

**Region of Queens Municipality Public Hearing
Sale of Municipal Property Identified as
PID #'s 70110903, also known as the property of
South Shore Regional Airport, to Nova Scotia Drag
Racers Association for less than fair market value
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
Council Chambers, 249 White Point Road, Liverpool
9:00 a.m.**

Minutes

Members of Council: Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair
Deputy Mayor Jack Fancy
Councillor Kevin Muise
Councillor Ralph Gidney
Councillor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Carl Hawkes

Members of Staff: Chris McNeill, CAO
Mike MacLeod, Director of Planning & Development
Eric Levy, Municipal Clerk
Heather Cook, Communications & Engagement Coord.

Members of the Public: ~80

Call to Order

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

A. Remarks

Mayor Norman stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to provide any interested person an opportunity to present an oral or written presentation to Council of Region of Queens Municipality with regard to its intention to sell PID #70110903, also known as the property of South Shore Regional Airport to Nova Scotia Drag Racers Association for less than fair market value.

Mayor Norman reviewed the procedures for the Hearing which were provided on the agenda.

Mike MacLeod, Director of Planning & Development, stated Council passed a motion in April 2022 to sell the South Shore Regional Airport to Liemke Ventures Inc. for the appraised value of \$565,000. However, prior to closing the respective purchaser decided not to go ahead with the purchase.

Council now has before them another proposal to sell the lands to the Nova Scotia Drag Racers Association (NSDRA) who are a not-for-profit organizations registered under the Societies Act. Under the Municipal Government Act there is provision that allows the Municipality to sell or lease the property at less than market value to a not-for-profit organization that council considers to be carrying on an activity that is beneficial to the municipality.

That process under the Municipal Government Act, when Council is looking at land valued at more than \$10,000, they must first hold a public hearing respecting the sale.

Several written submissions were received and distributed to Councillors.

1. Dale Johnston, 711 Highway 8, Milton and Jacob Massey, Chelsea – Mr. Johnston stated he is a member of the NSDRA and began volunteering at the age of 7 and began as a junior drag racer at the age of 8 until 2019 when he began racing a full sized car.

Jacob Massey stated they are a junior drag racer and currently the champion and volunteers with the group.

Both spend many weekends at the raceway, have learned and made many friends from all over, and consider the members of the association as family. There are a group of 10 youth, which were acknowledged, that help every weekend that are known as the Junior Orange Shirt Mafia.

2. Scott Sprague, 2135 Waverly Road, Waverly – Mr. Sprague stated he has been a Director of NSDRA for the past 11 years in addition to being a racer. Racing is a family sport especially with the junior racing program in place.

NSDRA was formed in 2004 in response to a Request for Proposals from the Region looking for meaningful uses at the Municipal airport. Many who started then are still involved with the organization and acknowledged that many were present. The first event was held in August 2004 and to date there have been 84 events held. Over 20 years there have been 13,000 competitors and approximately 50,000 spectators.

The Region noted that economically the NSDRA has generated more than \$4 Million. The NSDRA have paid the Region \$161,000 in lease fees.

They use many businesses in the area. Of note, the fire departments have received \$60,000. \$191,000 was spent on lease hold improvements (Class A gravel, pavement, fencing, etc.), hanger repairs and property maintenance and \$13,000 was contributed to Christmas Daddies which goes back to this region.

NSDRA recognizes the importance of the South Shore Flying Club (SSFC) and are more than willing to include the SSFC in an agreement that is mutually beneficial. Three attempts were made to have a meeting with SSFC and all were denied. The most recent attempt included a draft lease agreement which mirrors agreements of the past with the Region, i.e. continue to use the property and that NSDRA does not intend to sell the fuel tank and would seek to purchase the fuel tank from the Region and sell to the SSFC for \$1, SSFC continues to operate for \$0/month, use the terminal for \$50/month, smaller hanger \$0/month and the larger one for \$150/month, all under a multi-year agreement.

3. Peter Gow, 34 Jenny Drive, Pine Grove – Mr. Gow stated he is President of the SSFC. Sales for avian fuel were approximately \$40,000 since the system was installed a year ago and thanked the Region for the installation. The members have contributed \$22,000 in lease hold improvements to the terminal building since 2017; i.e. new siding, new paint and windows, etc. \$30,000 was paid in general liability insurance since 2015. The SSFC received an anonymous donation of \$10,000.

