noise.**

Councillor Charlton raised the question as to how RQM is going to enforce this especially with the Bylaw Officer's workload now. Mayor Norman stated the enforcement issue will be very difficult.

Mayor Norman further stated she spoke with Chris McNeill, CAO, about this being the first time that members of Council have seen this to discuss and enquired if we had difficulty with parts now is the time to deal with it. She stated we could discuss and through consensus agree on any changes to be made. Although we support the first reading, the amendments will be made for the second reading and approval.



Councillor Fancy stated his concern is that we are not set up or ready to proceed with the proposed changes. Our Bylaw Officer will be receiving a number of calls and already has a full agenda. For these reasons, he would not be supporting it.

Deputy Mayor Muise stated he has issues with the times for operating a portable sawmill, i.e. some people use them later in the day when it is cooler and has an issue with the time to stop at 7:00 p.m.

Councillor Amirault agreed with Councillor Fancy and voiced her concerns on the timing for mowing lawns as a lot of residents choose to do it later in the evenings when it is cooler. As well, she has concerns on running an engine during cooler or warmer weather.

Councillor Brown stated he understands the concerns raised, and if a complaint is unreasonable, then it will not be dealt with. This bylaw allows the RCMP to deal with issues without having to lay a criminal charge against residents. It would not all fall to the Bylaw Officer to deal with.

Councillor Charlton further commented on the 8 hours of quiet time being between 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and felt that some of the items such as yelling, playing instruments, etc. is micromanaging and will create more problems.

It was determined to review the definitions and items listed in Schedule A to be reviewed one at a time and make a decision to keep in or remove it from the list.

Definitions – Consensus given that the definitions are okay as is.

Prohibitions and Interpretations – Quiet time is between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Consensus given that this is okay as is.

Fixed Exemptions (what Bylaw does not apply to)

- Item xi – Consensus given to change the time from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Schedule A – Consensus given to remove the following items from the list

- Remove Item 2
  - Remove Item 3
  - Remove Item 5
  - Remove Item 7
- 
- Consensus given to change time in Item 9 to 10:00 p.m. from 9:00 p.m.

Mr. McNeill stated that the Bylaw would not be used for minor complaints but only for egregious enforcement, those with the most serious offences usually with multiple complaints.

Deputy Mayor Muise took the chair at 7:53 p.m.

Mayor Norman stated she has difficulty with this Bylaw. Its roots came from an unfortunate situation in a community that is having difficulty. It is hard to support a Bylaw when we may say now that we will not enforce it unless it's egregious circumstances. This Council is not always going to be here. This is a law on paper, and would be difficult to enforce. It does not state anywhere in it that we are only going to enforce when it is a bad situation. There are many communities in Queens that may have people that do not get along from time to time, and this is something that can give fuel to the fire and I am not supporting it.

Councillor Brown stated our current Bylaw has nothing in that is enforceable and RQM needs to take the first steps. This will give the RCMP and Bylaw the power of enforcement.

**MOTION CARRIED with 4 in favour and 3 against.**

Mayor Norman resumed the chair.

## **10.0 Engineering & Public Works**

There were no items to come before this meeting.

## **11.0 Dangerous or Unsightly Premises**

There were no items to come before this meeting.

## **12.0 Recreation & Healthy Communities**

### **12.1 Community Investment Fund 2021-2022**

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Muise and seconded by Councillor Hawkes:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Brookfield Mines Trail Association in the amount of \$20,000 from the 2021-2022 Community Investment Fund.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Muise and seconded by Councillor Charlton:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Community Food Resource Network in the amount of \$10,000 from the 2021-2022 Community Investment Fund.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**It was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Fancy:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Friends of Hank Snow Society in the amount of \$10,000 from the 2021-2022 Community Investment Fund.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

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

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Liverpool Baseball Club in the amount of \$5,300 from the 2021-2022 Community Investment Fund.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

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

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to North Queens Board of Trade in the amount of \$10,000 from the 2021-2022 Community Investment Fund.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

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

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Queens County Fair Association in the amount of \$10,000 from the 2021-2022 Community Investment Fund.**

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Muise and seconded by Councillor Brown:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality provide grant funding to Seaside Recreation and Community Centre Association in the amount of \$5,000 from the 2021-2022 Community Investment Fund.**

Mayor Norman stated that comments were heard from the gallery respecting reasoning for the request to be changed.

