



Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Minutes

Present: Mayor Scott Christian, Chair
Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Roberta Roy
Councillor Courtney Wentzell
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Stewart Jenkins
Councillor Wanda Carver

Staff: Willa Thorpe, Chief Administrative Officer
Angela Green, Municipal Clerk

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and acknowledged that we have the privilege to live and work in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all treaty people and have responsibilities as treaty people.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

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

THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the March 10, 2026 agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 Adoption of Minutes

It was moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Roy:

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality approve the February 24, 2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality approve the March 3, 2026 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

4.0 Public Comment

1. **Denaige McDonnell, Liverpool**

Dr. McDonnell appeared before Council to express her opposition to the site approval plan that has been awarded for the development of 307 Main Street. Dr. McDonnell spoke to the importance of protecting the historical and cultural assets of Queens County and provided Council with historical background on her property and the neighbouring property in question. She appealed to Council regarding the proposed development and expressed the view that the zoning of the property should not be changed to permit residential use.

2. **Robin Anthony, Brooklyn**

Ms. Anthony appeared before Council to express her concerns regarding the operations of the Brooklyn Recreation Committee. Ms. Anthony reiterated her continued opposition to the Area Rate levied on Brooklyn ratepayers and advised Council that she is of the view that the Committee is not operating in accordance with its own bylaws. She further expressed her opinion that the Region of Queens Municipality should assume a greater role in the oversight and governance of the Committee's decisions.

5.0 Delegations and Presentations

5.1 **Queens Detachment RCMP**

Staff Sergeant Pat Fernetto, District Commander for the Queens RCMP Detachment, appeared before Council to formally introduce himself, having taken on the role approximately three and a half months prior. S/Sgt. Fernetto noted that he is in his 20th year of service with the RCMP, having spent the majority of his career in Alberta and Nunavut, and expressed that he is enjoying the Queens area. S/Sgt. Fernetto advised

Council that the most significant issues currently facing the community are mental health and domestic abuse, with a high volume of complaints also received related to traffic enforcement.

S/Sgt. Fernette outlined that the detachment's priorities for the upcoming fiscal year will be focused on mental health, domestic abuse, traffic enforcement, police visibility, and substance abuse and drug trafficking. In support of these priorities, he spoke to the request that has been brought forward to Council through the Police Advisory Board for funding for two plain clothes officers to form a General Investigative Unit, with a mandate focused on drug enforcement and investigations into crimes against a person. S/Sgt. Fernette noted that the Queens District is currently the only detachment within the Southwest Nova division that does not have a plain clothes unit.

5.2 Kidney Foundation of Canada

Marlene Dorey, Major Gifts Officer for the Kidney Foundation of Canada's Atlantic Branch, appeared before Council to present an overview of the Foundation's mission, programs, and advocacy work. Ms. Dorey advised that the Kidney Foundation has been the national voice for kidney patients for over 60 years, with a mission to eliminate the burden of kidney disease through research, education, advocacy, and public awareness. She noted that 1 in 10 Canadians are affected by kidney disease, with the condition costing the Canadian health care system approximately \$40 billion annually.

Ms. Dorey outlined the range of programs and services available to those living with kidney disease in Atlantic Canada, including peer support groups, short-term financial assistance for medical and related expenses, kidney health educational resources, unit partner outreach to dialysis centres, a Mental Health 101 virtual library, the Kidney Community Kitchen, a free dietitian-approved nutrition resource, and Camp Lots-a-Wata, a week-long residential camp for children and youth aged 8 to 17 living with kidney disease. Ms. Dorey also spoke to the Foundation's national advocacy efforts, including the development of a National Chronic Kidney Disease Framework focused on early detection and screening, improved data collection, and increased research funding. Council was also advised of the Foundation's 4th Annual Farm to Table

fundraising dinner, to be held at The Farm at South Cove on September 17, 2026.

6.0 Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business today.

7.0 Staff Reports

7.1 Council Remuneration – Citizens Advisory Committee Final Report

Christopher Clarke, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Council Remuneration, presented the Committee's final report. The Committee was established by Council at its December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting pursuant to Sections 24 and 26 of the *Municipal Government Act*. The Committee, composed of five members of the public, met three times between January 23 and February 13, 2026, and conducted comparative research with other Nova Scotia municipalities to review Administrative Policy No. 27 – Respecting Remuneration for Mayor and Councillors, which has been in place since 2018 and is considered outdated.

