

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY
REGULAR COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 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 Peter Waterman
Councillor Bruce Inglis
Kathleen Rafuse, Chief Administrative Officer
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Christine Watson, Recording / Management Secretary

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Clarke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 CHANGES / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Fralic that the Agenda be approved with the following additions:

- 8.1 Eastlink Internet Cap Update
- 14.1 Update on Concert – Blue Rodeo
- 16.2 Retirement - CAO

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 PRESENTATION(S):

There were no presentations at this meeting.

4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS:

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

Mayor Clarke announced that the meetings are now being digitally recorded and that the intention is to have the audio files posted on the Region's website with 24 hours of the meeting.

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION / COMMENT SESSION:

Leon Robertson, 45 College Street, Liverpool

Mr. Robertson enquired as to when the paving would be completed on Main Street. Mayor Clarke indicated it would be later this year.

He also asked about item 16.1 – HVAC System Repairs Call Centre Building. Mayor Clarke indicated that this would be discussed fully later on the agenda under 16.1.

Bill Cox, 121 Bog Road, White Point

Mr. Cox thanked all involved in the application process for the Prince of Wales and asked about the appeal process and report from the Utility and Review Board. Mayor Clarke stated that the decision to sell the school to the Prince of Wales was final, and the only decision that can be appealed is the rezoning application.

He asked about the responsibility of issuing liquor licenses being turned over to the Municipality and what Council's position was on this move.

Mayor Clarke indicated that he felt that not having to go through a plebiscite, which is very expensive, is a good move and a step forward. Staff will be reporting back to Council on this matter.

Katy Hopkins, Molega Road, Molega

Ms. Hopkins stated that she runs a business in video productions in Molega, rural area in North Queens, and with the news that Eastlink is putting a cap on internet usage at 15 KB/month it would be too expensive to operate her business. In response to enquiries from Councillors, Ms. Hopkins expressed that there were no other systems available at present, and dial up was not the solution as downloading documents would take a very long time and was unreliable.

Councillor Fancy stated that it was not only her business that would be affected, but other businesses and potential businesses as well.

Mayor Clarke said that Council would do what they could to address the situation.

Edward Whynot, 11 Riverview Road, Liverpool

Mr. Whynot stated that he does not understand the rezoning and bylaws and asked if his expense would pave the way for others who wanted to do the same thing.

Mayor Clarke indicated that this would be covered under item 13.1 on the agenda and that at present he was in violation of the bylaw.

Carmon Conrad, 1499 Eastern Shore Road, Eagle Head

Mr. Conrad asked who is permitted to keep livestock. Mike MacLeod, Planner, indicated that the keeping of livestock is addressed in the Land Use Bylaw and it depends on the location and the size of the lot.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

6.1 Council Minutes – June 23, 2015

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

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on June 23, 2015 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.0 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES:

7.1 1499 Eastern Shore Road, Eagle Head

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

THAT Council declares the property located at 1499 Eastern Shore Road, Eagle Head, Queens County, Nova Scotia as unsightly as defined in the Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia.

AND THAT Council cause an Order to be served upon the owner of the property requiring that within thirty (30) days of the date of the service of the Order, the following work be carried out:

1. Removal of all derelict vehicles;
2. Removal/clean-up of plastics, wood, metals, tires, windows, appliances and household garbage;
3. Exterior painting of dwelling;
4. Replacement of civic number; and
5. Mow grass.

AND THAT, if the owner fails to comply with the Order, the Administrator may cause the requirements of the Order to be carried out and all expenses incurred by the Region of Queens Municipality become the responsibility of the owner.

Kelley-Anne Hurley, Bylaw Enforcement Officer, stated that the landowner, Carmon E. Conrad, was present and explained that a formal complaint was received in December 2014, and several other complaints were also received regarding this property. She explained that there was a vacant dwelling and approximately 14 derelict vehicles on the property and three extensions were granted to complete the necessary improvements to bring the property up to standards. After several visits, Ms. Hurley noted that there was little progress made.

In response to questions from Councillors, Ms. Hurley explained that there were complaints received from Councillors and neighboring residents and that the dwelling was not considered dangerous, but it was considered unsightly. She said that the vehicle did not have to be removed from the property, but out of site would be acceptable.

Councillor MacLeod asked that if it would be acceptable if Mr. Conrad mowed in front of the dwelling and not the whole lot and to amend the order to state this.

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

That the motion on the floor be amended to add 'in front of dwelling' in Item 5 after mow grass.

MOTION carried 7 for, 1 against.

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

THAT Council declares the property located at 1499 Eastern Shore Road, Eagle Head, Queens County, Nova Scotia as unsightly as defined in the Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia.

AND THAT Council cause an Order to be served upon the owner of the property requiring that within thirty (30) days of the date of the service of the Order, the following work be carried out:

1. Removal of all derelict vehicles;
2. Removal/clean-up of plastics, wood, metals, tires, windows, appliances and household garbage;
3. Exterior painting of dwelling;
4. Replacement of civic number; and
5. Mow grass in front of dwelling.

AND THAT, if the owner fails to comply with the Order, the Administrator may cause the requirements of the Order to be carried out and all expenses incurred by the Region of Queens Municipality become the responsibility of the owner.

8.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

8.1 Eastlink Internet Cap Update – Jill Cruikshank/Richard Lane

Jill Cruikshank, Director of Economic Development and Richard Lane, Economic Development Officer gave an update on the announcement that Eastlink would be capping internet usage. They are actively investigating other options for the provision of internet service in rural Nova Scotia. The CRTC is accepting comments on-line and they encourage everyone to participate; the deadline for comments is July 14. Ms. Cruikshank said that she would send the link for this to all the Councillors.