An aerial mining company from Ontario used the airport as a base while conducting surveys and spent approximately \$10,000 while here on food and lodging over a couple months. Members of the SSFC have flown

hundreds of people over the years for things such as birthdays and anniversaries or sightseeing adventures. Many aircraft fly in and use the airport; i.e. J.D. Irving Lumber and Freeman's Lumber, business executives, and private planes. Other benefit of having the airport are aerial firefighting, medical, tourism, etc.

In reference to Mr. Liemke's offer to purchase this spring for \$565,000 plus HST, the Mayor was interviewed and quoted in the Lighthouse Now newspaper as saying "This is a great step forward to ensure the continuation and future development of an airstrip on the south shore which is what it is built for. The sale ensures that the airstrip will continue and grow, provide many new attributes for the northern part of Queens. A good news story."

In the same newspaper article, Deputy Mayor Muise was quoted as saying "I'm not in favour of this sale. I find the price is way too low. I know it's the appraised value, but I find this way too low".

In October of this year Chris McNeill, CAO, called the SSFC directors to his office and told us that Mr. Liemke had withdrawn his offer and said that the Region would be offering the airport to NSDRA for \$50,000. No offer was made to the SSFC. I called Mr. McNeill a few days later and asked if the SSFC could make an offer, he said yes but was unsure how far it would go with Council.

Why was the offer only made to one group? The SSFC does most of the work in keeping the air field in good repair and doing all the work to the Region's terminal building.

The \$100,000 SSFC offer was not acknowledged by the Region and we feel we have been treated unfairly. We are unsure why.

If the air field is sold to NSDRA we feel the airport will not be an airport for very long. They have indicated that they would take the opportunity to add additional special events to their roster.

He encouraged Council to defeat the motion.

4. Jack Innes, Lawyer representing A.J. LeGrow Holdings Limited, 1254 Bedford Highway, Bedford – Mr. Innes stated the company has put forth an offer to purchase the airport for \$619,800 that was presented in November.

An airport is typically an economic generator and my client sees it as that, and also sees the NSDRA and the SSFC or anyone else who wishes to use it as agreements worth maintaining. They are prepared to enter into any agreement the Region and organizations to ensure their continuity. The intention is to upgrade.

The difference between my clients offer and the sale of \$50,000 is over \$500,000 which is a win for the Region and is a good fair market price. He stated he was surprised that a copy of the agreement was not made present.

He further encouraged Council to defeat the motion. He suggested to go to tender and his client would be more than happy to enter the process.

5. Brooke Lawrence, 51 Hemlock Road, Greenfield – Mr. Lawrence stated his family purchased property on Ponhook Lake in 1999. He is a retired Air force and airline pilot, accumulated over 11,000 hours in flight time.

He further stated he is a Director on the SSFC as well as a Lieutenant with the Greenfield & District Fire Department. He has been a member of the SSFC for 7 years and assists with refueling planes if required. He has dealt with many groups, i.e. Shearwater flight training, DNR and military to name a few. There were four fly-ins this years and set up a static display of their firefighting gear, which he got to experience when fighting the 10 Mile Lake fire.

In September 2022, local fire departments held training and 2 aircraft were on static display. They wanted to train as they wanted to be prepared in case of an emergency.

There is currently a shortage of pilots and through West Jet are only required to have 250 hour air time as compared to 5,000 hours when I was a pilot for them.

There is a potential to hold student training at this location as this is a prime location with a 4000 foot runway.

He encouraged Council to take time and to reconsider the sale.

6. Kathleen Legge, 405-200 Crown Drive, Halifax – Ms. Legge stated she is the Director of Flight Operations for Maritime Air Charter and a Corporate Air Ambulance Pilot for Maritime Air Charger and Nova Aviation Group.

She further stated she works in motor sports and a competitor. She was a flight training student and visited many municipal airports while getting the required hours to complete her training to become commercially trained and licensed.

Less than half of the airports in Nova Scotia have paved airstrips and few offer aviation fuel, which is a rare commodity and highly sought after. The SSRA recently underwent a change to offer this fuel and spent \$50,000 to install the fuel tank. She quoted Mayor Norman "The Council of the Region of Queens Municipality believes in the importance of that infrastructure". If sold for outside of aviation, this disproves the importance of such infrastructure.

If sold, what is in place to ensure that it will continue as an airstrip? The SSRA has become a popular place for flight training students across the province and is the only airport offering fuel on the south shore.

For Council to consider selling the airport to any entity outside of aviation, she considers this to be short-sighted and ill-considered and shows a demise of this critical asset.