In his remarks, Mr. Clarke noted that Region of Queens Municipality is marking 30 years since amalgamation, and that at the time of formation the Mayor's remuneration was \$30,000 annually with Councillors receiving half that amount, across a council of 12 councillors and a mayor. He observed that while the size of Council has since decreased and the complexity of the work has increased, the method of remuneration has remained effectively unchanged since 2000, with adjustments made only at each election cycle based on CPI increases, which he noted has not kept pace with purchasing power or adequately reflected the additional responsibilities of the Mayor and Councillors.

The Committee's final report presents three options for Council's consideration: Option 1, which is the Committee's recommendation to

Council, proposes adjusting the Mayor's remuneration to \$68,752.66 and Councillors' to \$41,496.00 effective April 1, 2026, indexed annually to the Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index (2.5%) for 2027 and 2028; Option 2 proposes no immediate change, with cumulative CPI adjustments applied in November 2028; and Option 3 mirrors Option 1 with the addition of an 8.4% pension contribution or cash equivalent. Adoption of Option 1 or 3 would require amendment to Administrative Policy No. 27 and would carry financial implications for the 2026–2027 Operating Budget and tax rate. Staff recommended that Council receive the final report as presented.

Mayor Christian requested recorded votes for the following motions pertaining to Item 7.1.

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "Council Remuneration – Citizens Advisory Committee Final Report" for information.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Mayor's compensation raised to \$68,752.66 effective April 1, 2026, and indexed for the subsequent two fiscal years (2027 and 2028) in accordance with the average Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index (2.5%)

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Mayor Christian and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality direct Staff to provide an analysis of the cost associated with extending health and dental group benefits to members of Council.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Council recessed at 10:45 a.m. and returned to session at 10:53 a.m.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the Councillor's compensation be raised to \$41,496.00 annually effective April 1, 2026, with annual adjustments (2027 and 2028) in accordance with the average Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index (2.5%).

MOTION CARRIED with six (6) in favour and Councillors Fancy and Jenkins opposed.

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

THAT the Deputy Mayor's compensation is to be 5% more than the other Councillors, and that the Deputy Mayor will be paid at 100% of the Mayor's remuneration rate when they are Acting Mayor.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT Staff be directed to develop a policy defining the role and responsibilities of the Deputy Mayor.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.2 Marking the 30th Anniversary of Region of Queens Amalgamation

Staff presented a report seeking Council's direction on how to mark Region of Queens Municipality's 30th anniversary of amalgamation in April 2026. Staff outlined two broad approaches: Option 1 would see Council direct staff to pursue selective anniversary initiatives aligned with existing municipal priorities, such as community engagement, accessibility, and placemaking, with modest incremental budget allocations to be included in the draft 2026–2027 Operating Budget; Option 2 would limit recognition to existing annual events and communications with minimal additional programming or budget impact.

The report also invited Council to consider whether the anniversary presents an opportunity to revisit the Region's current "Queens Coast" branding, noting that the term "Coast" has occasionally been a source of division among residents in non-coastal districts. Staff presented preliminary concepts grouped under the themes of Branding and Identity, Anniversary Messaging, Community Projects, and Public Art and Wayfinding, and welcomed Council's feedback. Any direction provided would inform staff planning and budget development for the upcoming fiscal year.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Roy:

THAT the branding be changed to read "Queens County" and that staff identify opportunity for additional programming, and that the Coat of Arms will still be used for official documents.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.3 CIF - NQALS Community School Project Request

Staff presented a report on behalf of the North Queens Active Living Society (NQALS), which has requested a one-year extension to carry forward its previously approved \$250,000 Community Investment Fund allocation into the 2026–2027 fiscal year. The project, which includes a natural turf soccer field, a multi-lane track, throwing and jumping facilities, bleachers, lighting, irrigation, and accessible elements, was approved by Council on May 27, 2025. Construction began in November 2025 but was paused over the winter due to weather conditions, placing completion outside the current fiscal year deadline required under Operational Policy No. 11.

The project is currently estimated at approximately 30% completion, with a revised anticipated completion date of late July or August 2026, consistent with the updated schedule provided by the construction contractor, Turf Masters. Staff noted that the delay stemmed from circumstances beyond the Society's control rather than any deficiencies in planning or governance, and that the project scope and funding amount remain unchanged. Approving the extension would maintain Council's prior commitment while ensuring continued oversight and compliance with Policy No. 11; denial would render the project ineligible for the funding. Staff recommended that Council approve the extension.