Eastlink and the province were under contract since 2007 to provide internet usage to the province and under that contract, could only charge a fixed fee and that contract has now expired. Mr. Lane indicated that the problem was with the design in network and the increase in capacity to the Eastlink towers, and they are capping heavy users.

Councillor Norman asked whether the Region could consider partnering with Shelburne, Lunenburg and Annapolis counties in dealing with this issue. Mayor Clarke stated he would follow-up, and that he would be forwarding a letter to Eastlink and the Premier expressing Council's concerns. He also stated that it is integral for economic growth in rural areas to have reliable internet service.

9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES:

There were no items discussed at this meeting.

10.0 ENGINEERING AND WORKS:

There were no items discussed at this meeting.

11.0 FINANCE

11.1 Bank Signing Officers / Region of Queens Pension Plan

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve any of the four signatures of Mayor Christopher Clarke, Deputy Mayor Darlene Norman, Richard MacLellan – Chief Administrative Officer or Jennifer Keating-Hubley – Director of Finance to be the first authorized signature as bank signing officers, effective July 15, 2015;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer or Director of Finance be authorized to counter sign;

AND FURTHER THAT these officers be authorized for signing all Region of Queens Bank Account.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve any of the four signatures of Mayor Christopher Clarke, Deputy Mayor Darlene Norman, Richard MacLellan – Chief Administrative Officer or Jennifer Keating-Hubley – Director of Finance to be the first authorized signature as pension signing officers, effective July 15, 2015;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer or Director of Finance be authorized to counter sign.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

12.0 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

Councillor Fralic stated that the first 21 Days of Summer was a great success. He also stated that, as chair of Privateers Days, it was the best year ever for this event, and noted that celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary will be a huge event.

13.0 PLANNING:

13.1 Chickens in Urban Residential Areas

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality request that Mr. Edward Whynot make formal application to amend the Region's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw to create a new zone to allow for chickens in urban residential areas;

AND THAT the proposed amendments include a requirement to hold a public information session prior to scheduling a public hearing to deal with such rezoning requests.

Mike MacLeod, Planner, indicated that at the Planning Advisory Committee meeting held July 6, and after considerable debate felt that it was most appropriate to make amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw, which would create a new zone to allow for keeping a small number of chickens.

Council then discussed the recommendation and report of the PAC regarding a local resident's request to keep a small number of chickens in an urban residential area. Several Councillors expressed their opinions on this matter and provided reasons why they would either support or not support the motion, and stated that this issue has been ongoing for a period of time and needs to be resolved, and to create a fair method for not only Mr. Whynot, but for any other residents who wish to own poultry.

Mr. MacLeod will send notification to Mr. Whynot outlining the violations, the options available to rectify and a specific timeframe to take action.

MOTION CARRIED 5 for, 3 against.

13.2 Amend Land Use Bylaw – Dog Grooming / Training

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality give notice of its intention to amend the Land Use Bylaw to:

- 1. Insert a definition for pet care services; and**
- 2. Include pet care services in the list of permitted uses in the Light Industrial (M1) Zone;**

AND THAT Council be cognizant of the need to undertake a review of the permitted uses in the Light Industrial (M1) Zone as part of a comprehensive review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw;

AND THAT a Public Hearing be held on August 11, 2015 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 249 White Point Road in Liverpool, NS at 8:55 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

13.3 Friends of Hand Snow Society – Use of RQM Land

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality grant permission to the Friends of Hank Snow Society; for the period of August 19 to 23, 2015 to:

- 1. Park Recreational Vehicles on the gravel overflow parking area beside Queens Place Emera Centre;**
- 2. Park Recreational Vehicles on the grass area between the water tower and Bristol Avenue; and**
- 3. Utilize PID #70243233 and the southern portion of PID #70081740 for overflow car parking.**

Mayor Clarke indicated that this request is the same as in previous years.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

14.0 QUEENS PLACE EMERA CENTRE:

Steve Burns, Manage QPEC, gave an update on the Blue Rodeo concert that was held Friday, July 10, 2015 and the Emera Centre. He indicated that it was very well attended (93% capacity) and was the most successful to date. He thanked all the sponsors, staff members and volunteers.

15.0 REPORTS:

There were no items discussed at this meeting.

16. OTHER:

16.1 HVAC System Repairs Call Centre Building

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

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorize the funding of repairs for the HVAC system located at the call center in the amount of \$44,000 and that these repairs be funded from the general operating surplus account.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

16.2 Retirement – CAO

Mayor Clarke presented Kathleen Rafuse, CAO with a retirement gift from Council and thanked her for her service.

17.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS

It was moved by Councillor Inglis and seconded by Councillor Fiske that the proceedings go "In-Camera" at 11:14 a.m. to discuss the following:

17.1 Personnel Matters, MGA 22(2)c

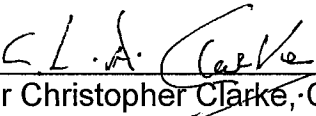
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Councillor Waterman and seconded by Councillor Fancy that the proceedings come out of "In-Camera" at 11:20 a.m.

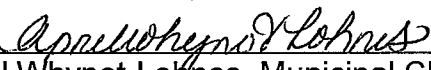
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

18.0 ADJOURNMENT

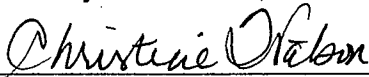
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair



April Whynot-Lohmes, Municipal Clerk



Christine Watson, Recording / Management Secretary

Date Approved: 
