

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY  
REGULAR COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015  
9:00 A.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair  
Councillor Darlene Norman  
Councillor Susan MacLeod  
Councillor Brian Fralic  
Councillor Raymond Fiske  
Councillor Jack Fancy  
Councillor Bruce Inglis  
Councillor Peter Waterman  
Kathleen Rafuse, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance  
Shelley Connolly, Executive Secretary

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2.0 CHANGES / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Inglis that the Agenda be approved with the following two additions:

- 13.3 West Queens Recreation Association
- 18.2 Contract Negotiations

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

**3.0 PRESENTATION(S):**

**3.1 Help us Keep Queens Clean – Litter Free Zones in District 4**

Councillor Susan MacLeod provided a Power Point presentation on 'Helping us Keep Queens Clean and Litter Free'.

Councillor MacLeod stated that this project started because citizens are concerned about the litter problem in Queens County and feel that roadside litter takes away from the esthetics of our community and they want to show community pride. The message that they want to put out there is that "Roadside litter will not be tolerated any more".

Developing the idea:

- Discussed often in Council
- Growing awareness of how much litter is in the community
- Knowledge of where it comes from
- Strategizing how to deal with the source of litter

Taking the idea further:

- Met with a concerned citizen, brainstormed, set tasks, contacted others who were concerned
- Initial meeting with all interested residents of District 4
- Developed a project with concerned residents of District 4
- Divided District 4 into manageable areas
- Individuals chose areas to maintain

Funding and information:

- Kirk Symonds, Regional Educator, Region 6 Solid Waste Management – bags, gloves and literature
- Scott Leblanc, Solid Waste Management Clerk (RQM) – safety aspects and advice on disposal
- Heather Cook, Community Development Coordinator (RQM) – research formal programs

- Valda Walsh, Regional Coordinator, Region 6 Solid Waste Management – RRFB Community Sponsorship Fund application – approved for up to \$300
- Partnered with the Brooklyn Recreation Committee as a proponent for the funds
- Liverpool Home Hardware – purchased 10 grabbers

**Locations of Litter Free Zones:**

- Clean ups have begun and are ongoing in the areas of Eastern Shore Road, Brooklyn Shore Road, East and West Berlin, Eagle Head Wharf Road and Eagle Head, Hwy 3 from Old Cobb Barn Road to Great Hill Road, Mt. Pleasant Road, Brooklyn and others are ongoing.

**Clean ups – how they happen:**

- An area is chosen with each zone having a grabber and bags which can be obtained from Councillor MacLeod
- Roadside litter does not have to be sorted for pickup
- Filled bags are placed curbside with a note “Roadside Cleanup”
- When finished, Councillor MacLeod should be notified that a cleanup has been completed

**Whose responsibility is litter?:**

- Provincial laws under the Environment Act and the Motor Vehicle Act
- Fine - \$452 (EA) - \$387.50 (MVA)
- Needs a witness to the act of littering
- Report to Queens RCMP – surveillance cameras set up in some areas
- Illegal dumping can be reported Kelley-Anne Hurley, Bylaw Enforcement Officer – Fine - \$445 (RQM)

**Moving Forward:**

- Engage food take-out locations
- Engage schools through education
- Encourage other Districts and their Councillors to organize a similar

Councillor Norman stated that the 100 series Highways are a problem with littering and the Department of Transportation will not allow these highways to be adopted for litter clean-up.

Councillor MacLeod was thanked by Mayor Clarke and Council for this informative presentation.

#### **4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS:**

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

#### **5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION / COMMENT SESSION:**

**Leon Robertson**  
**45 College Street**  
**Liverpool, NS**

Mr. Robertson stated that the Kiwanis Club in conjunction with the LRHS Key Club continues to work with DOT at Exit 19 to clean-up litter in the spring and fall.

Mr. Robertson stated that he read the FCI guidelines for the Region of Queens Municipality and felt it should be a wake-up call with 3 in red, 7 in yellow and 5 in green.

Jennifer Keating-Hubley responded by stating that the first of the 3 reds was for uncollected taxes, an amount we are trying to decrease by holding more frequent tax sales. While trying to be mindful that since the Bowater closure, there may be more families with decreased income. The second and third red indicators were impacted by the over \$40 million loss in assessment from that Bowater closure, having not met the provincially defined thresholds for 3 year average increase over CPI in assessment base value and the percentage of commercial tax base that makes up the total tax revenue base, also not meeting benchmark. Jennifer also clarified that the yellow indicator is a comparison to the average of all ‘rural’ municipalities, of which Queens differs because of the inclusion of the former town of Liverpool within the Regional boundaries; we are a combined Town and County. Therefore, the yellow does not mean marginal performance, it simply means Queens meets the established threshold but is below the rural average.

