

Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Changes / Approval of Agenda

3.0 Presentations

- 3.1 Brighter Days Capital Campaign, South Shore Regional Hospital –
Tim O'Regan, Paul Snow

4.0 Tabling of Petitions

5.0 Public Question / Comment Session

6.0 Approval of Minutes

- 6.1 Regular Council – May 24, 2022

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Privateer Farmers' Market – Waiver of Policy 58 – Consumption of
Alcohol on Municipal Property
- 7.2 Library Site Selection
- 7.3 Electoral Boundary Options

8.0 Discussions

- 8.1 Council Implementation Report
- 8.2 Liverpool Business Development Centre Future Investments
- 8.3 NSFM – Service Exchange Renegotiation and MGA Review
Committee Survey

9.0 In-Camera Items

- 9.1 Personnel
- 9.2 Sale of Municipal Property
- 9.3 Sale of Municipal Property
- 9.4 Acquisition of Municipal Property

10.0 Adjournment



SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Project Scope

By the Numbers

OVERALL SIZE

Currently 170,000 sq ft.

Increase of 48,705 sq ft.

= 218,705 sq ft. (28.65% expansion)

OVERALL COST

\$115.7 million overall cost

Facility Additions

TWO-STOREY ADDITION

will house a new **Emergency Department, Ambulatory Care, Endoscopy Unit and Dialysis Unit**, in addition to **four Ambulance Bays**.

SINGLE STOREY ADDITION

will be home to a new **MRI Suite**.

TWO SMALLER ADDITIONS

will be built to accommodate essential upgrades to mechanical and electrical systems.



Project Highlights

- The **Emergency Department** will triple in **size**
- Increased number of **exam rooms** from **14 to 20**
- **New access road to the HeliPad** for life flight services
- Addition of a **Dialysis Unit** with 12 treatment chairs
- A new **MRI Suite** - anticipate 3000 scans/year in the new suite
- New **SPEC-CT** Scanner – provides detailed diagnostic images
- **Expanded Endoscopy and Day Surgery** will better support local patients
- **Weather-protected Ambulance Bays** will improve patient comfort and privacy
- **Systems upgrades** will target LEED Silver level certification
- **Construction** will be phased over 4 years, completion target 2025.



Brighter Days Capital Campaign

- Community has been asked to raise \$6.6 million to fund the purchase of essential medical equipment
- David Himmelman and Tim O'Regan Co-Chairs for the campaign committee
- In excess of 100 volunteers from the community will work on the campaign
- The community response to the initial phases of the campaign has been positive



Community Impact

- The South Shore Regional Hospital services Lunenburg, Queens and a portion of Shelburne Counties
- The redevelopment project will positively impact the recruitment and retention of health care professionals, an anticipated 60-80 new permanent jobs will be created in the community
- A modern regional healthcare facility increases the appeal of Lunenburg and Queens Counties to potential residents. This project protects our hospital's "Regional Hospital" status now and into the future.
- Construction will have a positive impact on the economic activity in the region with an anticipated 300 construction workers on site daily



Ways to Give

- **Pledged** gift (up to 5 years)
- **One-time** contribution
- **Gifts of stocks**, bonds, annuities, real estate or other capital property
- The campaign is requesting support from the regional municipalities and towns both financially and logistically (ie ad space)
- Suggested gift from the Region of Queens Municipality \$100,000 over 4 years



**OUR LOCAL HOSPITAL IS WORTH ALL
OF OUR SUPPORT.
IT IS READY FOR THE COMMUNITY
WHEN THE COMMUNITY NEEDS IT.**



Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair
Deputy Mayor Kevin Muise
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Ralph Gidney
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Carl Hawkes
Chris McNeill, CAO
Dana Henley, Community Development Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order

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

2.0 Changes / Approval of Agenda

Add: Item 3.2 – Mersey River Wind – Renewable to Retail

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Gidney that the Agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 Presentations

3.1 Queens Community Health Board – Child Poverty Advocacy

Mayor Norman welcomed Barbara Ross and Jackie Leonard, Queens Community Health Board to Council (copy of presentation attached to original set of Minutes).

Some highlights included:

- Nova Scotia has the highest rate of child poverty in the Atlantic Provinces, 3rd highest rate in Canada
- 1 in 4 children in Queens County live in poverty, going to bed cold and hungry and going to school without breakfast or lunch, missing out on recreational and social activities
- Municipalities can play a roll affecting policy at the Provincial and Federal levels of government
- Steps to affect awareness and end child poverty in our communities could be:
 - Educate how serious child poverty is
 - Mirror other Municipality's programs
 - Collaborate with local organizations
 - Child Poverty Advocate
 - Access to Funding
 - Affordable Transportation

- Accessible Childcare
- Baby Box/Book Bag Program
- Food Box
- Support Programs
- Recreational Passes
- Dental Care Credits
- Excess Food Access Programs

Mayor Norman thanked Ms. Ross and Leonard for their presentation, and noted that while at present the municipality doesn't have the capacity to dedicate a staff person to this very important issue, the municipality is willing to collaborate and support efforts and programs.

3.2 Mersey River Wind – Renewable to Retail

Mayor Norman welcomed Dan Roscoe and Mitch Underhay, Roswall Development Inc. to Council (copy of presentation attached to original set of Minutes).

Some highlights included:

- Roswall Development Inc. will be holding a public meeting – open house Wednesday, May 25th at 6 pm in Milton regarding the Mersey River Wind project.
- The Mersey River Wind project will be located on a large tract of Crown land west of Milton, approximately 20,000 acres that has been extensively logged with regenerating forests and solid access roads, and proximity to an NSPI transmission station. The site is approximately 2 kms from the nearest permanent resident.
- The project will see the first chance for Nova Scotians to purchase electricity through a Renewable to Retail program with 100% local, zero emission electricity, at low, predictable energy costs.
- Provides opportunities for economic development to retailers that desire clean energy to locate in Nova Scotia.
- The Mersey River Wind project is the next generation of turbines. Each turbine on the site will have 4.5 Megawatt capacity, with an 150 m rotor diameter.
- The construction period for the wind project requires a good road network and laydown areas. During construction approximately 100 temporary jobs will be created. Construction will take place over two phases. Phase 1 will see 8 turbines installed at the most eastern end of the site, with Phase 2 seeing the remaining 25 turbines installed. The construction period will take place over 3 years, with completion projected in 2024.
- Licensing for the project is in place, work to secure permitting at the municipal level (development agreement) is under way; currently permission is being sought from the Crown to enter into a development agreement with the municipality. Community outreach is being conducted in advance of a formal application for development. Provincial approvals are required and an

environmental study is being conducted by Strum Consulting at present. Federal permits are required under NavCan, and have been approved.