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

THAT THAT Council for the Region of Queens Municipality approve the requested extension for the completion of the North Queens Active Living Society's Community School Sports Field and Track Project to the 2026-27 fiscal year; and that the allocated funds of \$250,000 remain in the Community Investment Fund (CIF) accumulated reserve until work is completed.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.4 QPEC Canteen & Beach Meadows Kiosk

Staff presented a report seeking Council direction on two matters related to municipal facility operations. With respect to the Queens Place Emera Centre (QPEC) canteen, the current Facility Use Agreement with the Kiwanis Club of Liverpool expires March 31, 2026. The Kiwanis, a volunteer-run service organization that reinvests all proceeds into the community, including a \$6,500 contribution toward a new scoreboard at South Queens Middle School in 2025, expressed continued interest in the partnership. Staff recommended renewing the agreement for a period of two years, citing the arrangement's positive community impact, reduced operational burden on municipal staff, and anticipated increase in facility usage with the opening of the new QPEC pool.

Regarding the Beach Meadows Kiosk, improvements were undertaken in 2025, with final retrofitting intentionally deferred pending determination of the space's future use. Staff recommended issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) with a target release date of April 1, 2026, to invite creative proposals from vendors and community operators. This approach was identified as fiscally responsible, transparent, and aligned with the Region's procurement policy and strategic priorities related to economic development, community engagement, and governance accountability. Staff would return with a recommendation to award at a future Regular Meeting in May 2026.

It was moved by Councillor Wentzell and seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Council for the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to renew the Queens Place Emera Centre (QPEC) Canteen Facility Use Agreement with the Kiwanis Club of Liverpool for a period of two (2) years.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the seasonal use and operation of the Beach Meadows Kiosk, with a target release date of April 1, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.5 Solid Waste Collection Contracts

Staff presented the results of a public procurement process for solid waste collection services in Queens County. Staff developed two separate tenders, INF24 for curbside collection and INF27 for grey box collection, representing a new approach that separates the two service streams in order to improve service quality and attract competitive pricing. Both tenders were publicly posted on February 1, 2026, with submissions accepted until February 23, 2026. One compliant submission was received for each tender from GE Environmental; a second submission was rejected for non-compliance with tender requirements.

The combined contract value of \$6,537,851.33 reflects a 63.5% increase over the prior five-year contract awarded in 2021, attributable in part to market escalation and, significantly, to enhanced service provisions in the grey box contract, including prescribed collection days, proof-of-work reporting, organic material collection, seasonal cleanup programs, and thorough site cleanups four times annually. Staff noted that GE Environmental is the current service provider with a consistent record of good service. Financial implications have been incorporated into the draft 2026–2027 Operating Budget. Staff recommended that Council award both contracts to GE Environmental for the period of April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council award contracts INF24-2025-2026 Solid Waste Collection Curbside and INF27-2025-2026 Solid Waste Grey Box Collection to GE Environmental for the period April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2031, for the total contract value of \$6,537,851.33.

MOTION CARRIED with seven (7) in favour and one (1) opposed.

7.6 Capital Investment Plan Amendment

Staff presented a report recommending that Council amend the 2026–2031 Capital Investment Plan to include Phase 2 of the White Point Road sidewalk expansion (Millard Avenue to Harley Umphrey Drive), at an estimated cost of \$1,056,364 plus HST. The amendment is required to accept provincial funding approved under the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development (GRID) Program, which will contribute up to \$1,188,470 toward the Liverpool Library Safe Access project encompassing both phases of the sidewalk. The Province's funding is contingent on project completion by March 31, 2027, and required a municipal response by March 13, 2026.

Phase 1 of the project is already included in the Capital Investment Plan and is advancing through the procurement process. Including Phase 2 will increase the total municipal contribution by \$331,324 plus HST, to be funded from accumulated surplus, bringing the total municipal share of the full project to \$1,144,300 plus HST. Staff recommended that Council approve the amendment in order to secure the provincial funding and complete the full pedestrian connection.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Wentzell:

THAT Council direct Staff to engage with the Province to explore amending the GRID terms and conditions to reflect only Phase One.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.7 Council Implementation Report

Staff prepared the Council Implementation Report, providing Council with an update on the progress made on resolutions since the report was last presented on February 10, 2026. Council reviewed the report and requested updates on four (4) items. The Municipal Clerk will return to the next Regular Meeting of Council with the requested updates.

