



Region of Queens Municipality

Municipal Matters

The Budget Issue

May 2017

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COUNCIL APPROVES BUDGET WITH ZERO TAX RATE INCREASES

On April 11, 2017, the RQM Council approved the 2017/2018 Operational, Capital and Water Utility Budgets during the regular Council meeting, maintaining the taxation rates set in the previous 2016/2017 budget.

Council's direction to staff in preparing the budget was to have no increase in the tax rate. To maintain the previous year's tax rates, despite increasing costs in transfer payments, cuts were made in all departmental budgets, some administrative positions were eliminated, and there was a consolidation of the Recreation Department

and Queens Place Emera Centre.

In an annual budget of \$19,244,339, there is a slim projected surplus of only \$2,927.

Revenue and expenditure numbers for Queens Place Emera Center show higher than previous years as a result of additional events (this is the first year with two concerts scheduled). There are also deficit improvements expected.

Some budgeted items reflecting the priorities of Council include the Mersey Skate Park and BMX Bike Trail Project,

to be completed and open to the public in spring/summer. The Main Street and School Street infrastructure project will progress (a \$2.1 million project funded through the Clean Water, Waste Water Fund, a partnership with Federal government, Provincial government and RQM). Developing a solution for renewal or replacement of the Hillview Acres facility will continue. A revitalization and review of the Municipality's Attraction and Municipal Planning Strategies are planned to take place this year.

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

\$46,500 in grants were provided to 14 community organizations through the annual Grants to Organizations program.

Friends of Hank Snow Society	\$8,000
Liverpool Ukulele Ceilidh Society	\$3,000
Medway Area Communities Association	\$1,000
Mersey Band Society	\$1,000
Milton Heritage Society	\$ 750
North Queens Board of Trade	\$1,500
North Queens Heritage Society	\$ 750
Privateer Days Commission	\$10,000
Queens County Learning Network	\$1,000
Winds of Change Dramatic Society	\$ 750
Farmers' Market – NQ Board of Trade	\$1,000
Queens County Fair Association	\$8,000
Queens County Museum	\$5,000
Queens County Senior Safety Association	\$4,750

Additional RQM Budget information can be found on Page 4

RESIDENTIAL/RESOURCE RATES

Districts 1 – 12: \$1.02/\$100 Assessment
(area rate in District 5 & 6 [Brooklyn] is \$0.06)

District 13 (former Town of Liverpool): \$1.90/\$100 Assessment

COMMERCIAL RATES

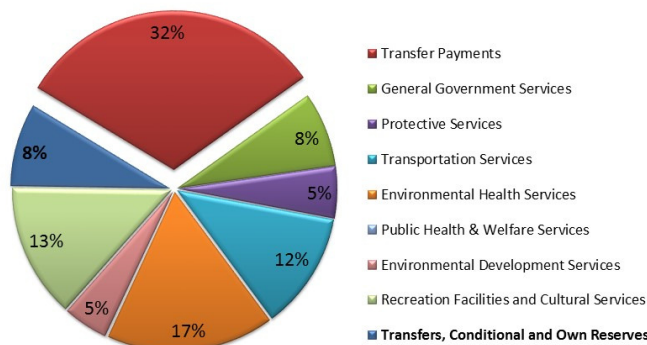
Districts 1 – 12: \$2.12/\$100 Assessment
(area rate in District 5 & 6 [Brooklyn] is \$0.06)

District 13 (former Town of Liverpool): \$3.00/\$100 Assessment

The 2017/2018 Region of Queens Municipality's operating and capital budgets are posted online: <http://www.regionofqueens.com/municipal-services/finance/financial-statement/budget>

How are Your Tax Dollars Spent?

2017/2018 Budgeted Transfer Payments and Department Expenditure



The Region of Queens Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month; Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are held in Council Chamber at the Administration Building, 249 White Point Road, Liverpool, NS. All are welcome to attend.

Mayor David B. Dagley

Phone: 902-354-3453 (RQM) 902-354-4991(home) Email: dbdagley@regionofqueens.com

Council's priorities to focus on during our mandate are: 1) Growing our Population and Economy, 2) Delivering Desirable Municipal Services, and 3) Governing to Municipal Best Practices. New residents will require accommodations and services, becoming customers at local businesses. Discussions continue with potential employers and developers on rental accommodations, employment, and business opportunities. All RQM Policies and By-laws were added to our website, to accompany minutes, audio recordings, and current agendas of Council meetings, which occur 3 times per month.