- Community benefits to be seen from the project include the creation of an annual Community Dividend to create an endowment fund to directly support community initiatives; priority access to Renewable to Retail clean energy rates for nearby residents and businesses; and creation of a not-for-profit energy rate to provide additional savings to important community services.

Mayor Norman thanked Mr. Roscoe and Underhay for their presentation, and noted that we look forward to the day when another electricity option is available to residents of Queens County and Nova Scotia.

4.0 Tabling of Petitions

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

5.0 Public Question / Comment Session

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

6.0 Approval of Minutes

6.1 Regular Council – May 10, 2022

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

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held May 10, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.2 Public Hearing – May 17, 2022

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

THAT the minutes of the Public Hearing meeting held May 17, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED. 7 in favour, 1 against.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Administrative Policy 23 – Respecting Regular Meetings of Council

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve revised Policy 23 Respecting Regular Meetings of Council.

Mr. Levy, Municipal Clerk, noted that the primary changes in the revised policy are the removal of the second Council meeting in both July and August; and the North Queens dedicated evening Council meeting moved to the second Council meeting in June.

Mayor Norman noted that there can still be an emergency or special meeting of Council should there be a need.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.2 Privateer Farmers' Market – Request for Waiver of Policy 58: Consumption of Alcohol on Municipal Properties

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

THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality agree to waive Policy 58 – Consumption of Alcohol on Municipally Owned Properties at the request of Privateer Farmers' Market at Centennial Park, Liverpool on Saturdays from June 4 to December 31, 2022.

AND THAT the applicant be required to submit proof of insurance in no less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence with the Region of Queens Municipality as additional insured, and copy of the in effect liquor license from the Province of Nova Scotia to the Region, and that all municipal, provincial, and federal laws be strictly adhered to.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.3 2010 CAT 826H Landfill Compactor Re-build

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the rebuild of the 2010 CAT 826H Landfill Compactor at a cost of \$688,173 + HST, with the cost being funded through a withdrawal from the Landfill Equipment Reserve.

Mayor Norman noted that this was a budgeted item for 2022-2023.

Adam Grant, Director of Engineering and Public Works noted that staff have been working with Toromont CAT towards the replacement of this machine. Under the current market conditions the replacement cost of the machine is extreme, therefore they strongly recommended that the machine undergo a certified powertrain rebuild. There are facilities in Nova Scotia that have done these types of rebuilds multiple times with great success and cost savings. The rebuild will also require the replacement of the wheels which have significant wear. The rebuild will extend the warranty for 6000 hours or 60 months, and is expected to extend the lifespan of the machine for 8 to 10 years.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.4 Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw – 2nd Reading

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality give second reading to a revised Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw;

AND THAT the documents be forwarded to Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs and Housing for Ministerial approval.

Mike MacLeod, Director of Planning and Development noted that this process began over 3 years ago. Detailed public engagement has been conducted. Our consultants, Upland held significant stakeholder engagement meetings during the process, and several draft documents have been prepared. The first reading was in February of this year and since then three public hearings have been held.

Councillor Fancy noted that it has been a long process and that he is not yet ready to approve a second reading at this time.

Councillors Charlton, Gidney, Brown, and Amirault agreed that there are still some issues that require attention but that they feel those issues can be addressed on an individual basis and that it is a living document, where changes can be made as needed.

Mayor Norman turned the chair over to Councillor Fancy.

Mayor Norman feels that this document protects rural values in our communities, that it is a living document and things can be adjusted and reviewed as needed. Development permit applications are currently in limbo for several residents and businesses waiting for the document to be approved.

MOTION CARRIED. 6 in favour, 2 against.

7.5 2022 Tracked Excavator Purchase

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the purchase of a 2022 Komatsu PC238USLC-11 Excavator with extended warranty and trade in of a 1991 Caterpillar 215 excavator at a price of \$310,000 + HST, to be funded from the Equipment Reserve.

Adam Grant, Director of Engineering and Public Works noted that this is a budgeted item for 2022-2023. Three Nova Scotia based firms were invited to bid, with submissions received from two of the firms. Lowest bid was received from Wilson Equipment, and is a direct replace for a 31 year old piece of equipment, with over 20,000 hours.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.6 Road Naming – Lavender Cove Road

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the naming of an existing driveway off Highway 3 in Port Mouton as Lavender Cove Road.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.7 Valuation Allowance for Fiscal 2021-2022

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality authorize a Valuation Allowance for Taxes Receivable of \$161,313.84 for the fiscal year 2021-2022.

Joanne Veinotte, Director of Corporate Services, noted that last year there were some issues with the valuation allowance as there was some subjectivity. As a result, a new policy was developed last fall to rectify the subjectivity.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

8.0 Discussions

8.1 Liverpool Business Development Centre HVAC Investigation

Joanne Veinotte, Director of Corporate Services, reviewed two scenarios detailing the financial implications of continuing to act as Landlord and operate the Liverpool Business Development Centre. One scenario with the current leases continuing and the other scenario where the current leases are discontinued.

Discussion ensued regarding other options, such as holding off on other projects and reallocating funds, what the impact would be on the tax rate for the scenarios provided in the discussion report, what would happen if no repairs were made at this time and if the system failed before replacement/repair was completed.

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

THAT staff prepare a discussion report detailing other possible options that are available.

MOTION CARRIED. 6 in favour, 2 against.

9.0 In-Camera Items

It was moved by Councillor Gidney and seconded by Councillor Hawkes that the proceedings go In-Camera at 8:08 p.m. to discuss the following:

- 9.1 Sale of Municipal Property
- 9.2 Personnel
- 9.3 Lease of Municipal Property

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mayor Norman announced a 10 minute break at 8:08 p.m.

It was moved by Councillor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Gidney that the proceedings exit In-Camera at 9:57 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair

Chris McNeill, CAO

Dana Henley, Community Development Coordinator

Date Approved: _____

Region of Queens Municipality Staff Report

7.1

To: Council

From: Dana Henley, Community Development Coordinator

Date: May 24, 2022

Re: Privateer Farmers' Market for Waiver of Policy 58 – Consumption of Alcohol on Municipal Property

Background

Privateer Farmers' Market attracts vendors of all types including locally made arts, crafts and wares. The Market wishes vendors to have the ability to sell alcoholic beverages; however they are prohibited under Operational Policy 58 – Consumption of Alcohol on Municipal Property. Privateer Farmers' Market is requesting that this policy be waived to allow liquor to be sold, given, or consumed at the market from licensed liquor distributors, as has been granted in the past.

