

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY
REGULAR COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015
9:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair
Councillor Darlene Norman
Councillor Susan MacLeod
Councillor Bruce Inglis
Councillor Brian Fralic
Councillor Raymond Fiske
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Peter Waterman
Kathleen Rafuse, Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance
Christine Watson, Recording / Management 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 Fiske and seconded by Councillor Waterman that the Agenda be approved with the following addition:

8.2 – South Shore Tourism Team Marketing Plan 2015

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 PRESENTATION(S):

There were no presentations to come before this meeting.

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**

Mr. Robertson asked if there would be any affect to the Municipality where the Provincial Department of Economic Development/Tourism has been dissolved and economic development is moving to the Department of Business. The Mayor's response was that it was too early to say as we had just learned of these changes on Thursday.

Mr. Robertson also expressed his concern over the closing of the court house. He expressed that it has been here for a long time and is a heritage building. It will be harder for people to have to travel to Bridgewater for these services. The Mayor responded that this has been the first time that council has met since the announcement has been made and that there have not been any discussions.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

6.1 Special Council Minutes – March 19, 2015

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

THAT the minutes for the Special Council meeting held on March 19, 2015, be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

6.2 Council Minutes – March 24, 2014

Councillor Norman apologized for comments that she had made during last council meeting that may have sounded negative towards PAC members and felt they were not fitting of a Councillor to make.

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

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on March 24, 2015, be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.0 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES:

There were no Dangerous or Unsightly Premises issues discussed at this meeting.

8.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

8.1 Request to use Liverpool Dock and Parking – Liverpool Adventure Outfitters

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the letter of agreement with Liverpool Adventure Outfitters, whereby they would have use of three (3) parking spaces and non-exclusive use of the Liverpool Dock to conduct their rental and guided tour business and authorize the Mayor and Director of Finance to sign.

Richard Lane, Economic Development Officer, stated that this request is the same as that of the last 2 years. Councillors indicated they are pleased that we have this business in the community and that the arrangement has worked well.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

8.2 Funding Request – South Shore Tourism Team Marketing Plan 2015

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve funding in the amount of \$3,186 to assist the funding of marketing efforts of the South Shore Tourism Team and this be funded from the Economic Development promotions budget.

Richard Lane, Economic Development Officer, stated that the South Shore Marketing team is an informal group of businesses along the South Shore which was formed when the Regional Tourism Agency for the south-western section of Nova Scotia was dissolved. Their main focus is for marketing the region, which will cover the areas from Peggy's Cove to Barrington. So far there have been 60 businesses that have signed up for funding.

The Mayor expressed that it is hugely exciting to see the south shore come together and that the participation and partnership is great.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES:

There were no issues discussed at this meeting.

10.0 ENGINEERING AND WORKS:

There were no issues discussed at this meeting.

11.0 FINANCE:

11.1 Budget Presentation:

The Mayor noted that there have been some major achievements that the Region has played a large part in making happen:

- a. opening of the new medical wing and Family Health Centre at Queens General Hospital;
- b. the new Middle School opened in the spring;
- c. the North Queens Community Centre, Business Hub and Fire Department in Caledonia;
- d. Town Hall should be ready for use very soon (a motion to approve the lease with the Acadia First Nation is on today's agenda and are still working towards a final draft of a lease with the Astor Theatre Society).

Preparing the budget for our new fiscal year has been challenging. Policing costs have risen by \$46,000. The education tax has increased by \$53,000. The closure of the Court House and the Registry Office by the Province will not only cause some real inconveniences to Queens County Residents, but will also impact our bottom line.

The position of Municipal Clerk has been re-instated, which has been vacant for several years. April Whynot-Lohnes will be starting on April 20, 2015. She has extensive experience in Municipal Administration.

Our total expenditures for the year are predicted to be \$18,614,292, an increase of 1.27%. It should result in a surplus of \$3,682.

The budgets for Fire Departments, Ground Search and Rescue, West Queens First Responders and associated services remain the same at \$321,213.

Grants to Organizations will continue albeit at a slightly reduced level which reflects the tight times we are facing. These dollars go to very worthwhile groups, organizations and events throughout Queens.

Our capital budget includes:

- a. Replacement of sewer and water lines on Main Street from Jubilee to Reese Streets. This will also give us the opportunity to improve the safety at the crosswalks that was recommended by Insight Traffic Engineering.
- b. The continuation of the Brooklyn sewer and water infrastructure with the installation of another 900 feet of sewer and water line. The total cost of these 2 projects is \$1,156,412.
- c. The new two-lane bridge in Milton which, is expected to be installed in August, will mean that we will have to relocate the sewer line that hangs on the bridge. This is expected to cost \$150,000.

Actual tax rates:

Tax Rates 2015-2016:

<u>Assessment District</u>	<u>Assessment Class</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
1-12	Residential/Resource	\$0.99
1-12	Commercial	\$2.07
1-12	Commercial Seasonal	\$1.55
13	Residential/Resource	\$1.87
13	Commercial-Business Occupancy	\$2.95

The area rate for Brooklyn, Assessment Districts 5-6 is 6 cents.