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

THAT Council receive the Council Implementation Report for information.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Council recessed at 12:32 p.m. and returned to session at 1:15 p.m.

7.8 Quarter Three Financial Report

Staff presented the financial results for the third quarter of the 2025–2026 fiscal year, ending December 31, 2025. Notable revenue highlights included building permits exceeding 100% of budget due to one significant permit in Q1, QPEC revenues continuing to outperform budgeted expectations, and deed transfer tax trending slightly ahead of budget. Areas of concern on the revenue side included parking meters and contaminated soil revenue below projections, a reduction in Liverpool Business Development Centre rentals due to an unbudgeted tenant loss, and the cessation of Extended Producer Responsibility and recycling revenue following the Region's transition to Circular Materials effective December 1, 2025.

On the expenditure side, the report identified ongoing challenges in Infrastructure wage allocation, which will be addressed in the 2026–2027 budget process to improve transparency. Several budget variances were attributable to staff vacancies that have since been filled, including the Deputy CAO, Policy Analyst, Protective Services, and Development Officer positions. Legal costs have exceeded budget due to Intervenor costs, and safety expenditures were significantly overspent. In total, \$31

million in expenses were incurred through the first three quarters, with a year-to-date surplus of \$4 million — a figure staff noted is not predictive of the year-end result given that tax revenue is received primarily in Q1. Staff recommended that Council receive the report for information.

It was moved by Wentzell and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT Council receive the Quarter Three Financial Report for information.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.9 Accumulated Surplus Transfer

It was moved by Mayor Christian and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens approve a transfer of \$818,612 from the accumulated surplus in the Special Operating Fund to the District 13 Reserve in the Special Operating Reserve.

MOTION CARRIED with seven (7) in favour and one (1) opposed.

7.10 Operational Budget Fiscal 2026-2027

Staff presented the second draft of the 2026–2027 Operating Budget, incorporating revisions made in response to Council direction and information requests from the March 3, 2026 Special Meeting. The initial draft had reflected a proposed tax rate increase of 21.2 cents per \$100 of assessment; the revised draft reduces that increase to 15.8 cents per \$100 of assessment. Of the remaining increase, 7.3 cents is attributable to mandatory costs outside the Municipality's control, including Education and Policing — the latter reflecting the \$450,000 in additional policing costs directed by Council at the February 24, 2026 Regular Meeting.

Key revisions include the removal of 3 of the originally proposed 9.4 Full Time Equivalent positions at a cost reduction of \$285,721, and the identification of one-time cost items suitable for funding from reserves or surplus rather than the tax rate. Staff also presented Council with several infrastructure project options requiring direction, including Main and Market Street Improvements, a Traffic Study, Speed Display Devices, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, Port Medway Lights, Beach Meadows Beach (BMB) Swings, Etlia Milita'mk entrance improvements, the Privateer Park Stage, and Thorburne Park light repair, with associated costs and funding alternatives outlined for each. Additionally, staff reported a District 13 area rate shortfall of \$177,000 proposed to be funded from the District 13 Reserve and provided Council with the historical Queens County Transit funding amounts as requested. Staff recommended that Council receive the report for information.

Motion 1 – Remove Speed Displays

Moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Staff are directed to remove the speed display devices as listed at a cost of \$52,000 from this version of the operating budget.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously with Councillor Roy absent.

Motion 2 – Funding Items from the District 13 Reserve Fund

Moved by Councillor Wentzell and seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT the Main & Market traffic study (\$88,000), traffic study (\$90,000), and the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (\$37,500) be funded from the District 13 Reserve Fund.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Motion 3 – Fund the Port Medway Replacement Lights from the Parkland Reserve

Moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Wentzell:

THAT the Port Medway Replacement Lights be funded from the Parkland Reserve.

MOTION CARRIED with seven (7) in favour, and one (1) opposed.

Motion 4 – Fund the Beach Meadows Swings from the Parkland Reserve

Moved by Councillor Amirault and seconded by Councillor Roy:

THAT the Beach Meadows swings be funded from the Parkland Reserve.