Details

Privateer Farmers' Market is held in Centennial Park, on the Liverpool Waterfront, adjacent to the Liverpool Visitor Information Centre. This is the eighth season for the market and they have requested and been granted a waiver of Policy 58, seven out of eight seasons. The waiver was not sought during the 2020 season. The waiver is being sought for Saturdays, from May 21 to October 8, 2022 inclusive.



Applicable Legislation

Operational Policy #58 – Consumption of Alcohol on Municipally Owned Properties.

Budget Impacts

There would be no budget implications resulting from the approval of this request.

Recommendation

That the Council of Region of Queens Municipality agree to waive Policy 58 – Consumption of Alcohol on Municipally Owned Properties at the request of Privateer Farmers' Market at Centennial Park, Liverpool on Saturdays from June 4 to December 31, 2022.

And that the applicant be required to submit proof of insurance in no less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence with the Region of Queens Municipality as additional insured, and copy of the in effect liquor license from the Province of Nova Scotia to the Region, and that all municipal, provincial, and federal laws be strictly adhered to.

Communications

The applicant will be notified of a decision following Council.

Privateer Farmers' Market
Ashley-Rose Goodwin
44 Pleasant Avenue
P.O. Box 2004
Liverpool, NS
B0T 1K0

May 13th, 2022

To The Municipal Council of Queens County, Nova Scotia:

On behalf of the Privateer Farmers' Market Co-operative, I request a waiver of policy 58 restricting the sale of alcohol for the market season of 2022/2023 at Centennial Park, Liverpool Waterfront, and Main Street Liverpool any date as approved. The waiver request would include all Saturdays from May 21st, 2022- to December 31st, 2022. This waiver allows us to draw various local distillers, breweries, and vineyards to our market, including Ironworks Distillery, Hell Bay Brewery, Petite Riviere, and Wayfarers' Ale, this coming season.

Thank you for your consideration in enhancing our market.

All the best,
Ashley- Rose Goodwin
Privateer Market Manager
privateermarket@gmail.com
902-803-0077

Region of Queens Municipality Staff Report

7.2

To: Council

From: Chris McNeill, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: June 14, 2022


Re: Thomas H. Raddall Library Steering Committee New Site Selection

Background

Included within the 2022-2023 Capital Budget is funding to provide for the development and construction of a new Thomas H. Raddall Library to replace the current library contained within leased space at the Rossignol Cultural Centre in Liverpool. The current lease is a five-year term with a one year termination clause.

Details

At the April 12, 2022, Council meeting, a draft terms of reference to establish a steering committee to oversee the establishment of a new library was approved. One of the recommendations was to review potential site locations considering accessibility and community fit, along with expected capital and operating costs, culminating in a recommendation to Council for the selection of a site. The steering committee has met twice and recently reviewed potential sites to build the new library. Eight sites between the current location and the corridor to Queens Place Emera Centre were analyzed in detail considering size, location, development costs, suitability according to criteria established by the Steering Committee, and accessibility by current and future users.



Prior to the review, the committee established site criteria including the ability to house a 6000 square foot library, space for 24 parking spaces, adequate space and clearances for entrance and exit, easy access for emergency and delivery trucks, superior exterior lighting, outdoor grassed space for programming, space for outdoor storage, sufficient water supply for building and firefighting use, not located where known flooding or water drainage problems may occur, close access to public transportation, centrally located with access to sidewalks, currently zoned for library use or could be with minimal change, and municipally owned or could be purchased for a reasonable price from a private developer.

The Steering Committee discussed all eight potential sites in detail and favoured sites that were near other complementary infrastructure such as recreational spaces and public facilities, and not near heavy traffic areas where safety may be a concern. Locations with abundant outdoor greenspace and the ability to enhance programming outside the building nearby were rated higher. The Steering Committee was unanimous in its preferred site selection.

Applicable Legislation

Section 24 of the *Municipal Government Act* states that:

- (1) The council may establish standing, special and advisory committees.
- (2) Each committee shall perform the duties conferred on it by this Act, any other Act of the Legislature or the by-laws or policies of the municipality.

Recommendation

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the placement of the new Thomas H. Raddall Library on the lands of the Municipality adjacent to the sledding hill at the end of Queens Place Drive, Brooklyn.

Budget Impacts

No costs are anticipated with the selection of this site at this time.

Communications

Upon approval of this recommendation, the new site will be the basis for future planning and tenders of the new library facility beginning immediately.

Region of Queens Municipality Staff Report

7.3

To: Council

From: Chris McNeill, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: June 14, 2022


Re: 2024 Electoral Boundary Preliminary Options

Background

On December 10, 2021, Council was advised by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) that it is required to carry out a review of its electoral boundaries in 2022 according to the Municipal Government Act and submit the application to the NSUARB for review, adjudication, and a decision.

At the Council meeting on February 22, 2022, Council authorized staff to prepare three preliminary options for consideration: a six member councillor option, a seven member councillor option, and an eight member councillor option. The issue of the Mayor is mandatory and therefore excluded from the process.

To comply with the requirements of the NSUARB procedures, Council must initially hold public consultations regarding the proposed options under council's consideration. Part of the consideration for each voting option is the relative parity of each voter for each option with the goal being no more than a 10% variance from the average number of voters per polling district. Once this has been determined and agreed to by Council, staff are then required to supply descriptions for each existing and proposed new polling district.



Upon the completion of the formal public consultation and description compilation, a formal application must then be submitted to the NSUARB. Upon receipt, the NSUARB will require certain newspaper ads to be published inviting formal comments from the public during the formal hearing before the NSUARB, usually held in the Council Chambers. At the formal hearing, staff will present the application and be subject to cross examination by the NSUARB or formal intervenors.

At the conclusion of the public hearing into this matter, the NSUARB will render its decision within 60 days. A complete set of the rules and procedures used by the NSUARB are located on their website.

Details

Staff have over the past several months reviewed the current municipal electoral boundaries and have prepared three preliminary new options for six, seven, and eight council districts recognizing the NSUARB rules. The number of electors used in the modelling is the most recent number of electors from the 2021 provincial election.