According to Municipal Affairs statistics for 2013/14, Liverpool has the third lowest commercial rate in the province.

Despite the fact, we have had to raise the residential tax rate, the Region remains in a strong secure position.

Mayor Clarke gave a special thank you to our predecessors, like Kathleen Rafuse, who had the foresight to plan for this municipality's financial future; and thanked Jennifer and her staff for all of their hard work developing the budget and crunching the numbers.

11.1 (1) **Brooklyn Recreation Committee**

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve a four and one-half cent (\$.045) area rate for the Brooklyn Recreation Committee.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

11.1 (2) **Brooklyn Cemetery Committee**

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve a one and one-half cent (\$.015) area rate for the Brooklyn Cemetery Committee.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

11.1 (3) **Area Rates**

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approves that area rates be charged to residential, commercial, and resource assessments;

AND THAT the rates are applied as follows:

Assessment Districts 1-12

Except Assessment Account Numbers 10148820 and 10462223:

Road Levy 75%

Assessment District 13

And Assessment Account Numbers 10148820 and 10462223:

Debt Charges District 13 - 100%

Roads, Streets & Sidewalks - 75%

Equipment Costs - 75%

Hydrant Charges – Central

Water System - 100%

General Paving – Out of Operations - 100%

Ball Field Operation - 100%

Assessment Districts 1, 3, 5, 6:

Hydrant Charges – Properties connected to the Liverpool Central Water System or that have the ability to connect to the system.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

11.1 (4) **Operating Budget and Tax Rates**

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the 2015 – 2016 Operating Budget reflecting an operating surplus of \$3,682 and expenditures in the amount of \$18,614,292 which represents the tax rates for Assessment District 13 and assessment accounts 10148820 and 10462223 as follows:

- Residential Base rate of \$0.96 per \$100.00 of assessment; plus an Area Rate of \$0.91 per \$100.00 of assessment or \$0.77 per \$100.00 assessment not connectable to the Liverpool Water Utility;
- Resource Base rate of \$0.96 per \$100.00 of assessment; and an Area Rate of \$0.91 per \$100.00 of assessment or \$0.77 per \$100.00 of assessment not connectable to the Liverpool Water Utility;
- Commercial Base rate of \$2.04 per \$100.00 of assessment; and an Area Rate of \$0.91 per \$100.00 of assessment or \$0.77 per \$100.00 of assessment not connectable to the Liverpool Water Utility;

11.1 (7) Due Date on Taxes

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approves the due date for taxes for the Region's Assessment Districts 1 – 13 for the 2015-2016 taxation year of June 1, 2015;

AND THAT one month's interest is to be forgiven if the taxes are paid on or before June 30, 2015.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

11.2 Grants to Organizations

Councillor Fralic declared a Conflict of Interest and left the room at 9:40 a.m.

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

THAT the Grants to Organization Committee recommends that the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the following grants to organizations in the amount of \$40,550.

Grants to Organizations 2015

Friends of Hank Snow Society	\$ 6,000
Liverpool Ukulele Ceilidh Society	3,000
Medway Area Communities Association	750
Medway Head Lighthouse Society	500
Mersey Band Society	1,000
Milton Community Association	500
Milton Heritage Society	900
North Queens Board of Trade – Canada Day	1,500
North Queens Board of Trade – Farmer's Market	750
North Queens Heritage Society	900
Privateer Days Commission	10,000
Queens County Fair Association	7,000
Queens County Museum	4,000
Queens County Senior Safety	750
Queens Early Childhood Development Association	2,000
Queens Adult Learning Network	500
Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association	500
Total Grants Allocated	<u>\$40,550</u>

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Councillor Fralic returned to the Council Chambers at 9:45 a.m.

12.0 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

12.1 Policy 81 – Booking/Security Procedures – Old Town Hall

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approved Policy 81 – Booking/Security Procedures – for the former Liverpool Town Hall.

Norm Amirault, Director of Recreation and Community Facilities, reviewed Policy 81, Booking/Security Procedures – Old Town Hall. He explained the procedures and the rates for:

- a. booking temporary/short term spaces;
- b. booking for seasonal/ongoing users;
- c. common display areas;
- d. volunteer office;
- e. leased space; and
- f. hiring a custodian.

It was expressed by all Councillors, and after having much discussion on the rates and fees charged under this Policy that a committee be formed to review these issues and discuss at the first Council meeting in May (May 12).

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality table this motion for further discussion at the first Council meeting in May.

MOTION CARRIED 7 for and 1 against.

12.2 Letter of Acknowledgement – Queens Rails/Trails

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality send a letter to the Department of Health and Wellness indicating the Region's awareness of the project of the Queens Rails to Trails group to develop both a 23 – kilometer shared use rail along the former railway line to a 3 – kilometer walking and cycling trail section that connects to the Summerville Provincial Park along the former railway line and authorize the Director of Recreation and Community Facilities to sign on its behalf.