MOTION CARRIED with seven (7) in favour, and one (1) opposed.

Motion 5 – Fund the Universal Play Park Gate Upgrade from the Parkland Reserve

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT the upgraded gate at the Universal Playpark be funded from the Parkland Reserve.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Motion 6 – Remove Privateer Park Stage from Draft Budget

Moved by Mayor Christian and seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the proposed upgrades to the Privateer Park Stage (\$49,000) be removed from the draft budget.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Motion 7 – Fund the Thorburne Park Light Replacement from the Parkland Reserve

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Wentzell:

THAT the replacement of the lights at Thorburne Park be funded from the Parkland Reserve (7,000), and the remaining cost be left in the Operating Budget.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Motion 8 – Receive the Report for Information

Moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Council receive the Draft 2026–2027 Operating Budget as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously with Councillor Wenzell absent.

8.0 Bylaws and Policies

8.1 Second Reading and Adoption of Bylaw 11 – Public Sewer Systems

Staff presented a report recommending that Council give Second Reading to, and adopt, Bylaw No. 11 – Public Sewer Systems. The bylaw has been comprehensively restructured for improved clarity and readability, replacing the version last updated in 2007. Key updates include revised definitions, removal of the Petition and Committees section, and modernized language throughout. Notable new provisions include a clause permitting property owners with existing on-site

wastewater systems deemed adequate to defer mandatory connection to the municipal system, relevant particularly to the Mount Pleasant service area expansion, and updated provisions governing RV connections, service laterals, and landlocked customer connections via easement over third-party land.

The draft bylaw also introduces new language under Section 9 aligning sewer fees with Administrative Policy No. 59, including a proposed Wastewater Betterment Charge, a one-time fee on new connections to recover a portion of capital costs associated with wastewater infrastructure. If adopted, the betterment charge would be developed through the Sewer Fees Policy mechanism. There are no immediate financial implications associated with adoption; however, allowing deferred connection may temporarily reduce revenue in the Mount Pleasant area, while the betterment charge, if implemented, would introduce a new revenue stream supporting system capital and operating costs. Staff recommended that Council give Second Reading and adopt the bylaw as presented.

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

THAT Council give Second Reading to and adopt Bylaw No. 11 – A Bylaw Respecting Public Sewer Systems.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously with Councillor Wentzell absent.

9.0 Correspondence for Action

9.1 Letter from the South Shore Flying Club

Council received a letter from Marcel Kuhn, President of the South Shore Flying Club, expressing strong support for the installation of a Jet A fuel system at the South Shore Regional Airport in Greenfield. The letter was submitted in the context of the Province of Nova Scotia's recent announcement of a \$6.8 million investment to contract four dedicated fixed-wing water bombers for wildfire operations, as well as the

anticipated deployment of turbine-powered helicopters, aircraft that require Jet A fuel to operate. The author noted that without a local jet fuel system, these provincial assets must travel to other airports to refuel, resulting in delays and reduced effectiveness during critical wildfire response windows.

The letter outlined the benefits of a local Jet A fuel system, including faster emergency response, improved pilot safety, greater operational efficiency, and longer-term economic benefits through attraction of medevac, charter, and business aviation traffic. Mr. Kuhn noted that the estimated installation cost is approximately \$200,000, referenced that the Municipality has already earmarked \$50,000 toward the project in the budget, and urged all levels of government to contribute to the remaining balance. Council received the correspondence for information.

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

THAT the Mayor will discuss opportunities at the South Shore Regional Airport with MLA Masland.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

At this time, Councillor Wentzell requested that item 13.2 – Cannons at Tupper Park be moved forward on the agenda, as he would need to depart the meeting shortly. Council agreed to the reordering of the agenda and item 13.2 was brought forward for discussion.

13.2 Cannons at Tupper Park – Councillor Wentzell

Councillor Wentzell brought forward a recommendation from the Heritage Advisory Committee to have Council direct staff to have the cannon that is situated at the corner of West and School Streets in Milton refurbished and relocated to Tupper Park.

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

THAT Council direct staff to bring back a staff report detailing the costs associated with refurbishing the cannon that is situated at the corner of West and School Streets in Milton and relocating it to Tupper Park.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

10.0 Correspondence for Information

There was no Correspondence for Information today.