Option 1 - Six Electoral Districts (average 1471)

District 1 - East Port l'Hebert, Port Joli, South West Port Mouton, Port Mouton, Summerville Centre, Hunts Point, Beech Hill Farms, White Point, and 10% of Liverpool

Voters 1415 Variance from Average -3.8%

District 2 - Western Head, Moose Harbour, Mersey Point, Mount Pleasant, and 40% of Liverpool

Voters 1416 Variance from Average -3.74%

District 3 - Liverpool 50%, and Brooklyn (Sandy Cove)

Voters 1339 Variance from Average -8.97%

District 4 - Brooklyn (downtown), Beach Meadows, Eagle Head, West Berlin, East Berlin, Port Medway, East Port Medway, Danesville, and Mill Village

Voters 1560 Variance from Average +6.05%

District 5 - Charleston, Riversdale, Bangs Falls, Greenfield, Buckfield, Middlefield, Medway River 11, Pleasantfield, Ponhook Lake 10, and Milton

Voters 1627 Variance from Average +10.6%

District 6 - Labelle, Wildcat 12, Molega, Molega North, Whiteburne Mines, Westfield, South Brookfield, Pleasant River, Northfield, West Caledonia, Tobetic Wilderness Area, North Brookfield, New Grafton, Lake Rossignol, Kempt, Kejimikujik National Park of Canada, Hibernia, Harmony Mills, Caledonia, and Albany New

Voters 1459 Variance from Average -0.82%



Option 2 - Seven Electoral Districts (average 1261)

District 1 - East Port l'Hebert, Port Joli, South West Port Mouton, Port Mouton, Summerville Centre, Hunts Point, Beech Hill Farms, and White Point

Voters 1201 Variance from Average -4.76%

District 2 - Western Head, Moose Harbour, Mersey Point, Mount Pleasant, and 35% of Liverpool (South)

Voters 1309 Variance from Average +3.81%

District 3 - 50% of Liverpool, and Brooklyn (Sandy Cove)

Voters 1339 Variance from Average +6.19%

District 4 - Brooklyn (downtown), Beach Meadows, Eagle Head, West Berlin, East Berlin, Port Medway, Danesville, and East Port Medway

Voters 1342 Variance from Average +6.42%

District 5 - Milton and 15% of Liverpool (West)

Voters 1367 Variance from Average +8.41%

District 6 - Mill Village, Charleston, Riversdale, Labelle, Wildcat 12, Medway 10, Molega, Molega North, Greenfield, Buckfield, Bangs Falls, Middlefield and Pleasantfield

Voters 1119 Variance from Average -11.3%

District 7 - Whiteburne Mines, Westfield, South Brookfield, Pleasant River, Northfield, West Caledonia, Tobetic Wilderness Area, North Brookfield, New Grafton, Lake Rossignol, Kempt, Kejimikujik National Park of Canada, Hibernia, Harmony Mills, Caledonia, and Albany New

Voters 1139 Variance from Average -9.67%



Option 3 - Eight Electoral Districts (average 1104)

District 1 - East Port l'Hebert, Port Joli, South West Port Mouton, Port Mouton, Summerville Centre, Hunts Point, Beech Hill Farms, and White Point

Voters 1201 Variance from Average +8.79

District 2 - 55% of Liverpool

Voters 1176 Variance from Average +6.51%

District 3 - Western Head, Moose Harbour, Mersey Pont, Mount Pleasant, and 30% of Liverpool

Voters 1202 Variance from Average +9.06%

District 4 - Milton and Ponhook 10

Voters 1046 Variance from Average -5.25%

District 5 - 15% of Liverpool and Brooklyn

Voters 1165 Variance from Average +5.53%

District 6 - Beach Meadows, Eagle Head, West Berlin, East Berlin, Port Medway, Danesville, East Port Medway and Mill Village

Voters 986 Variance from Average -10.69%

District 7 - Charleston, Riversdale, Labelle, Wildcat 12, Middlefield, Pleasantfield, Medway River 11, Molega, Molega North, Pleasant River, Greenfield, Buckfield and Bangs Falls

Voters 1008 Variance from Average -8.7%

District 8 - Whiteburne Mines, Westfield, South Brookfield, Northfield, West Caledonia, Tobatic Wilderness Area, North Brookfield, New Grafton, Lake Rossignol, Kempt, Kejimikujik National Park of Canada, Hibernia, Harmony Mills, Caledonia, and Albany New

Voters 1032 Variance from Average -6.52%



Applicable Legislation

Section 369 and 370 of the *Municipal Government Act* states that:

369(1) In the year 1999, and in the years 2006 and every eighth year thereafter the council shall conduct a study of the number and boundaries of polling districts in the municipality, their fairness and reasonableness and the number of councillors.

(2) After the study is completed, and before the end of the year in which the study was conducted, the council shall apply to the Board to confirm or to alter the number and boundaries of polling districts and the number of councillors. Councillor continues to hold office

370 Unless the Board otherwise orders, where boundaries of polling districts are revised, any councillor holding office at the time of the revision continues to hold office until the next regular municipal election.

Recommendation

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the preliminary boundaries for the 2024 municipal election public consultation process reflecting three options: six councillors, seven councillors and eight councillors;

AND THAT consultation take place with the public with Option ____ being the recommended option.

Budget Impacts

Public consultation is expected to cost approximately \$1000.

Communications

Upon approval of this recommendation, staff will begin the process of promoting the 3 options on-line and hosting two public consultation sessions for additional feedback and input during July 2022.

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT – January – May 24, 2022

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
Feb. 22, 2022	Authorize staff to prepare three potential electoral boundary review options for consideration of Council comprising of six councillors, seven councillors, and eight councillors.	CAO	Work on the three requested scenarios underway. Preliminary report to Council June 14, 2022.
Feb. 22, 2022	Declare property identified as PID #70029509 as surplus to municipal needs and enter into a purchase and sale agreement with Kenny Veinot to convey the municipal lands for a purchase price of \$3,000; AND THAT all costs associated with this transaction be borne by Kenny Veinot.	M. MacLeod	Contacted Mr. Veinot. Preparing Purchase and Sale Agreement for signatures.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
Feb. 22, 2022	<p>Declare the following properties as surplus to municipal needs and have them advertised for sale at fair market value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70127501 • 70164561 • 70143276 • 70248018 • 70248026 • 70019609 <p>AND THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality declare the following properties as surplus to municipal needs and offer them for sale to abutting property owners at a minimum bid of \$0.25 per square foot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70275508 • 70019872 • 70062245 • 70101613 <p>AND THAT Council of Region of Queens Municipality declare the following property as surplus to municipal needs and offer it for sale to abutting property owner for a minimum bid of the cost of land migration, deed preparation and deed recording:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70271812 	M. MacLeod	<p>Staff in process of determining Fair Market Value.</p> <p>Staff preparing letters to go out to abutting property owners.</p>