Norm Amirault, Director of Recreation and Community Facilities, explained that the group is seeking an acknowledgement letter from the Region stating that we are aware of the project. The request is strictly a letter of acknowledgement and not one of support.

Councillor Waterman questioned if the trail was on the Right of Way, and that the Region doesn't hold any authority.

Councillor Norman indicated that acknowledgement and awareness sounds like approval, and expressed concerns knowing this is a contentious issue with the residents of Summerville Center, and highly protested.

There was much discussion and debate with all Councillors and the meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes at 10:35 a.m.

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

THAT the following amendment be made to the motion:

Put a period after the word 'line' and insert

“Council is also aware of the long standing concerns of the residents of Summerville Centre.”

Remove the words 'and authorize' after the word 'line' and insert
"Council authorizes"

AMENDMENT CARRIED 6 for and 2 against.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED 7 for and 1 against and reads as follows:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality send a letter to the Department of Health and Wellness indicating the Region's awareness of the project of the Queens Rails to Trails group to develop both a 23 – kilometer shared use rail along the former railway line to a 3 – kilometer walking and cycling trail section that connects to the Summerville Provincial Park along the former railway line. Council is also aware of the long standing concerns of the residents of Summerville Centre. Council authorizes the Director of Recreation and Community Facilities to sign on its behalf.

12.3 **Lease – Acadia First Nation**

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the attached lease with the Acadia First Nation at the former Liverpool Town Hall for a five-year term beginning April 15, 2015 and authorize the Mayor and Director of Finance to sign on its behalf.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mayor Clarke made note that the Town Hall's official opening date is June 21, 2015, which is National Aboriginal Day.

13.0 **PLANNING:**

13.1 **Rezoning – 3 White Point Road, Liverpool**

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality adopt a bylaw respecting the rezoning of PID #70020482 from Neighbourhood Commercial (C3) to Restricted Residential (R1).

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

13.2 **A Bylaw Respecting Amendments to the Land Use Bylaw**

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality adopt a bylaw respecting amendments to the Region of Queens Municipality Land Use Bylaw; which would see a reduction in the minimum lot area and minimum lot frontage requirements for row house dwelling units on separate lots in the Liverpool Waterfront (C4) Zone and the Multiple Unit Residential (R3) Zone.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

13.3 Commercial Use of a Residential Zone by Development Agreement

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality give notice of its intention to enter into a development agreement with Chandlers' Funeral Service Ltd. to allow for a 16 foot by 33 foot extension of the commercial use (funeral home) on property located at 91 Union Street in Liverpool and identified as PID#70024708;

AND THAT a public hearing be scheduled for May 12, 2015 at 8:55 a.m., In the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 249 White Point Road in Liverpool, NS.

Mike MacLeod, Planner, explained that the planning department has received an application to expand the existing funeral home. The owners have been located at the same address since the mid 40's. The expansion is in the rear of the building and will not impede traffic flow. The expanded area will enable them to run more efficiently.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Mayor Clarke recognized April Whynot-Lohnes in the gallery and welcomed her.

Mayor Clarke then took the floor:

The first Council for the Region of Queens was sworn in on April 1, 1996. Since it was the beginning of a new fiscal year with little time to prepare an in-depth budget, Council decided to maintain the tax rates that had been in effect during the last year of operation for the Town of Liverpool and the County of Queens. The first real budget for the Region of Queens was for the year 1997/98. Developing an equitable tax structure was a huge undertaking as no other Municipality had an example for us to follow. The system that was developed then is what we use today. The Director of Finance then was Kathleen Rafuse. She crafted every successive budget from then until she became CAO in 2011. Since then, she has played a major role in preparing and approving successive budgets. For 18 years the Region's budgets have had Kathleen's unmistakable stamp on them – one of the reasons we are in such good financial shape.

The budget that we approved today is Kathleen's last. I would ask you all to join me in thanking Kathleen for a job very well done.

14.0 QUEENS PLACE EMERA CENTRE:

There were no matters to be discussed at this meeting, but it was noted that the Blue Rodeo tickets are selling well and a reminder that Johnny Lake is playing April 17, 9 – 12 p.m.

Councillor Fralic stated that there would be a Public Discussion meeting on April 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Queens Place to discuss the Trestle Trail. Sharon LeBlanc will be the facilitator.

15.0 REPORTS:

There were no reports to be discussed at this meeting.

16. OTHER:

No Issues

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. for 20 minutes.

17.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the proceedings go "In-Camera" at 11:32 a.m. to discuss the following:

- 17.1 Contract Negotiations
- 17.2 Contract Negotiations
- 17.3 Potential Litigation

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the proceedings come out of "In-Camera" at 12:30 p.m.

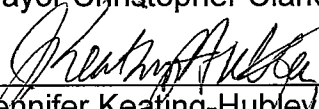
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

18.0 ADJOURNMENT

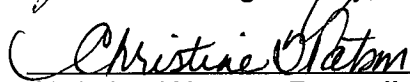
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair



Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance



Christine Watson, Recording / Management Secretary

Date approved: April 28, 2015