Mayor Clarke stated that Graham Steele reported on CBC radio that Region of Queens Municipality was one the best Municipal units in the province.

**David Dagley**  
**9 Meadow Pond Lane**  
**Liverpool, NS**

Mr. Dagley asked if there were problems with machinery and man hours, as he felt that snow plowing seemed to be taking longer this year.

Mayor Clarke stated that an enormous amount of snow in a very short time along with shift work has contributed to this.

Mr. Dagley also asked why the report that was commissioned in November led us to the closure of the Trestle Trail Train Bridge.

Mayor Clarke stated that there was doubt raised in 2002 and it had been 12 years since an assessment had been done. There was significant increase in deterioration.

**Rick Gilbert**  
**4 Main Street**  
**Liverpool, NS**

Mr. Gilbert stated that his love of walking the Trestle Trail which is an historical landmark and a great part of infrastructure in Queens County makes him feel that a study should go forward on the Trestle Trail.

**Mervin Hartlen**  
**220 West Street**  
**Milton, NS**

Mr. Hartlen asked why the concrete of the Trestle Trail train bridge was being checked and not the steel, as he felt this could be done by qualified staff of the Region of Queens Municipality. He does not agree with spending any more money on testing.

Mr. Hartlen asked when Milton residents would be notified about what is being done to the Milton Bridge.

Mayor Clarke stated that his understanding from Transportation and Infrastructure was that the Milton Bridge will be replaced during the second half of August 2015 and that they would be holding a meeting with residents in Milton.

**Paula Doucet**  
**89 Waterloo Street**  
**Liverpool, NS**

Mrs. Doucet stated that she is an advocate for health and wellness and is a strong supporter of keeping the Trestle Trail Bridge open and posting a sign that states walk at your own risk.

Mayor Clarke stated that the Municipal Government Act does not exempt municipalities for liability for failure to maintain a public place in a reasonable state of repair when the municipality has actual or constructive knowledge of the state of disrepair. Posting a generalized warning sign purporting to shift risk to the user does not qualify as taking "steps to remedy or otherwise deal with the state of disrepair".

**Bernadette Hartlen**  
**220 West Street**  
**Milton, NS**

Mrs. Hartlen stated that she would like to see the Trestle Trail Bridge opened for pedestrian walking. She also asked if Council has looked at other alternatives for the trail.

**Sylvia Hurley**  
**690 Main Street**  
**Liverpool, NS**

Ms. Hurley stated that the Trestle Trail Bridge is a life line to some residents in her area who do not own a vehicle and walk to the grocery store. While she would like to see the Trestle Trail Bridge opened up to walkers, she also would not agree to spend \$1m with an end result of a tax increase.

Ms. Hurley suggested that the walking trail from Central Boulevard to the White Point Road and West Street is nice to use, but needs to be cleaned up.

**Owen Hamlin**  
**44 Murphy Drive**  
**Liverpool, NS**

Mr. Hamlin stated that he would like Council to look at the hardest way and not the easiest way to keep the Trestle Trail Bridge as a walking path. Mr. Hamlin mentioned that the province gives out money for health and welfare along with the federal government, so maybe there is money available to us.

Mayor Clarke thanked all public for their questions and input. He said that no one wants to shut down the Trestle Trail Bridge, but we also do not want to go beyond a price that is not sensible.

## **6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

### **6.1 Regular Council Minutes – February 10, 2015**

It was moved by Councillor Norman and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on February 10, 2015, be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

## **7.0 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES:**

There were no items to be discussed.

## **8.0 OTHER:**

### **8.1 Trestle Trail**

Brad Rowter, Director of Engineering and Works, reviewed the inspection information that was received by Amec Foster Wheeler on November 24, 2014.

AMEC conducted a visual inspection of the concrete structures supporting the former CN railway Trestle Bridge on October 7, 2014. The railway Trestle Bridge was previously owned by CN, but is now owned by the Region of Queens Municipality and is being used as a pedestrian walkway and now forms a part of the Trestle Trail.

The inspection was carried out to assess the existing condition of the bridge's concrete supports. Piers and abutments were visually inspected above the water level during low tide from a boat.

Two previous inspections were carried out by O'Halloran Campbell Consultants Limited in April 1999 and June 2002. As noted in these reports and also observed during this inspection, there is extensive deterioration of concrete in the piers and abutments in the tidal zone. The next phase would be a comprehensive study, to quantify the amount of sound concrete remaining, determine the condition of the steel, determine structural capacity, perform load analysis and to outline components that must be repaired before the bridge can once again be used. The cost for this will approach \$200,000.

Councillor Fiske asked to recess the meeting for ten minutes in order for him to bring forward a motion.