Dana Henley, Community Development Coordinator, stated they requested \$10,460 and the policy states operational requests are only available up to \$10,000. Their request was very specific for their operational funding request. The recommendation is less than what they requested because they projected a small surplus and the surplus was projected without any grant funding.

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

12.2 Policy 41 – Photocopying Services for Community Organizations

**It was moved by Deputy Mayor Muise and seconded by Councillor Charlton:**

**THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve Policy 41 – Photocopying Services for Community Organizations.**

Meaghan Roberts, Director of Recreation and Healthy Communities, stated that any organizations that wish to could have a copy of their template sent to them can do so by requesting it.

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Mayor Norman announced a 2-minute break at 8:15 p.m.

### **13.0 Planning**

13.1 Queens Municipal Accessibility Plan 2021-2030 (QMAP)

**It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Brown:**

**THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality request staff release the draft Queens Municipal Accessibility Plan to the public for review and comment for a period of 45 days.**

Mayor Norman welcomed Tyler Roy, Accessibility Committee member to Council. She stated RQM has been mandated to make our municipality accessible by 2030. The past Council began with the hiring of an Accessibility Coordinator. The draft plan due date was to be submitted by April 2021 but the province extended it to April 2022. Our Accessibility Coordinator, Elise Johnston, along with her committee completed the draft plan on schedule by April 2021.

Elise Johnston, Accessibility Coordinator, provided background on the Municipal Accessibility Plan for RQM. She stated the report was mandated because municipalities are designated public bodies, and as such we're required to prepare this plan.

The report was in a basic template that was customized according to our needs. Before the committee was selected, we had a survey, which is still ongoing, to use as a launch of this plan. The survey was easy and was accessible on line, by a printed version, verbally on the phone, etc. One hundred people responded.

The specifics of the survey asked "what is your barrier?" We take into consideration the built environment we have to allow for things such as mobility, which we think primarily as ramps, but need to consider mobility, impaired hearing, impaired vision, impaired memory, people with pain, people with learning disabilities, how we make layouts, etc.

Information and communication is big part, i.e. how to make our documents screen readable, and a lot of work has been done on this. This means if you have impaired vision or you do not feel like reading the document, you can have it read to you and if it is coded with structure, you can open the bookmark and use the table of contents to maneuver around to what part of the document is of interest to you.

Education, we can support through the RecreationforAll program, support kids, and public awareness.

Goods and services, are we able to provide to every resident with all abilities. This will impact our built environment, communication and education. Do we know if our services at Queens Place are open to everybody? We are working on that.

Employment, how are we recruiting? If the job is posted on line, is it readable to the vision impaired? Accommodating barriers for employees with disabilities sometimes comes with a low cost i.e. things such as lighting, having the office closest to the washroom, a different chair, a standing desk, etc. It also leads to the cognitive disorders, seeing more PTSD and anxiety, so how are we with flexibility in the job place.

Transportation, although we do not have a public transport system like Bridgewater, we do have Queens County Transit.

Mayor Norman thanked Tyler for attending. She stated the Accessibility Plan would be promoted on line and through social media as well as paper copies for the public to review for the next 45 days.

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

## 14.0 Reports

### 14.1 Council Implementation Report

There were no items to come before this meeting.

## 15.0 In-Camera Items

It was moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Deputy Mayor Muise that the proceedings go In-Camera at 8:43 p.m. to discuss the following:

### 15.1 Personnel Matter

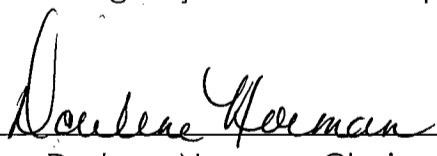
**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

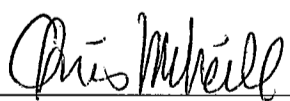
It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Deputy Mayor Muise that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 8:55 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

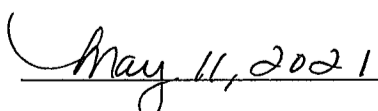
## 16.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris McNeill, CAO

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Watson, Administrative Assistant – Planning & Development

Date Approved:   
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