Mayor Norman was also quoted as saying "Having an established transportation link from the south shore to as far away as Toronto is very important to our future economy". The sale of the airport, an essential part of local business and infrastructure less than two years after investing tax payers' money doesn't speak favourably towards local rural development.

The SSFC's goals were to maintain structure, build and attract new business, to enrich local economy in Queens County. To sell the airport at a fraction of it' worth to an owner not involved in aviation amounts to a massive disservice to the county at large.

She urged Council to reconsider their intention to sell.

7. Ken Pothier, 169 Nicholas Road, Wedgeport – Mr. Pothier stated he is the President of the Civil Air Search & Rescue Association. He noted that also present is the Provincial Secretary and National Safety Officer. Their mission is to assist persons in distress by providing search and support services in coordination with the joint rescue and coordination with the Association as well as Emergency Measures Organization Nova Scotia. They are one of thirteen provincial organizations that are federally funded through the Department of National Defense. There are 80 volunteer members from Yarmouth, Greenwood, Debert and Sydney and operate light single and twin engine aircraft and conduct both visual and electronic searches under the control of JRCC under support of RCAF operations as well as the RCMP and Ground Search and Rescue.

The Liverpool airport is a key staging base to conduct their operations. Training is conducted quarterly at the airport for the area covering Shelburne to Chester. The aircraft have limited fuel capacity (normally 3 hours) and the Liverpool airport saves them time. To stage from any other airport would be cut this time in half. The Liverpool airport allows them more time in the air which is critical.

He questioned if the air drone traffic frequency was monitored during drag racing, as pilots in distress near the airport will always look as a safe place to sit down. The airport is a key piece of infrastructure for Nova Scotia and the continuation as an airport is a matter of public safety.

8. Heather Strang, 5392 Highway 3, East Jordan – Ms. Strang stated she is representing Blue Buzzard Parts which is located at 849 Old Port Mouton Road in Liverpool. They started selling parts to the NSDRA and the company grew to now selling parts all over the Maritimes. The drag racing brings a large number of people to the area.

She further stated she feels the Region is doing the right thing in selling the airport to NSDRA.

9. Dr. Anthony Irving, 23 Pleasant Street, Mahone Bay – Dr. Anthony stated he practiced in Calgary for many years and was a doctor who flew to remote places during his practice. He felt there is a need for smaller airports and the Region would be short sighted to lose this one. He encouraged Council to keep it and allow both groups to use it.
10. Glen Parlee, 432 Highway 8, Milton – Mr. Parlee stated he read a posting that the Region was selling the airport for \$50,000 without any consultation from residents without any RFP or Tender call, which he thought was an error, as it was previously to be sold for a half million. It was confirmed to him that under Section 51 of the Municipal Government Act, there is an ability to sell for less than market value.

The NSDRA was to run the facility as before and are willing to pay \$50,000. The SSFC are willing to pay \$100,000, and many other offers have been made. This sale was unadvertised and untendered.

He further stated as a resident and business owner he is disgusted and expected Council would make the decision on what is in the best interest of residents. He does not understand how Council can justify this sale at this price with all the financial challenges the Region is facing, we should be looking for every opportunity to maximize our assets to help our region prosper.

The majority of non-profit groups and businesses are struggling to survive financially.

He stated that most of the issues Council are tasked to vote on are condensed information provided by the CAO and staff. The information Council receives from the public and what is being said today shows there is an overwhelming amount of interest in the airport property. He suggested that perhaps Councillors were not given all the information and were thrown under the bus.

As a tax paying resident, he asked Council to slow down and listen to the interested parties before making a decision.

Mr. Parlee further stated he did not believe that auto racing was permitted with the zoning in the airport region and therefore should not even be considering such a sale.

11. Jeremy Dann, 72 Covey Road, Barss Corner – Mr. Dann stated he is President of the Blue Nose Flying Club as well as a member of the SSFC. He believes the airport is a very valuable asset especially with the aviation fuel system and guessed the replacement value to be between \$5.4 Million to \$6.7 Million.

The Liverpool airport is the only Transport Canada certified airport on the south shore and there may never be another due to the cost of construction and complexity of the approval process which was passed in 2018. The bid of \$50,000 for the airport is less than 1%, of its replacement cost.

He quoted Councillor Muise as saying "I'm not in favour of this sale, I find the price way too low. I know it is the appraised value, but find it way too low." He provided background on sales of other municipal airports.

He urged Council to pause and reassess before proceeding with this sale.