The meeting recessed at 10:10am and reconvened at 10:20am.

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Waterman:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality discontinues this study on the Trestle Trail Bridge.

Discussion took place with several Councillors confused about the wording, etc.

Councillor Fralic stated that there are a lot of organizations and groups interested in this bridge, as everyone has a bridge to fix.

Councillor Inglis stated that he feels we need to strike an ad-hoc committee to be satisfied that we have done everything in our power to collect the facts and research other funding options. Councillor Inglis also stated that pedestrians' weight is likely not the concern, but the weight of the bridge itself collapsing while someone is crossing.

The meeting recessed again at 10:40am and reconvened at 10:45am.

Councillor Fiske agreed to withdraw his motion, in favor of one with clearer intent.

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Waterman:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality postpone further action on the AMEC Engineering Study dated February 2, 2015.

MOTION carried with 6 for and 2 against.

## 9.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

### 9.1 Economic Development Monthly Report

Councillor Norman stated that the Lunenburg-Queens Business Excellence Awards were held on February 17 at the Best Western Plus in Bridgewater. The Queens County recipients were Riverbank General Store & Café – Innovation Award; Van Dyk's Health Juice – Export Achievement Award; Port Grocer – New Business Award. Also nominated were Bear Cove Resources, HRS Industrial Services, Liverpool Flowers Gifts and Such, SpinCount Music and Promotions, Whynot Adventure-Keji Outfitters.

Jill Cruikshank, Director of Economic Development, reviewed the Economic Development Monthly report.

The following topics were discussed:

- The Start-Up 100 Project – 10 month project hosted by the Sobey School of Business Development - one hundred new businesses started by youth between the ages of 15 and 35 year in one hundred days in fifty communities.
- Mersey Forum Event – scheduled for February 10 had to be postponed due to inclement weather. March 10 – Nova Scotia Aquaculture Research & Development & April 14 – Renewable Energy in Nova Scotia. Both will be held at the Best Western Liverpool Hotel & Conference Centre at 7:00pm.
- Watts Wind Energy Inc. – community meeting held on February 24 at the Liverpool Fire Hall – 7:00pm
- Agriculture Day – planned for March 28 and will feature workshops on a range of topics targeted to beginner and curious would-be farmers. The agenda has not been finalized yet.
- Lighthouse Rally – being organized for September 12-13, 2015.
- Saltscapes Expo – commitment from businesses and festival organizers to collaborate and book the equivalent of 30' of booth space to present Queens County from April 24-26, 2015 at Exhibition Park in Halifax

- Joanne Veinotte – appointed to Board of the South Shore Regional Enterprise Network (REN)
- Belliveau Veinotte Liverpool office being set up at South Shore Opportunities – Paul Belliveau, Cheryl Beaton, John Henley merging their accounting businesses. Mike Metcalfe will be the Manager.

## 10.0 CORPORATE SERVICES:

### 10.1 Tax Exemption Bylaw

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Inglis:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality gives first reading to a Bylaw respecting Tax Exemptions.

Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance had a detailed map prepared by the Planning Department for the Greater Molega Lot Owners Association (GMLOA). This map verified that none of the properties contained on the bylaw listing were for sale. Accounts removed from this bylaw were zero valued on the assessment roll.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

## 11.0 ENGINEERING AND WORKS:

### 11.1 Landfill Tipping Fees

It was moved by Councillor Waterman and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the tipping fees for solid waste disposal and contracts for Residual Municipal Solid Waste, Sorted Construction and Demolition Material, Mixed Construction & Demolition Material, Metal/White Goods, Ash and Contaminated Soil increase by 2.04%, effective April 1, 2015.

Councillor Norman asked Brad Rowter, Director of Engineering and Works, if customers knew that their costs would increase every year and if so, are we competitive in our pricing.

Brad stated that are customers are aware that costs could increase every year and that we are competitive across the province with all Municipal operations.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

## 12.0 FINANCE:

### 12.1 Approval of Municipal e-Delivery Agreement:

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

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the Municipal e-Delivery Agreement with PVSC for the electronic delivery of municipal tax and utility bills through the Canada Post epost service, and authorize the Mayor and Director of Finance to sign.

Jennifer Keating-Hubley stated that PVSC has entered into a Technical Integrator Agreement with Canada Post through which Canada Post will provide epost services to PVSC. This agreement allows PVSC to add the Municipality as a client, to bridge their agreement for the provision of epost services.