There is much activity occurring. Queens Place Emera Centre has secured two music events - Tom Cochrane (June 28) and Barenaked Ladies (October 20). Hockey, StarSkate and Broomball championships were held, and the South Shore Sport and Leisure Expo occurred from May 5th to 7th. The Mersey Skate Park and the BMX Bike Trail will be finished this spring. Kings Orange Rangers are planning an International Re-Enactment and Encampment event in Liverpool for August 2018. Lanes Privateer Inn will operate Fort Point Lighthouse, and the Queens County Museum will operate the old Courthouse as a Museum of Justice. Mill Village School was sold to the DEVI International Boarding School Society. Julie Anne Babin is managing the upstairs space of the Town Hall Arts and Cultural Centre. ACOA provided \$ 55,000.00 to re-shingle the roof, and funded a renovation at the Astor Theatre which included replacement seats donated by the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Funding to restore the Perkins House was announced by Premier McNeil on April 23, with work commencing in 2017.

Council approved sourcing a development partner to create a solution proposal for Hillview Acres facility, resulting in a modern facility keeping jobs and beds in Queens. The Region agreed to assist the Queens Community Aquatic Society with pool design and budgeting, to determine its feasibility. Two grant applications were approved by the Province to improve internet service in the community of Greenfield and the Hub facility in Caledonia. We are continuing to pursue additional rural internet funding. Discussion on the poor condition of County roads continues with the Department of Transportation. The Province has announced that Tolls will not be placed on the 103 Highway, and that twinning will proceed in phases. We will continue to work diligently on your behalf, and thank you for the confidence you place in us.

Councillor Kevin Muise, District 1

Phone: 902-683-2207 Email: kmuise@regionofqueens.com

Spring is here and summer coming fast! Carter's Beach is still moving along at a snails pace, but hopefully it will be ready for summer. The Port Mouton exit is still ongoing and hopefully we'll see some new signs and lights put up soon.

On a good note, I'd like to congratulate Mark Allison and Heather Kelly on receiving Provincial Volunteer Awards as the Region of Queens' 2 Volunteers of the Year. If it wasn't for people like them, a lot of things wouldn't happen in the community.

Councillor Heather Kelly, District 2

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My first 6 months as Councillor have been busy. I am pleased to represent RQM as Councillor Liaison on the Queens Community Health Board; as well, I am Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee, and the Councillor representing Municipalities on the NS 211 Board.

In District 2, the Queens County Museum will open the Museum of Justice at the Liverpool Courthouse in June. Lane's Privateer Inn returns to Fort Point Lighthouse this summer. Julie Babin is Facilitator at the Town Hall Arts and Cultural Centre. These decisions have been positive factors in presenting a budget with zero tax rate increase, and creating a solid foundation for economic growth.

Councillor Brian G. Fralic, District 3

Phone: 902-350-0870 Email: bgfralic@regionofqueens.com

Six months has gone by very quickly. Learning new governing methods with new and returning councillors and Mayor has gone smoothly. We continue to work towards a change in the Downtown core.

Lots of conversations happening and we are excited to see if they will come to fruition. Partnerships with Penny Lane, Lanes, Julie Babin and others are a glimpse into the future of business. Partnerships are important for a successful town. In District 3 we continue to battle litter, so I urge all of you to not "toss" but rather take that trash home with you.

Deputy Mayor Susan MacLeod, District 4

Phone: 902-354-3746 (home) 902-350-0334 (cell) Email: smacleod@regionofqueens.com

We look forward to enjoying our communities in the great outdoors this spring/summer. District 4 has great recreational spots to visit, like Queens Place Emera Centre, Cosby's Garden Centre Sculptures, Brooklyn Community Hall playground, Hank Snow Playground, Brooklyn Marina, Seaside Community Centre, Beach Meadows Beach, and coastal areas; Mersey Skatepark and bike track will open soon.

I am hosting an open Public Meeting for residents in District 4 on Tuesday, May 16 at 6 pm at Brooklyn Community Hall. Have a chat about what is happening and any topics or concerns you may have. I am hoping to have another in the fall. It has been a very busy 6 months and I look forward to the next.

Councillor Jack Fancy, District 5

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In April, the budget was passed with no tax rate increases, which was good news for residents and businesses alike. A few work details, adjacent to Milton's new bridge have yet to be completed but this will not be forgotten. Paving, potholes, and cleaning ditching are ongoing issues. I have asked that work be done on several streets. Job creation and senior's housing and are also part of our mandate, for which there are exciting endeavours in the works.