12. Raphael Schaefer, 341 Ballou Road, Molega – Mr. Schaefer stated he is a pilot and comes from an aviation family. He stores his plane and uses the Greenfield airport.

Since moving to Queens County, his family has invested a lot of money and developed sixty lots with families now investing millions to the area.

The Greenfield airport is the only paved airport between Halifax and Yarmouth and is an invaluable asset to the county.

He urged Council to postpone the decision to sell.

13. Brian Hedd, Moncton, NB – Mr. Hedd stated he was representing the Atlantic Drag Racing Association (ADRA) which covers Sydney, Miramichi and Greenfield. There are 120 – 175 members who travel to all three locations. These racers buy diesel, groceries and provide economic monies to the local area.

He has been working with the NSDRA and the SSFC for a long time and they are very well organized. They are fully aware that it is a runway and if necessary can be cleared for an emergency landing. The ADRA works in conjunction with the National Hot Rod Association to ensure safety measures are in place.

ADRA are seeking to secure a spot to continue with their hobby. The NSDRA are will to work with everybody to move forward.

14. Cory Taylor, 106 Yankee Town Road, Hammonds Plains – Mr. Taylor stated he had recently submitted a proposal to so some local TV stations. It was the first time Eastlink Community TV had filmed an event of this type and the feedback and thousands of viewers across Nova Scotia was so positive that they've committed to do two more broadcasts for next years' drag racing season. This not only promotes the NSDRA, but also the community of Greenfield and Queens County bringing more people in to watch this event who will spend money and support the community.

The Association is not looking to shut down the airport but are looking to work with the airport. The racers also use the aviation fuel and have purchased a lot, which previously had to be purchased in Halifax.

15. Marcel Kuhn, Mill Village – Mr. Kuhn stated he is a member of the Society that runs the boarding school in Mill Village. He is also a member of the SSFC and is part of a company with helicopters. He suggested that the airport could have more than one owner.

He further stated he is a real estate expert and could offer his services to the stakeholders work together to find solutions that would work for everyone.

16. Derek Brown, 62 Loon Drive, Vaughan – Mr. Brown stated he is a career military and civilian pilot as well as a retired machinist. He enjoys both drag racing and flying and feels everyone should all work together.

In conversations he's had with many tax payers, they do not understand what is going on and do not understand why it has to be one way or the other when their tax dollars are at stake. Why not just continue with the way it was. Voters are looking at Council to watch tax payers' money and they deserve to have answers.

17. Keri Whynot, 491 Molega Lake Road, Chelsea – Ms. Whynot stated she is a local community member and enjoys both the NSDRA and the SSFC and doesn't understand why the Region is considering selling the airport. It is an asset, not a liability to our community.

18. Peter Ripple, 20 Meadow Pond Lane, Liverpool – Mr. Ripple stated he has lived in Queens since 1981 and developed the website retiretoliverpool.com.

He commented that he appreciated Mr. Parlee's scolding, as it would be a shame to sell the airport for any price. He feels the airport has a future and needs to be managed properly. Charge the NSDRA and the SSFC to use the facility and this would pay the salary of an air traffic controller to manage and help the area grow.

19. Jeff Kempton, 106 Skyridge Avenue, Lower Sackville – Mr. Kempton stated he is formerly from Milton and a former air cadet and volunteered to clear brush at the airport facility. He presently works for the military and has worked in both Shearwater and Greenwood. He has also been a drag racer since his teenage years.

The NSDRA is a volunteer organization and is not looking to hold events year round. Both parties have used the facility and gotten along in the past. The benefits outweigh any money offered.

20. Brian Mansfield, 179 Waterloo Street, Liverpool – Mr. Mansfield stated he is a member of the NSDRA. The Association does not intend to make any changes on how things are done now and is unsure where the misinformation originated. The Association may hold other events, i.e. Monster Truck, etc. to attract more revenue to the area.

Everyone seems to be concerned about the \$50,000. As a non-profit organization he does not feel the community is worried about. It is for the good the organization bring to the community as a group. They fully intend to work with the SSFC in unity.

21. Susan Perry, 4841 Highway 210, Greenfield – Ms. Perry stated she did not agree with selling the airport for \$50,000 without consulting the public, and did not agree with the sale to Mr. Gerhardt.

She further stated she lives in Councillor David Brown's district, and does he not have a say? Council has been making decisions without any regard for their district. They offered the property without going to tender. There have been many offers which would not eliminate the NSDRA from using the airport and the SSFC to use and it still being an airport.

She further stated she is displeased with the situation and Council needs to reconsider their actions on this matter and in future consult with tax payers. The airport is used almost every day with planes flying in from all over. She agrees with Mr. Parlee that the airport should not be sold for \$50,000 and should be open to all offers and be used by all entities.

She enquired why the Greenfield Fire Department wasn't being used during the drag racing events. Mayor Norman stated she could not answer. A member of the NSDRA stated they are used at least four times a year for these events.

22. Danny Hirtle, 131 River Road, Liverpool – Mr. Hirtle stated if the airport was sold to the highest bidder, they may decide not to allow the drag racers to use the facility.
23. Nick Wilson, Fauxburg Road, Blockhouse – Mr. Wilson stated he is an aviator and owns two aircraft, moving here from South Africa in 2006. His job previously was delivering humanitarian aid. He compared the Greenfield airport to the one he worked from in Kenya, which is roughly the same size.

He further stated with the proper management the airport could bring new investments to the area and provide many opportunities and still meet the needs of the NSDRA and the SSFC.

The airport is a vital infrastructure. He urged Council to consider whomever provides the best business plan

24. Avis Johnson, 7118 Highway 8, Milton – Ms. Johnson stated she is the Deputy Chief of Acadia First Nation. She read a statement written by Chief Deborah Robertson who was unable to attend. "I am writing to express our support for the sale of Municipal property to the NSDRA. The NSDRA and Acadia First Nation has a long standing relationship that began nearly 17 years ago when we first opened AFN Medway River Entertainment in Greenfield. The NSDRA was the first to welcome us to the community and started to build a relationship. Even though over time the Directors have changed, the relationship has always remained strong. AFN Medway River Entertainment began to sponsor NSDRA early on and the benefits of this relationship continued to grow with the advertising of our business and the growth of drag races being held in Greenfield. We quickly realized the impact the drag racing had on the

economic growth within our community with such an impact on the amount of people the NSDRA brings on race weekends. Our revenue in sales increased significantly. So much so as we have hired additional staff and summer students throughout the summer months. Additionally we had purchased a food truck to be the sole provider at the Greenfield drag way which also requires additional staff. The benefits to our community and surrounding community is so beneficial. We take great pride in our members and our youth whom also participate in Greenfield race way whether it be racing or volunteering. Our youth are learning so many life skills that could never be taught in school. It's very humbling for us to watch our youth grow and succeed. We know from the relationship that NSDRA has built with Acadian First Nation that they will take great pride and build further with the relationships when they become owners of the Greenfield airport. We know that they will stand up and be great stewards. On behalf of the Acadia First Nation, we offer our support in the bid for the NSDRA to purchase Municipal lands and hold drag racing events."

25. Bruce Inglis, 31 Jubilee Street, Liverpool – Mr. Inglis stated in listening to comments, it becomes clear that everyone has fears of the longevity of their passion. If selling to an outside interest, there is always a risk they won't do what they said they would do with the property in terms of the current users which both have invested a lot of time money and hope to carry on for a long time in the future.

In listening to the comments, perhaps Council is attempting to get rid of the airport then you'd want the most money you could get for it. That is a business decision and you'd put it to tender. Following that, both groups probably became concerned with their long term future. You were considering a true sale and now you're considering sale under fair market value like was done with the Devi School and other pieces of property which is community benefit. When doing it for community benefit, the dollar amount is less important and agrees with the sale if it's done for this purpose. He would like to see the sale of the airport stay within the community for the use as it was intended for and for the drag racers to use, as they have worked well together for a number of years.

26. David Oickle, 70 Innis Beach Road, LaBelle – Mr. Oickle stated he is the Secretary Treasurer for the SSFC. Until October of this year, members of the NSDRA, SSFC and the Region were a family and worked well together. Somewhere things went astray. By choosing one organization over the other resulted in a conflict. He urged Council not to choose one group over the other, and to consider all options before making any decisions.

27. Dimitri Neonakis, Halifax – Mr. Neonakis stated he is a pilot, a business man and a founder of the aviation initiative of Children with a Disability with a site call Dream Wings. Along with other pilots, they have flown over a 700 flights from small airports such as Liverpool. They also transport sick children for treatment as well as giving seniors free flights.

He also is responsible for making the heart flight path message after the serious incident such a Portapique, which is now a bumper sticker as it became a symbol for Nova Scotia Strong. He flew more messages of support as well as Nova Scotia got hit harder with tragedies and these flights made international news and put Nova Scotia on the map as an example of community spirit and strength. In the last year the group has spent over \$120,000 in aviation fuel alone for these flights, but us it's about community spirit.