The Municipality will always be able to manually control the "Delivery Preference" for each bill recipient. A client can be switched back to paper billing if they so wish. There will continue to be two files created, one for print and one for epost upload. Canada Post epost User support is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week and every day of the year.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

### 13.0 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

#### 13.1 Representative Volunteer 2015

Each year the Recreation & Community Facilities Department facilitates nominations for two local residents to be named representative volunteer. The final selection is done by Council, and the individuals chosen represent all other volunteers in Queens at the Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony coordinated by Recreation Nova Scotia in April.

To make the selection process more objective, in 2012, staff was asked to bring nominations to Council anonymously, which has been continued. Once the votes have been cast, the names of each volunteer nominated are circulated and their associated organizations are listed in the

Heather Cook, Community Development Coordinator, passed out ballots to Council to vote for two candidates. Council was given biographies of four nominees who were submitted anonymously.

A four-way tie took place, so Mayor Clarke was asked to draw the name from a hat. The recipients will represent Queens at the Provincial Volunteer Awards ceremony in Halifax on April 7.

Councillor Norman stated that West Queens Recreation Association held their annual meeting. They have a new Board of Directors who through fundraising was able to pay off their bills and do a lot of renovations that were needed.

It was moved by Councillor Norman and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT Mayor Christopher Clarke send a complimentary letter to West Queens Recreation Association.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor Waterman:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approved that Mya Uhlman of Caledonia and Peter van Dyk of Caledonia, be named the 2015 Representative Volunteers for the Region of Queens Municipality, and that Council express its sincere appreciation to them, the other nominees and all volunteers in Queens for their dedication and service, on behalf of our residents.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

#### 13.2 Request – Seaside Boxing Club

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve a Special Event Assistance grant of \$150.00 to the Seaside Boxing Club to help fund an amateur boxing event on February 28, 2015 to be funded from the Community Grants and Programs budget line of the Recreation and Community Facilities Department.

Councillor Norman mentioned that our policy for the Community Recreation Assistance Grant states that we only fund programs two years consecutively, and that this criteria should apply to this request as well. Norm Amirault, Director of Recreation & Community Facilities advised the two-year maximum only applies to the Community Recreation Assistance Grant and that tournaments and special events have not been subject to this limitation.

Councillor Fralic stated that he felt it was time to review and potentially revise the Community Recreation Grant policy.

Norm Amirault, Director of Recreation & Community Facilities, is going to review this policy and bring back to Council.

The question was called.

MOTION DEFEATED unanimously.

#### 14.0 PLANNING:

There was nothing to report.

The Chair was turned over to Councillor Norman.

#### 15.0 QUEENS PLACE EMERA CENTRE:

##### 15.1 Queens Place Emera Centre Monthly Report

Steve Burns, Manager, Queens Place Emera Centre reviewed the Queens Place Emera Centre Monthly report for January.

The following topics were discussed:

- Free usage of the walking track – Monday, Feb. 23 to Thursday, Feb. 26
- Minister Mark Furey and Speak Murphy toured the facility on Feb. 4
- Liverpool Privateers – 4<sup>th</sup> game in semi-finals – Best of 7 series – Sunday, Mar. 1, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 28 – Mar. 1 – Skate Canada STARSkate Provincials
- May 1 & 2 – Run our Shore Wheelchair, Yourth, 5Km (walk/run), 10Km and Half Marathon – starts and ends at QPEC
- May 9,10 – 5-6-7-8 Showtime Regional Dance Competition
- June 12-14 – SouSho Sci-fi Festival

#### 16.0 REPORTS:

The following reports were included in the agenda package for information purposes:

16.1 Bylaw Enforcement Department Monthly Report – January 2015

16.2 Building Inspector's Monthly Report – January 2015

16.3 RCMP Monthly Report – January 2015

#### 17.0 OTHER:

Councillor Fralic requested that S/Sgt. Paul MacDougall and another RCMP officer be asked to attend the Council meeting on March 10, 2015 to listen to the Kirk Symonds presentation on Litter Abatement.

#### 18.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS:

It was moved by Councillor Waterman and seconded by Councillor Fiske that the proceedings go "In-Camera" at 12:00 noon to discuss the following:

- 18.1 Contract Negotiations
- 18.2 Contract Negotiation

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

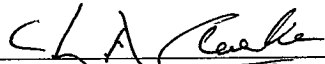
It was moved by Councillor Fancy and seconded by Councillor Fiske that the proceedings come out of "In-Camera" at 12:55 p.m.

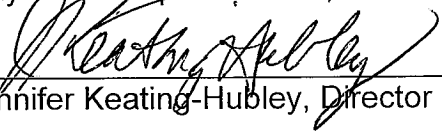
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

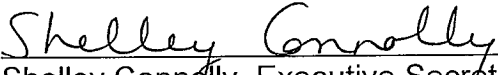


19.0 ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Keating-Huble, Director of Finance

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley Connolly, Executive Secretary

Date approved: March 10/15