11.0 Report from In Camera

There was no report from In Camera today.

12.0 Mayor's Report

Mayor Christian provided Council with an update on a number of recent activities and engagements. The Mayor attended the Renewal Energy announcement at White Point Resort, where it was announced that Renewal Energy, the utility operator responsible for building and operating the wind farm in Milton, had received an injection of over \$200 million from the Canadian Infrastructure Bank, as well as commitments from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). The announcement was attended by two federal ministers, the Premier, the local MP and MLA, and the Director of Investment of the Canadian Infrastructure Bank. Construction of the first 20 turbines is now underway, with road and bridge work currently in progress and initial cement bases to be installed in the spring. Renewal Energy is anticipated to become the first renewable-to-retail competitor to enter the market, with customers expected to be able to purchase energy directly from the company beginning in 2027.

The Mayor reported meeting with the founding members of a company expressing interest in establishing a medium-sized business in Queens County, which has the potential to generate significant well-paying employment and contribute to the commercial tax base. The group will be preparing a presentation for a future public meeting of Council.

The Mayor also met with representatives from Health Canada to explore the possibility of establishing a wastewater drug surveillance program, which would enable monitoring of the toxicity and nature of illicit substances being consumed in the community through sampling of the municipal sewer system. All costs associated with transportation and analysis of samples would be borne by the federal program; however, staff implications related to sample collection and storage require further exploration. The Mayor noted that participation in the program would provide the Municipality with early intelligence on the arrival of toxic drug supplies, particularly carfentanyl, enabling timely engagement with partners such as public health and public safety agencies.

The Mayor advised that a meeting was held with MP Jessica Fancy to discuss access to federal funding, with a focus on the Mount Pleasant Service Extension and accessibility and efficiency improvements at the Town Hall Arts and Cultural Centre. The Mayor expressed encouragement that substantial federal funds may be secured on both fronts.

The Mayor also participated in a meeting with representatives from Nova Scotia Public Health, the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, the Queens Community Health Board, and the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative, to learn about an evidence-based community asset mapping toolkit known as the Resiliency Scale. There is potential to partner with the Queens Community Connections Network to access no-cost training and conduct a community asset mapping exercise.

The Mayor, joined by Deputy Mayor Charlton, Councillor Carver, and Councillor Fancy, attended an International Women's Day celebration hosted by the Jane's Place Society at The Verney in Caledonia.

Finally, the Mayor reported meeting with numerous non-profit service providers and community groups concerned about the impact of proposed cuts in the Provincial Budget and expressed satisfaction that several of the proposed Envision cuts have since been walked back.

13.0 Council Business

13.1 Letters of Support – Councillor Roy

Councillor Roy brought forward motions to Council in order to have letters of support written for both the Queens Association for Supported Living (QASL), and for the Perkins House Museum and the broader Tourism industry in Queens County, in light of the recent proposed cuts in the Provincial Budget.

It was moved by Councillor Roy and seconded by Councillor Carver:

THAT Council direct staff to prepare and forward a letter of support for Queens Association for Supported Living to the Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia, Kim Masland, MLA for Queens, and the Honorable Barb Adams, Minister for Opportunities and Social Development.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously with Councillor Jenkins absent.

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

THAT Council direct staff to prepare and forward a letter regarding Perkins House and regional tourism initiatives to the Honourable Tim Houston, the Honourable Dave Ritzy, Minister for Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, and Kim Masland, MLA for Queens.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

14.0 New Business

There was no New Business to discuss today.

15.0 In Camera

It was moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Jenkins that the proceedings move to Closed Session at 4:16 p.m. to discuss the following three (3) items:

- 15.1 Personnel
- 15.2 Personnel
- 15.3 Personnel

It was moved by Councillor Fancy and seconded by Carver that the proceedings exit Closed Session at 6:01 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Charlton presided for the remainder of the meeting in the absence of Mayor Christian, who left Chamber prior to item 15.3.

15.1 Appointment of Planning Advisory Committee Member

It was moved by Councillor Carver and seconded by Councillor Roy:

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality appoint Connor MacQuarrie to the Planning Advisory Committee as representative for District 7, for a term to expire on October 31, 2027.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

15.2 Personnel

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

THAT Council for Region of Queens Municipality directs staff to proceed with the personnel matter as directed during the closed session.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

16.0 Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Angela Green, Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: March 24, 2026