

**APRIL 4, 2016**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council 1 was held on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

Mayor J. Gennoe, Couns. K. Francis, D. Taylor, S. Lawand and J. MacLellan. Also present was the Town Clerk J. Eaton.

**AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved on motion by Coun. K. Francis, seconded by Coun. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from February 1, 2016 were approved on motion by Coun. J. MacLellan, seconded by Coun. K. Francis. **Motion Carried.**

**JOHN DAVISON, REMO: INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE**

John Davison, Regional Emergency Measures Officer (REMO), a division of Municipal Affairs; provided background and information on organization; works with various emergency response teams; event action plans; comfort centres; command centres; emergency preparedness. Information is on their website; manuals located in all Town Halls.

**PLANNING DIRECTOR:**

**MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

**UNSIGHTLY & DANGEROUS MONTHLY REPORT**

Planning Director R. Burek presented Reports to Council (attached).

Questions:

Coun. K. Francis re 25/27 Emmanuel Street, number of vehicles on properties, concerns; business on premises. Planning Director R. Burek will continue to monitor; recommended that he be notified when concerns arise; times and dates.

Coun. J. MacLellan re any update on 12 MacLean Street.

Planning Director R. Burek reported that he posted a 30-day demolition order as of today; and sent a letter by registered mail.

Coun. D. Taylor re 131 Hudson Street; any update. R. Burek stated that no reply has been received to date.

Coun. J. MacLellan motioned to receive the Planning Directors reports for the month of April, seconded by Coun. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

**FIRE CHIEF MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

Fire Chief D. Campbell read the monthly activity report for March, 2016, attached.

Coun. S. Lawand commended the Fire Department, especially Nathan Smith for his courageous act of entering a house fire and saving a life.

Coun. S. Lawand moved to receive the Fire Department's Monthly Activity Report for March 2016, seconded by Coun. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

**TOWN ENGINEER: MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – PUBLIC WORKS**

Town Engineer B. Funke read the Town Engineer Monthly Activity Report, Transportation and Property, for March 2016, attached.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. D. Taylor commented re GPS units; asked about snow plow damage on properties, boulevards. Town Engineer B. Funke replied that repairs will commence over the next couple of months; when frost is gone.

Coun. S. Lawand asked Town Engineer if residents contact Public Works Department regarding winter damage. B. Funke replied that Public Works will be doing a street by street assessment and repair list; as well as information gathered from the residents.

Coun. S. Lawand re damage to traffic light. B. Funke replied that repair costs will be sent to insurance company (of driver); repairs may take up to one month.

Coun. D. Lawand commented that there was an incorrect sign where Foord Street was spelled Ford.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to receive the Town Engineer's Monthly Activity Report for March 2016, seconded by Coun. J. MacLellan. **Motion Carried.**

#### **RATIFY: SIDEWALK SANDER – MCFARLAND HALIFAX \$14,895.00**

Coun. J. MacLellan made motion to ratify the purchase of sidewalk sander from the lowest bid, McFarland Halifax, at \$14,895.00, seconded by Coun. K. Francis. **Motion Carried.**

#### **PCRAS – TRACK EXPANSION ESTIMATE: \$38,000 + HST**

Mayor J. Gennoe to take topic to PCSSA meeting on April 18 regarding cost-sharing with the County Units.

#### **TOWN ENGINEER: MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – WATER DEPARTMENT**

Town Engineer B. Funke presented the Monthly Activity Report for the Water Utility, attached for March.

Comments / Questions:

Coun. D. Taylor comments re workshop she attended; water / sewer projects.

Coun. S. Lawand question re Town Office flooring. B. Funke provided update.

Coun. S. Lawand made a motion to receive the Town Engineer's Monthly Activity Report for the Water Utility for March 2016 as presented, seconded by Coun. D. Taylor.

**Motion Carried.**

#### **RECREATION DIRECTOR MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

Recreation Director P. Corbin presented the Monthly Activity Report, April 2016, (attached), highlighting:

- Recreation Facilities; Albion Ball Field; meeting with SAAA
- Volunteer Awards
- Website updated; Student Job Ads
- Homecoming
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee
- MORE Relay and Run
- Go Green Get Clean

Questions/Comments:

Coun. D. Taylor re funding cuts from DEANS; NS Tourism is managing this funding program

#### **STELLY COMMUNITY ROOM – DEVELOP A POLICY**

Recreation Director P. Corbin updated Council re Stellarton Youth Centre (The Stelly) since its closure; now a community use room. Presented a "Facility Use Request Policy"; used by three different groups, schedule attached. P. Corbin recommends to keep providing space for these non-profit groups in the community at no cost so they can continue to provide their service. Looking for Council's input. Town Clerk J. Eaton informed Council on cleaning expenses of \$2,600 last year.

Discussion commenced. Recreation Director P. Corbin to continue monitoring facility; and will meet with Town Engineer re cleaning requirements.

Coun. K. Francis made a motion to accept the Recreation Director's Monthly Activity Report for April 2016, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

### **COUN. D. TAYLOR: MOU UPDATE**

Coun. D. Taylor wanted to address some concerns about the MOU:

- Voting will be both Electronic and Paper Ballots
- Business Park debt; Stellarton's precondition in the MOU was that the debt will be taken over by the new municipality (if amalgamation takes place)
- URB Hearings; waiting for their report
- Steering Committee putting on public communication/information sessions
- Handouts available; Public Meetings dates; presentations planned for different organizations
- If plebiscite goes forward with positive results, a Transition Coordinator will be hired; a CAO will be hired; reduction of 8 non-union positions and 8 union positions.
- New council will consist of one Mayor and 10 district Councillors
- Onepictoucounty website
- Misinformation out there; personal attacks; unfortunate; wants what is best for Pictou County

Questions/comments:

Coun. K. Francis re Stellarton's meeting on April 14 at NSCC; size concerns. Coun. D. Taylor replied that this will be discussed at next meeting.

Coun. S. Lawand questioned Electronic Voting and the inability to recount; as well as the possibility of illegal multiple voting. Coun. D. Taylor replied that multiple voting fines can be as high as \$10,000. Town Clerk J. Eaton suggested bringing these questions to the Returning Officer for accurate answers.

Coun. S. Lawand re phone surveys about proposed amalgamation. Coun. D. Taylor stated that the Steering Committee not involved with any phone surveys.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of Stellarton Town Council I will be May 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Brian Atkinson comments:

- Received a phone call re MOU survey
- Concerns about electronic voting
- Read specific questions
- Stellarton Debt load; New Glasgow debt; Pictou debt; County reserves
- Questions given to the Clerk

### **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.