Finally, roadside garbage and dumping are disheartening! Please be part of the solution, not the problem. Milton is such a pretty community; let's keep it that way!

Councillor Raymond Fiske, District 6

Phone: 902-685-2990 Email: rfiske@regionofqueens.com

I would like to thank our residents in District 6 for your continued support and trust as your Councillor. My focus has been my ongoing support and assistance with seniors, helping them apply for grants offered through different levels of governments. I have also been working closely with all fire departments of Queens County, and working with Charleston and Mill Village fire departments helping them with their amalgamation. And as always, I am looking for direction from the Department of Transportation in road repairs and paving.

Wishing all residents of my District and Queens a enjoyable and safe summer.

Councillor Gil Johnson, District 7

Phone: 902-521-4235 Email: gjohnson@regionofqueens.com

Reflecting on the first six months as councillor, I am confident we are making strides to enhance Queens. Open communication and networking is key to this success.

We are showcasing North Queens through the NQ Board of Trade, focusing on attracting new business and new families into the community. The VIC has begun a broad networking of Community events and opportunities sharing. In partnerships with Queens Care Society, the transportation and housing initiatives are moving towards reality. I'll be attending the Farmers' Market to hear your comments and concerns, and RQM representatives will provide details regarding programs and opportunities to promote and support local organizations.

PAYMENT METHODS

TAX BILLS WILL BE ISSUED JUNE 1, 2017. INTEREST IS FORGIVEN IF PAID BY JUNE 30, 2017.
THE INTEREST RATE ON OVERDUE TAXES WILL BE 12% PER YEAR.

Tax and other municipal payments can be made in person at 249 White Point Road, Liverpool, by telephone banking, through on-line computer banking, in person at your bank, or by mail.

In person payments can only be made by cash, cheque or debit. We do not accept credit card payments at the Region office.

LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS

Tax exemptions of \$250 for the upcoming year's property taxes are available for households with combined incomes less than \$23,184 subject to the application guidelines. If you qualified last year, you will have received an application form in the mail. Applicants must supply proof of income. If you think you might qualify this year, please contact our Finance Department at 902-354-3453 to obtain an application, or visit our the Finance Section of our website at www.regionofqueens.com.

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR EXEMPTIONS IS FEBRUARY 28, 2018

QUEENS BY THE NUMBERS

- District 13 has 3rd lowest Commercial rate compared to other Municipal towns
- 63 % of RQM Revenue comes from taxes, compared to the Municipal average of 81%
- 15% of RQM Revenues are from Sale of Services, compared to Municipal average of 4%

Source: 2015/2016 Municipal Indicators, compiled by Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs

BURN SAFELY

Spring 2017 has already seen several forest fires that the local volunteer fire departments have fought. You can do your part to prevent forest fires this spring and summer - before burning brush or having an outdoor fire, check the Province's website to verify if burning restrictions are in effect (updated daily at 2 pm).

<https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/>

PROMOTE YOUR EVENT!

If you are part of a community group or business with an event coming up in the Region of Queens, please send us all the details by email: info@regionofqueens.com and put 'Events Calendar' in the subject line. We'll post it on our calendar on the website, and share it on Facebook and Twitter.

FIND US ON THE INTERNET

Website:
www.regionofqueens.com
Facebook:
Region of Queens
Queens Place Emera Centre
Town Hall Arts & Cultural Centre
Twitter:
[@RegionofQueens](https://twitter.com/RegionofQueens)
[@QueensPlace1](https://twitter.com/QueensPlace1)

RQM Budget 2017/2018 ... continued

Holding tax rates during times of increasing costs is a challenge.

Staff in all departments have worked very hard to reduce their budgets, and Council appreciates the efforts made to reduce costs, while providing key municipal services.

We entered office with a mandate to maintain rates, and staff has worked diligently to achieve that goal.

*David B. Dagley, Mayor,
Region of Queens Municipality*

COOL CONCERTS



Tickets at Ticketpro.ca



Do you have yours?

AFTER HOURS WATER & SEWER EMERGENCIES

Please contact our After Hours Pager at
1-902-354-4749

In the event of a water or sewer related emergency on the Municipal utility system.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

there's variety of helpful information on the RQM website, including minutes and audio recordings of Council and Committee of the Whole meetings, as well as minutes of the Queens Place Advisory, Planning Advisory, and Heritage Advisory Committees? All of the RQM Bylaws and Policies are also online, along with a staff list directory, electoral districts maps, business directory, and much more. Have a look!



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