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
April 12, 2022	Approve the creation of the Thomas H. Raddall Library Steering Committee according to the draft Terms of Reference.	CAO	Committee members notified.
April 12, 2022	Appoint Jessica Joudrey, Susan DeChamp, Tom Sheppard, Councillor David Brown, Jeff Mercer and David Trueman to the Thomas H. Raddall Library Steering Committee effective immediately with a term to expire on the opening of the new library.	CAO	Committee members notified Three meetings held to date. New building design work underway.
April 12, 2022	Approve the removal of a streetlight in front of 24 Weir Lane in the community of Liverpool.	M. MacLeod	Request submitted to NSPI for removal.
April 12, 2022	Select Scott Christian and David Freeman as the Region of Queens Municipality's 2022 Volunteers of the Year.	H. Cook	Volunteers of the Year were notified. A biography and photograph of each has been submitted to the organizers of the Provincial Volunteer Ceremony. Currently, the ceremony is planned to be an in person event on Sept. 26, 2022.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
April 12, 2022	Approves the 2022-2023 fire department and medical first responder registrations effective April 1, 2022, for Greenfield and District Fire Department, Liverpool Fire Fighters Association, Mill Village and District Fire Department, North Queens Fire Association, Port Medway Fire Department, and West Queens Medical First Responder Society, according to the service levels for each department included in their 2022-2023 Application for Registration.		Letters send April 12, 2022 confirming approval.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Community Food Resource Network in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Friends of Hank Snow Society in the amount of \$7,500.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute in the amount of \$3,450.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to North Queens Board of Trade in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to North Queens Heritage Society in the amount of \$1,200.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Pleasant River Community Hall Society in the amount of \$3,857.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Port Joli Community Association in the amount of \$4,334.55 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Queens County Blades in the amount of up to \$5,000 for 2022-2023 CanSkate Learn to Skate Program from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund budget; such funding shall be available in increments of \$125 for each new skater registered in the CanSkate program from October 2022 to March 2023 who has not previously been subsidized by this grant funding in previous years.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and funding will be provided upon registrations.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Queens County Museum in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Seaside Recreation and Community Centre in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Liverpool Baseball Club in the amount of \$9,054.50 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
April 12, 2022	Provide grant funding to Liverpool International Theatre Festival in the amount of \$6,000.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
April 12, 2022	Enter into the proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement with Liemke Ventures Limited for property bearing PID #70110903, being the property known as South Shore Regional Airport, for the appraised value of \$565,000 plus HST.	M. MacLeod	Pending finalization of land transaction.
April 12, 2022	Approve the Municipal Clerk and Diversity Coordinator Job Description.	CAO	Copy of job description circulated to staff and Personnel Manual updated following approval
April 12, 2022	Approve the Accessibility and Inclusion Coordinator Job Description.	CAO	Copy of job description circulated to staff and Personnel Manual updated following approval.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
April 26, 2022	<p>Approve the following reserve accounts being created, and reserves and unbudgeted reserve transfers:</p> <p>Transfer balance of NSTRIP Reserve to Operating Surplus \$1090.33; and</p> <p>Create Sidewalk Reserve; and</p> <p>Create EMO Comfort Centre Reserve with allocation of EMO funding from fiscal year 2021-2022 of \$50,000; and</p> <p>Transfer remaining balance for bunker gear and breathing apparatus of \$20,865.02 from Fire Department Equipment Reserve to Fire Department Safety Reserve; and</p> <p>Create Municipal Planning Strategy and Bylaw Development Reserve; and</p> <p>Re-allocate Pollution Abatement Reserve balance estimated at \$187,400 to Sewer Project Reserve; and</p> <p>Allocate \$97,768.12 from Liverpool Business Development Centre Reserve to pay commission and leasing brokerage; and</p> <p>Allocate \$5,922.50 from Water Equipment Special Operating Reserve to fund purchase of new meter reader in the utility.</p>	J. Veinotte	Change of accounts have been completed.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
April 26, 2022	Approve Policy 94 respecting Non-Union Salary and Wage Increases.	CAO	Website and manuals updated.
April 26, 2022	Repeal Administrative Policy 4 respecting Notice to Council Members for Policies.	CAO	Policy Manuals and website updated.
April 26, 2022	THAT the said documents and records as set out in the affidavit of Shelley Connolly, Deputy Clerk, sworn to the 14 th day of April, 2022 are to be forthwith destroyed.	S. Connolly	Records have been destroyed.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
April 26, 2022	<p>Recommend the following changes to the draft Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw, as given first reading by Council on February 22, 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the number of RV's able to be parked on a property at any one time to 2; • Change the Future Land Use designation of properties identified as PID#'s 70162862 and 70162896 to Rural (RUR) in the Municipal Planning Strategy; • Change the proposed zoning of properties identified as PID#'s 70162862 and 70162896 to Resort (Re) in the Land Use Bylaw; • Change the Future Land Use designation of properties identified as PID#'s 70133475 and 70126552 to Rural (RUR) in the Municipal Planning Strategy; • Change the proposed zoning of properties identified as PID#'s 70133475 and 70126552 to Inland Rural (R5); • Increase the maximum number of fowl or rabbits permitted under Section 7.8.1 of the Land Use Bylaw to 10; • Reword Section 7.8.1 (b) of Land Use Bylaw respecting enclosure of fowl and rabbits for clarity; • Permit household livestock operations in the General Residential (RG) Zone; • Change the minimum shoreline development setback reduction criteria on a marine shoreline to 15.2 metres (50 feet) from top of bank; 	M. MacLeod	<p>Changes were made to draft documents.</p> <p>Public Hearing held on May 17, 2022.</p> <p>Planning documents given second reading on May 24, 2022.</p> <p>Documents forwarded to Province for Ministerial approval.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a new clause identifying a minimum setback distance of 30 metres (98.4 feet) of ordinary high water mark, where there is no identifiable top of bank on a marine shoreline; • Removal of 9.5.15 (b) of Land Use Bylaw respecting maximum number of typefaces and font sizes for signage in the Downtown Commercial (CD) Zone; • Minor changes in wording to improve clarity and form; <p>AND THAT a public hearing be scheduled for May 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Liverpool Fire Hall, 520 Main Street in Liverpool.</p>		
May 10, 2022	Approve the application made by Victoria Order of Nurses to have the VON flag flown on the Special Purpose flagpole located in front of the Town Hall Arts and Cultural Centre, Liverpool during the dates outlined in the attached application.	E. Levy	Applicant notified following council and arrangements made to have flag flown.
May 10, 2022	Approve a change in job title for the support position at Hillside Acres from Administrative Assistant to Administrative and HR Assistant.	J. Veinotte	Job title change completed.
May 10, 2022	Approve the installation of a new streetlight by the community postal boxes on Highway 3 in Broad River.	M. MacLeod	Request for installation sent to NSPI.
May 10, 2022	Approve the installation of a new streetlight in front of #94 East Side Port L'Hebert Road in East Port L'Hebert.	M. MacLeod	Request for installation sent to NSPI.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
May 10, 2022	<p>Agrees to grant a Quit Claim Deed to Greenfield Community Resource Centre Society for any interest that the Municipality may have in properties identified as PID# 70183959 and 70277231;</p> <p>AND THAT all costs incurred in this transaction be borne by Greenfield Community Resource Centre Society.</p>	M. MacLeod	Deed executed and sent to GCRCS for recording.
May 10, 2022	Provide grant funding to Queens County Fair Association in the amount up to \$25,575.00 from the 2022-2023 Community Investment Fund.	D. Henley	Advised of their funding approval and first 80% of funding provided.
May 10, 2022	Approve Policy 18 respecting Investments and authorize staff to forward the policy to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval.	E. Levy	Copy of policy submitted to Municipal Affairs for approval.
May 10, 2022	Authorize staff to negotiate final agreement for supply and install of rubber surfacing for the Universally-Designed Playpark with ARP for \$103,600 plus HST.	E. Johnston	Successful and unsuccessful bidders were notified following Council.
May 10, 2022	Appoint Melissa Labrador to the Diversity and Inclusion Action Team.	E. Johnston	Melissa Labrador advised of acceptance to the DIAT Committee.
May 10, 2022	<p>Agree to accept a donation from Eleanor Legge of a lilac tree;</p> <p>AND THAT the planting location be in a mutually agreeable location at Milton Blacksmith Shop grounds with the future maintenance being the responsibility of the Municipality.</p>	Adam Grant	Tree has been planted.
May 24, 2022	Approve revised Policy 23 Respecting Regular Meetings of Council.	CAO	Manuals updated.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
May 24, 2022	<p>Agree to waive Policy 58 – Consumption of Alcohol on Municipally Owned Properties at the request of Privateer Farmers' Market at Centennial Park, Liverpool on Saturdays from June 4 to December 31, 2022.</p> <p>AND THAT the applicant be required to submit proof of insurance in no less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence with the Region of Queens Municipality as additional insured, and copy of the in effect liquor license from the Province of Nova Scotia to the Region, and that all municipal, provincial, and federal laws be strictly adhered to.</p>	D. Henley	Applicant was notified of approval. Insurance certificate has been received. Awaiting receipt of NS Liquor Licenses for retailers.
May 24, 2022	Approve the rebuild of the 2010 CAT 826H Landfill Compactor at a cost of \$688,173 + HST, with the cost being funded through a withdrawal from the Landfill Equipment Reserve.	Adam Grant	Purchase order has been issued.
May 24, 2022	<p>Give second reading to a revised Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw;</p> <p>AND THAT the documents be forwarded to Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs and Housing for Ministerial approval.</p>	M. MacLeod	Documents forward to Province for Ministerial approval.
May 24, 2022	Approve the purchase of a 2022 Komatsu PC238USLC-11 Excavator with extended warranty and trade in of a 1991 Caterpillar 215 excavator at a price of \$310,000 + HST, to be funded from the Equipment Reserve.	Adam Grant	Purchase order has been issued.
May 24, 2022	Approve the naming of an existing driveway off Highway 3 in Port Mouton as Lavender Cove Road.	M. MacLeod	Applicant notified. Sign ordered and will be installed upon receipt.

