

MARCH 11, 2019
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns. B. Knight, S. Lawand, S. Campbell and G. Pentz. Also present was the Town Clerk S. Higdon.

1. AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as amended to include recommendation from Police Commission, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from February 11, 2019 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

- 3. PRESENTATION:** Certificate of Achievement – Evan Sharpe, Male Athlete of the Year Special Olympics NS
Mayor D. MacGillivray congratulated and presented Certificate of Achievement to Evan Sharpe, Male Athlete of the Year Special Olympics NS

PRESENTATION: Stellarton Memorial Rink Citizens Group
Darren Stroud addressed Council as spokesperson on behalf of a group of Stellarton residents interested in assisting the Town to address issues facing the Stellarton Memorial Rink; group made up of parents, tradespeople, business owners, retired educators, hockey coaches, and other community representatives. Highlights include:

- Exploring alternative means available to assist the Town
- Conditions of the Rink
- Council's decision, timelines
- Petition circulated to encourage Council to extend its final decision until February 28, 2020; 1,246 signatures received – 457 from Stellarton
- Public input, site visits, need to gather additional information
- Very good interaction between the Town and Community Group
- Group respectfully requests that the Town commits to the following:
 - o To defer until February 28, 2020 its decision as to whether or not to permanently close the Stellarton Memorial Rink
 - o To facilitate the Citizen's Group continued access to rink premises and Town staff during the deferral period
 - o To keep the Rink at a warm idle; meaning services to the rink remain intact i.e. electricity, water

Council thanked Mr. Stroud for presentation.

4. PROCLAMATION

Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness – March 26, 2019
Mayor D. MacGillivray read proclamation declaring March 26, 2019 as Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness. Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve Proclamation, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

5. REPORTS FROM THE ELECTED

Submitted; available on Website and attached.

Mayor D. MacGillivray added to his report the Pictou County Wellness Centre meeting held March 11, 2019; financial information: Town's contributions were: 2014 = \$305,000; 2015 = \$286,000; 2016 = \$305,000; 2017 = \$378,000 and last year = \$265,000; this year to date has been \$205,000 (probably limit for the year).

Coun. B. Knight added to his report information regarding Zenabis re jobs and opportunities for the youth; acknowledged past and present Councils, realtor broker Cathy Covey, and MP Sean Fraser.

Motion made by Coun. B. Knight to accept the Reports from the Elected, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF - for information; reports attached.

- a. Police Service – Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept the Stellarton Police Services Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Emily Jones – Building Official; Fire Inspector (not present)
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept the Building Official / Fire Inspector's report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Rachael McLean, Planner, Development Officer's Report.
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept the Planner / Development Officer's report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- d. Chief Dwight Campbell – Fire Department
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department for February 2019, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**
- e. Paul Corbin – Community Development & Recreation
Coun. S. Lawand question re memorial benches. P. Corbin stated that he used creative photo-shopping to show possible bench location.
Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept Community Development & Recreation report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- f. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer, highlighting:
 - Heard back from Municipal Affairs re funding application for sewer projects; waiting for final information.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. G. Pentz re main street snow clearing; new salt truck

Coun. B. Knight re funding formula for sewer project; B. Murray reported that federal government pays 73%; remaining is Town's responsibility; total project estimated at \$2.2 million.

Coun. S. Lawand re asphalt rating and sidewalk rating. B. Murray replied that both will be complete in the next couple of weeks.

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept the Town Engineer's Report and Water Utility Report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- Town of Shelburne Re: Provincial HST – for information.
- Healthy Pictou County Re: Update on efforts – Town Clerk S. Higdon re the initiative done by the Pictou County Health Authority regarding updates on doctor's recruitment.
- Commissionaires Re: Corps Report – Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that the report is available in the administration office.
- Town of Westville to Aaron Millen, NS Association of Realtors Re: Deed Transfer Tax – Town Clerk S. Higdon commented that this letter was copied to all municipalities; a response to the NS Association of Realtors.

8. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT – FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Town Clerk S. Higdon read the following recommendations for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 25, 2019:

Recommendation #1 – On the recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve a donation of \$100.00 to CARMA.

Recommendation #2 – On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve a \$100.00 donation to the 36th Annual Donald Keddy Memorial Hockey Tournament.

Recommendation #3 – On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve a \$100.00 annual donation to the Chignecto East Regional Science Fair.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approved recommendations from the Committee of the Whole meeting held February 25, 2019, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

9. STELLARTON MEMORIAL RINK OPERATIONS

Mayor D. MacGillivray provided comments on situation; budget information; staff recommended an aging building assessment to determine needs; the aging building audit was presented to Council in October 2018; following staff's review, it was presented to the Rink Commission in November 2018; there were two public information meetings held in January 2019; the report shows that the Rink will need \$4.4 million in repairs over the next 4 years; other pressing municipal priorities need to be addressed; do not want to raise taxes; appreciates all feedback; the decision is to increase tax rate or cease rink operations.

Coun. B. Knight comments: other financial responsibilities, improvements needed; buildings, vehicles, and underground infrastructure; essential services; elevator for Town Hall in future; strain on budget; poor rink conditions as per professionals, consultants and staff; duty to be fiscally responsible; safety concerns; not in favour of tax increase; kept the public informed of situation; difficult decision.

Coun. S. Lawand comments: rink audit very concerning; supports the requests from the Stellarton Memorial Rink Citizens Group, except for keeping electrical services.

Coun. S. Campbell comments: also supports the Citizens Group; give them an opportunity to see what they can do.

Coun. G. Pentz comments: hardest issue to decide; emotional; too much work needed.

Mayor D. MacGillivray stated that the Rink is not being torn down with tonight's decision; open to working with the Citizens Group; building remain standing; review concerned citizens plan next year.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to cease operations on March 31, 2019, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

Coun. S. Campbell voted Nay.

Motion Carried.

10. POLICIES

a. Annual Update of Joint Occupational Health and Safety Policy (7 Day Notice) – Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve Annual Update of Joint Occupational Health and Safety Policy, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

11. POLICE COMMISSION APPOINTEE – Coun. B. Knight reported on behalf of the Police Commission, two applications received; Nancy Terris was recommended as representative on Police Commission. Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept Police Commission's recommendation and appoint Nancy Terris, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

12. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council meeting will be April 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

13. OPEN FORUM

Darren Stroud comments:

- Clarity re Rink closure dates, and “warm idle”

Mayor D. MacGillivray stated that February 2020, final decision will be made based on concerned citizens plan.

Christian Keay, Birch Hill Drive, comments:

- Clarity for costs associated with rink renovations versus ongoing operational costs; Council’s position for future budgeting

Mayor D. MacGillivry re bringing forth a plan for Council’s consideration

14. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz at 6:30 p.m.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK