

**Region of Queens Municipality Special Council**  
**Monday, April 28, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUYkg4ZIU\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUYkg4ZIU_k)

## **Minutes**

### **Present:**

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Councillor Roberta Roy, District 1

Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton, District 2

Councillor Courtney Wentzell, District 3

Councillor Vicki Amirault, District 4

Councillor Jack Fancy, District 5

Councillor Stewart Jenkins, District 6

Councillor Wanda Carver, District 7

### **Staff:**

Dan McDougall, Interim CAO

Heather Cook, Acting Clerk

Kate Wong, Administrative Assistant

Joanne Veinotte, Director of Finance

Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure

Richard Lane, Director of Community Development

Mike MacLeod, Director of Land Use

Audrey Wamboldt, Administrator, Hillview Acres

Heidi Mossman, Finance Manager

## **1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and gave a land acknowledgement to recognize that the meeting is taking place in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

## **2.0 Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved by Councillor Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:**

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality approve the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 agenda as presented.

**Motion Carried.**

## **3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests**

There were no declarations of conflict of interests.

## **4.0 Budget Discussion**

Director Veinotte presented the proposed budget, outlining both revenue and expenditure categories as followed:

4.1 - Revenue/Taxation - \$20,587,560 (Assessment value increases for 25/26 \$86.9 million, generating increased tax revenue based on the current tax rate of \$900,000)

Grants in Lieu - \$316,950

Services provided to Other Governments - \$2,337,300

Sales of Service - \$2,786,597

Other Revenues from own source - \$1,835,924

Unconditional Transfer from other Governments - \$1,357,326

Conditional transfer from other Governments or agencies - \$75,600

General Government Service: \$4,259,848

Protective Services: \$4,945,334

Land use planning, Building Inspection, & by-law enforcement

\$1,023,722

- Planning \$514,667
- By-Law \$185,664
- Inspection \$323,391

Economic & Community Development: \$929,894

A discussion took place regarding the revitalization of Downtown Liverpool, with specific mention of properties on Main Street in need of improvement. A cost-matching program exists, but few business owners have taken advantage of it.

Recreation and Cultural Services: \$2,973,903

Discussion took place regarding the potential addition of a programming position, a staff that can search for grant funding. Questions were raised about whether sufficient funding is available to support the role.

Concerns were expressed about the lack of dedicated promotion for Queens as an event destination. There was interest in making greater use of QPEC for such initiatives. Council requested information on the historical costs of past events to help assess whether events have typically resulted in a loss or offered long-term benefits.

Interim CAO Dan MacDougall suggested including a placeholder amount of \$25,000 for event funding. This would serve as a line item in the absence of a specifically identified amount.

Hillsview Acres Home for Special Care - \$1,843,656

**Expenses**

Transfer FROM reserve \$1,625,832

Transfer TO reserves: \$812,610

### **Direction Requests**

The Council discussed the current Tax Exemption Policy and expressed support for increasing the exemption by 10% while keeping the income threshold the same, as this may offer the most benefit. However, there was also interest in exploring an increase to the income threshold, recognizing that some residents—particularly seniors—are in significant need. \$10,000 was added to the budget in the event council would like to make some changes. Director Veinotte can analyze the financial impact, potentially using the change in applicant numbers from the last time the threshold was adjusted. One option could be increasing the income limit by \$5,000 per stage (\$15,000, \$20,000, \$25,000). Alternatively, the threshold could remain unchanged while increasing the amount of financial support provided to eligible recipients.

Council is seeking more information regarding the potential extension of the sidewalk from the end of Meadow Pond to Harley Umphrey. They would like to know if it's possible to obtain a cost estimate for this project. The location is considered a priority, and while the project would be significant in scale, there are possible grants that could help offset the associated costs. There is \$325,000 remaining in the library reserve, along with an additional \$125,000 available, which could potentially be considered for use toward this project. Given its importance in our community, Council believes it is worth exploring further.

**Moved by Councillor Amirault, Seconded by Councillor Jenkins**

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality to provide \$15,500 to the Queens County Food Bank to be funded as part of the annual operating budget.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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Council discussed the potential costs associated with the Broad River Bridge project. It was expressed that it would not be fair for Queens County ratepayers to shoulder the financial burden. Members voiced interest in pursuing funding from other levels of government, emphasizing that RQM should not be the solely responsible for the bridge. The project also holds relevance for coastal protection, adding to the argument for broader support.

Due to uncertainties surrounding the scope and nature of a funding request, Council agreed that additional time is needed to further explore available options and identify potential partners. As a next step, Council supported the idea of advocating on behalf of the impacted community and directed the mayor to draft a letter to the province to initiate discussions and seek support for the project.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins**

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality draft a letter to advocate for the assessment of the Broad River Bridge with other orders of government.

## **MOTION CARRIED.**

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Council discussed the support available through the Funding Navigator with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM), who assists municipalities in identifying and applying for grant opportunities. It was noted that Lucy currently circulates available grant listings via email monthly.

Council emphasized the need for a designated individual within the organization to actively monitor and pursue grant opportunities. Due to ongoing staff shortages, the organization is currently limited in its capacity to take full advantage of available funding. A dedicated role—potentially a 0.5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)—was also suggested to manage this responsibility. Properly leveraging grants can help offset early costs associated with capital projects.

Interim CAO McDougall will return next week with recommendations. Council also acknowledged that past grant applications have been more successful when closely aligned with Council's strategic priorities.

Approval for Operating Capital Project Reserve Budget Motion

Approval for District 13 Reserve Budget Reserve Budget Motion

## **5.0 Closed Session**

Mayor Christian asked if there were any objections to moving to the Closed Session of the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting moved to Closed Session at 9:11p.m

**Moved by Councilor Carver and seconded by Councillor Roy**

THAT Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss Item 5.1  
- Contract negotiations

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Roy**

THAT Council return to the Open Session of the agenda at 9:45p.m

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **6.0 Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was **moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Carver at 9:45p.m**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

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Heather Cook, Acting Municipal Clerk

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Kate Wong, Recording Secretary

Date approved: May 13, 2025