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
May 24, 2022	Authorize a Valuation Allowance for Taxes Receivable of \$161,313.84 for the fiscal year 2021-2022.	J. Veniotte	Approved by Council and posted in financials.
May 24, 2022	Staff prepare a discussion report detailing other possible options that are available (LBDC).		

Region of Queens Municipality

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT – January – December 22, 2020

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
Feb. 25, 2020	Authorize staff to begin the process of finalizing future programming for a new outdoor aquatic facility.	M. Roberts	Further review will be undertaken by staff.

Region of Queens Municipality

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT – JANUARY – DECEMBER 10, 2019

Date	Recommendation	Responsibility	Action Taken
Oct. 22, 2019	Enter into negotiations with Mogan Holdings Limited for the Municipal acquisition of a portion of property identified as PID #70026547 and located adjacent to McLeod Street in Liverpool for the sale price of \$1.00; AND THAT the Region of Queens Municipality will assume the costs associated with subdividing the property.	M. MacLeod	Survey complete. Awaiting preparation of deed for signatures and registration.

Region of Queens Municipality Staff Report

8.2

To: Council

From: Joanne Veinotte, Director of Corporate Services


Date: June 14, 2022

Re: Liverpool Business Development Centre Future Investments

Background

In February, 2022, staff brought forward a report to Council requesting approval to hire DUMAC Energy Limited to conduct a study of the Liverpool Business Development Centre's HVAC system. This investigation by DUMAC included a mechanical assessment of the roof top unit (RTU) and existing equipment, the facilities HVAC capabilities and deficiencies, and proposed recommendations to upgrade if necessary. This study produced two recommendations: a new single facility system estimated at \$1.2 million or a four quadrant system estimated at \$1.5 million. Neither system included further design work or the structural modifications required, which are estimated at \$83,000 and \$250,000 respectively, nor did either price include HST.

Council requested that staff contact the major tenant in the building to determine their interest in acquiring the asset. This tenant indicated that purchasing the building at this time without being able to occupy the full leased space was not practical and if they were going to invest in the community further it would be to build housing because they cannot hire more staff without more local housing. They are therefore considering expanding their call centre operation in other Nova Scotia locations outside of Queens County.



Council thereafter requested that staff present a report outlining how these two options could be funded. At Council on May 24, 2022, staff presented two funding options: fund using remainder of call centre reserve and add the additional required funding from a long term borrowing, fund the entire upgrade through a withdrawal from reserves, or a combination of the two.

The two options presented various tax rate implications from an increase of 2 cents to an increase of 5 cents depending on the option chosen and if there are tenants in the building paying market rents.

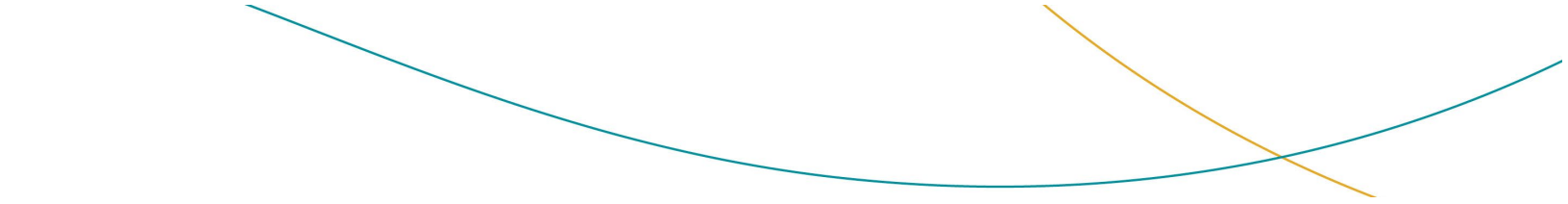
Should the option of financing 100% from reserves (not borrowing from reserves) be selected and the building was fully leased, the net effect on the tax rate would be less than a one cent increase using the current annual maintenance budget. Staff report, however, that there are other significant maintenance issues that will have to be addressed and funded out of the tax rate in future years. Utilization of reserves to finance this project will significantly reduce the balance available for future investment and result in lost interest income.