We need the few remaining airports around Nova Scotia so they can continue to do their work. Next year several flights out of the Liverpool airport are being planned for sick kids and seniors now that it has fuel, but your decision to sell to a non-aviation group and the way the deal was conducted has not only put an end to their plans but has infuriated Nova Scotians about back room deals. We are at risk of losing the Liverpool airport which is one of Nova Scotia's most important airport.

He urged Council to stop the sale.

28. Larry Cochrane, 17 Enos Collins Lane, Liverpool – Mr. Cochrane stated things between NSDRA and the SSFC worked well and doesn't see why they have to change. If the Region does sell, it relinquishes control of the airport, it would be unclear what will happen in the future.

The population of Nova Scotia will increase in the future and will be a lot of economic benefits to the municipality having the airport.

He encouraged Council to slow down but if they have to sell it, it should go to a public tender and considerations given to aviation first but feels the airport is a very valuable asset.

As mentioned previously, he too suggested there should be someone managing the airport which would probably make money. If the Region does not wish to operate it, they could potentially lease it out to a private operator who could potentially run a successful business. In the meanwhile, continue with how things have been running.

29. Pierre Milo, 72 J4 Road, Aylesford – Mr. Milo stated he is present to represent the SSFC and is part of a flight club out of Greenwood that is looking for a place to expand for a satellite operation. Liverpool would be considered especially with the availability of a fuel tank.

He urged Council to keep the airport open.

30. David Huskins, 160 Church Street, Liverpool – Mr. Huskins stated the SSFC used to advertise for events that the public could attend but haven't seen anything in a long time. He noted there are posters from the NSDRA.

31. Gil Lefevre, 61 Mountain Ash Drive, New Elm – Mr. Lefevre stated he is a retired physician and had previously worked in the north. He noted that here is very similar being close to the sea.

He stated he feels the sale of the airport is a serious mistake and feels we are fortunate to have dedicated people that are ready to take the challenge to manage it.

He urged Council to pause and consider before selling before making a quick decision.

32. David Joudrey, 20 Scott Bay Avenue, Western Head – Mr. Joudrey stated he is President of NSDRA as well as a tax payer in Queens. There is a lot of division between the two groups at the present time and there is no need for there to be a division. If the sale moves ahead, there will be no difference in the airport, other than it's going to prosper. We do not want the flying club gone, that is something that has been manufactured. Both groups can do what they both like to do.

33. Bill Wamboldt, 200 Laurie Wamboldt Road, Greenfield – Mr. Wamboldt stated he feels Queens County is a special place with a favourable climate compared to other parts of Nova Scotia, very low population density, with lots of room for a multitude of activities, low crime rate, beautiful beaches, etc. The Liverpool airport is a special place too. If the Council is interested in promoting business for residents, the Liverpool airport is a bonus with where it is situated. Once the airport is sold, it's gone and will be out of the Region's control. There is no good reason to sell it. It costs very little to keep it. He urged Council not to sell.

34. Steve Christianson, 64 Bell Avenue, Halifax Airport – Mr. Christianson stated he is an aviator and is involved with facilities at the Halifax Airport, owns Gateway facilities and ships from all over Nova Scotia and business has to be for certain. He is involved in facilities in Debert, Halifax, Sydney and Greenwood.

He further stated he would not invest in Liverpool right now as there is so much uncertainty. He encouraged Council to reconsider selling the airport to an entity outside the aviation field.

35. Peter Ripple, 20 Meadow Pond Lane, Liverpool – Mr. Ripple stated that one thing that has not been discussed is why is it that the Region wants to sell the airport. Mayor Norman stated when the item comes forward as a debate item on the Council agenda, members of Council can voice their opinions to why or why they do not wish to sell.

Mayor Norman further stated she wished to correct a statement which was made earlier. This was not staff driven, and I took great offence to the remark. Staff did not suggest that we off load this. This was 100% a Council decision, it was not backroom dealing and it was not shady.


Mr. Ripple enquired if Council would consider moving the item on the agenda to 1:00 p.m. so members of the public who are interested can stay and hear the results. Mayor Norman stated Council has the ability to make changes to the agenda and move an item forward.

B. Adjournment

Mayor Norman declared the Public Hearing adjourned at 11:12 a.m.



Mayor Darlene Norman, Chair



Eric Levy, Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: January 10, 2023