Over the course of the last two decades of operation the RTU at the facility has required numerous repairs, over and above what is considered normal maintenance. It has always been alleged that the existing unit is severely oversized for the local climate leading to premature failure of compressors, coils and other components.

Nearing twenty years of operation, the existing unit is quickly approaching its end of serviceable life, parts are becoming difficult and near impossible to acquire. It is also known that other major repairs such as replacing the generator will be required in the coming years with this cost alone estimated at near \$500,000.

Details

At the May 24, 2022 Council meeting, Council requested that staff prepare another report with more potential options for consideration. To meet this request, the following options are available:

- 
1. Carry out the single facility renovations and withdraw the full amount of approximately \$1.6 million from the operating reserve.
 2. Carry out the four quadrant renovations and withdraw the full amount of approximately \$1.9 million from the operating reserve.
 3. Carry out the single facility renovations and withdraw the full amount of approximately \$1.6 million from the call centre reserve and operating reserve.
 4. Carry out the four quadrant renovations and withdraw the full amount of approximately \$1.9 million from the call centre reserve and operating reserve.
 5. Carry out an independent appraisal of the building and offer to sell the building to the major tenant for the appraised value.
 6. Carry out an independent appraisal of the building and offer to sell the building to the minor tenant for the appraised value.
 7. Carry out an independent appraisal of the building and sell the building on the open market for the appraised value.
 8. Offer the building for sale to a not-for-profit organization at less than market value.
 9. Terminate the leases early and move the municipal building to this location and then sell the current municipal building.
 10. Do nothing and keep operating the building under a status quo option until such time as the HVAC is no longer functional and able to be maintained. This option will require an increase in anticipated operations and maintenance costs, and it can be expected that the tenants will suffer significant periods of times where there are service interruptions due to repair work.
 11. Borrow the required funding and repay the principal and interest payments on the tax rate each year for 10 years.
 12. Renegotiate the rental terms with the two tenants to secure the long term rental of the facility to justify the capital investment.
 13. Renegotiate the rental term rates with the two tenants to secure additional funding to help pay for the required capital investment.



Applicable Legislation

Section 47 (5) of the *Municipal Government Act* sets out that council may make and carry out a contract, perform an act, do any thing or provide a service for which the municipality or the council is authorized by an Act of the Legislature to spend or borrow money.

Budget Impacts

All options with the exception of selling the building outright to a private or not-for-profit group will have future and long term tax rate implications from between 2 cents to 5 cents over the next 5 years. Additionally, using operating reserves will remove the ability to use this money for other municipal projects which may lead to a necessity to borrow for other future projects.

Direction

Staff is requesting direction from Council on how they wish to proceed with this matter.

Communications

No communications are required at this time.

Chris McNeill

From: NSFM Communications <communications@nsfm.ca>
Sent: May 19, 2022 10:04 AM
To: NSFM Info
Cc: Juanita Spencer; Janice Wentzell
Subject: Service Exchange Renegotiation and MGA Review (SERMGAR) Committee survey
Attachments: SERMGAR Survey PDF PREVIEW.pdf

CAUTION: This email originates from outside the organization. Do not open attachments or click links unless you are sure this email comes from a known sender and you know the content is safe

Mayors, Wardens, and CAOs of Nova Scotia,

The email below was initially sent on Monday May 16th but we've heard that some members have not received it. In the interest of ensuring that all municipal councils have a chance to respond to this survey, we are circulating it again.

The following is the link to the Service Exchange Renegotiation and MGA Review (SERMGAR) Committee survey:

<https://form.surveypal.net/Service-Exchange-Renegotiation-and-MGA-Review-Survey>

This survey is meant to support the work of the SERMGAR Committee by gathering insights and opinions from all NSFM members. The goal is to receive one response per municipal unit. Municipal councils, as opposed to individual elected officials and staff, are the target respondents of this survey. This will help to ensure that responses indicate the official position of your municipal council.

Please confer with your council in an effort to respond to this survey by June 13.

The survey is 20-questions long. This email also includes a PDF copy of the survey to enable your review to making responses online. **All responses must be made through the link provided to ensure all input is properly filed and considered.**

An announcement of this survey was also made in this week's NSFM Monday Memo. This announcement did not include a link or copy of the survey.

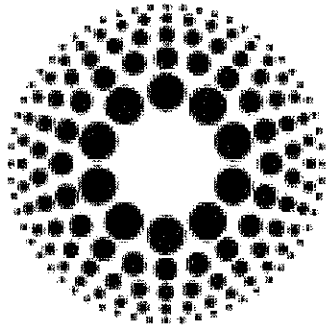
This information is being collected for internal use only and will inform the committee's responses to proposals from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Survey responses will only be reported in aggregate form. Information that identifies specific municipalities will not be released.

Thanks in advance for your input.

[Any additional questions may be directed toward NSFM.](#)

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**Questions related to the Service
Exchange Agreement
Renegotiation**

In 1994, the Provincial-Municipal Service Exchange Agreement reallocated responsibilities and restructured the fiscal framework. The objectives of the Service Exchange Agreement were:

- 1) to create strong, financially viable local governments,
- 2) to develop a clearer, fairer, provincial-municipal partnership, and
- 3) to rationalize service provision.

Under the Service Exchange Agreement, the provincial government took responsibility for:

- Social Services and Child Welfare
- Public Health and Long-term Care
- Administration of Justice
- Environment (regulatory aspects of sanitation and health standards)
- Highway Police Patrols and central police services

The provincial government also continued to hold a range of responsibilities, such as those pertaining to healthcare, education, housing, and provincial roads.

Municipalities took responsibility for:

- Making mandatory contributions to correctional services
- Policing
- Local Roads
- Sidewalks
- Public Transit
- Land-use Planning
- Building Inspection
- Recreation
- Control of Invasive Weed Species

Municipalities continued to be responsible for water and wastewater, management of solid waste, public libraries, and mandatory contributions to education and regional housing authority net operating losses.

Some municipalities also pay a per kilometre service exchange balancing fee (initially \$3500 per/km pegged to CPI) in lieu of accepting the transfer of local roads under the Provincial-Municipal Service Exchange.

2) Considering the responsibilities listed above, which responsibilities does your council believe municipalities should maintain or assume and why?*

3) Considering the responsibilities listed above, which responsibilities does your council believe the Province should maintain or assume and why?*

Municipalities often respond to challenges and opportunities in their jurisdictions at their own discretion.

Many municipalities continue to make significant expenditures in the areas of Public Health, Environmental Health Services, Long-Term Care Facilities, Housing, Public Safety, Physician Recruitment, Economic Development, and Arts and Culture.

4) What discretionary expenditures by your municipality does your council believe should be better supported by the Province?*

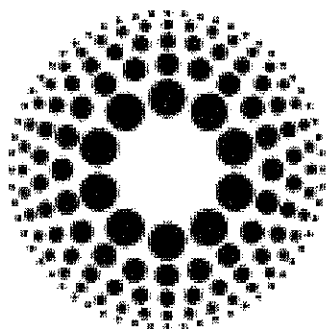
5) To provide a sense of priorities, state the top three municipal expenditure responsibilities that your municipal council believes should be reviewed and why?*

6) What new service responsibilities would your municipality find unacceptable?*

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**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
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Questions Related to the Municipal Government Act Review

Since the last MGA Review in 2015, several changes have been made to the MGA. These changes have granted municipal authority to take actions that were previously prohibited. These changes allow municipalities to invest and make decisions in new aspects of the communities that they govern.

7) The following question provides a list of recent changes to the MGA that have implications for the abilities and responsibilities of municipalities. Using the checklist below, please indicate the discretionary abilities that your council believes are useful for your municipality.

*

- Expanded power to expend
- Mandate to establish a Municipal Code of Conduct
- Ability to finance developments that increase accessibility
- Ability to enable municipalities to sell land below market price in some cases
- Ability to engage in negotiation for the purpose of increasing affordable housing units
- Ability to create commercial development districts
- Others? Please add

8) What discretionary abilities conferred by the MGA does your municipal council believe are not useful and why?*

9) What additional discretionary abilities does your municipal council believe should be granted by changes to the MGA? *

10) A number of other federal and provincial statutes and regulations have implications for municipal budgets as non-discretionary expenses.

Using the checklist below, please indicate which regulations or responsibilities your municipal council finds to be causing considerable pressure on your budget and capacity to accomplish core goals? *

- Surplus Schools
- Federal Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations
- Property Valuation Assessment Services
- (Upcoming) Worker Compensation Board Premiums for Volunteer Fire Fighters
- Minimum Planning Requirements (Coastal Protection Act)
- Cost of Police Evidentiary Lab Analysis Services

11) Are there any other responsibilities brought about by statutes or regulations not mentioned above that add significant pressure on your budget? *

12) If your county or district municipality elects a warden, please indicate whether, in the opinion of your municipal council, the warden system should be replaced by the mayoral system.

13) Village governance is established in Part XVII of the MGA. In the view of your municipality, should villages be consolidated with districts and counties? Please explain why or why not. *

Municipal mergers can help municipalities cooperate rather than engage in competition with each other. Consolidation is a new approach to municipal mergers that is more collaborative for the municipal partners than dissolution or amalgamation. Below is a chart that describes the difference between consolidation and amalgamation.

	Consolidation	Amalgamation
Examples	Windsor West Hants	Halifax Regional Municipality Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Overview	Municipal Leadership "Bottom Up" Process	Provincial Leadership "Top Down" Process
Legislation	Special Legislation for each merger Joint Councils make the merger decision Councils request special legislation	Municipal Government Act, Part XVII NSUARB Reviews Municipal proposals Cabinet Issues merger order
Structure	Joint Transition Committee Joint Committee recommends Coordinator Joint Committee develops organization Staffed with municipal staff, consultants Joint Committee hires first CAO Boundaries reviewed by NSUARB Joint Committee organizes first election	Independent Coordinator Cabinet Chooses Coordinator Coordinator develops organization Staffed by experts, consultants Coordinator hires first CAO Boundaries reviewed by NSUARB Coordinator organizes first election

Source: Antigonish Fact Sheet "Consolidation or Amalgamation? What is the Difference?", <https://antigonish.ca/>


14) Under what conditions does your council believe municipal consolidation is advisable? Reasons could include fiscal insolvency, limited access to qualified personnel, infrequency of competitive elections, or an effort to decrease costs. *

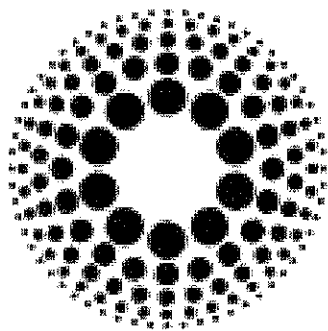
15) What incentives could be put in place to make amalgamation a viable option?*

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Questions related to municipal revenue

16) Municipalities can be supported in fulfilling all responsibilities with new or expanded sources of revenue. What new or expanded revenue sources or tools does your municipal council believe to be most viable?*

Municipalities benefit from a range of grants including grants-in-lieu of taxes, the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant, and the Towns Foundation Grant. Grants-in-lieu of Taxes include Farmland Grant, Nova Scotia Power Grants-in-lieu of Taxes, and Provincial or Federal grants in lieu of Taxes.

Other Grant Programs include:

- a) Emergency Services Provider Fund,
- b) Municipal Innovation Program,
- c) Provincial Capital Assistance Program,
- d) Flood Risk Infrastructure,
- e) Investment Program,
- f) Fire Protection Grant,
- g) Municipal Flood Line Mapping Program,
- h) Beautification and Streetscaping Program,
- i) Community Works Program,
- j) Canadian Community Building Fund (formerly the Gas Tax),
- k) 911 grant.


17) What grants has your municipality received for operational expenses and how could these grants be improved?*

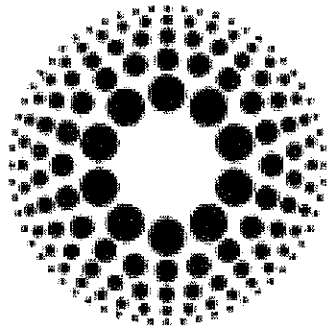
18) What grants has your municipality received for capital expenses and how could these grants be improved?*

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Special considerations and other comments

19) Is there anything about your municipality that your council believes deserves special consideration in terms of expenditure responsibilities, legislation, or financial support?

20) Is there anything else that your municipal council would like to share?

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