

April 14, 2020
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A virtual regular meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 4:00 PM via the Zoom platform as directed by Honourable Chuck Porter, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing due to the State of Emergency declared on March 22, 2020.

PRESENT

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns.B. Knight, S. Campbell, S. Lawand, and G. Pentz
Also present, Town Clerk S. Higdon, Town Engineer B. Murray, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, P. Clarke, Planner, R. Burek, Building Official, E. Lutton, Fire Chief, M. O'Sullivan, and Police Chief M. Hobeck.

1. AGENDA

Councillor B. Knight approved the Agenda, seconded by Councillor G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

Town Clerk S. Higdon read the Direction of Minister under a Declared State of Emergency. (Section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act, the Municipal Government Act, and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councillor G. Pentz made a motion to accept the March 9, 2020 Town Council minutes seconded by Councillor B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Stellarton Memorial Rink

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported there was an email received from Solicitor Gerald Green to Town Solicitor Craig Clarke on April 13, 2020. *Please consider this email as confirmation that a non-profit organization to be incorporated under the name Stellarton Memorial Community Centre Association ("SMCCA") is prepared to exercise the option to purchase the Stellarton Memorial Rink building from the Town of Stellarton for one dollar with the intent to turn it into a community centre, all as contemplated by the motion passed at the March 9th meeting of Town Council.*

The Association is prepared to complete this transaction through any of:

- (1) a purchase of the building only with a land lease to ensure access,*
- (2) a purchase of the land and building, or*
- (3) lease of the building only.*

The Association is prepared to finalize the terms of these arrangements and complete the transaction by a reasonable timeline to be agreed upon by the parties.

S. Higdon reported the opinion of Town Solicitor Craig Clarke is that the only option council should consider is the purchase with a buy back clause, a lease, or neither option.

Mayor MacGillivray outlined council's motions from March. He noted that the offer which was made in March was not in consultation with legal and council was unaware that the land could not go with just the purchase of the building only, which was the offer.

The options before Council are:

Sell the land with the building; lease the building to the group; or proceed with demolition.

Councillor Lawand made a motion to lease the building to the Stellarton Memorial Community Centre Association, seconded by Deputy Mayor Campbell. Councillor B. Knight and Councillor G. Pentz voted nay. Mayor MacGillivray voted nay. Motion defeated.

Councillor Pentz made a motion to instruct staff to prepare for demolition and shut off water and power to the rink, seconded by Councillor Knight.

On the question, Mayor MacGillivray noted he is not comfortable selling the land for \$1.00, nor is entering into any kind of lease agreement is in the best interest of the tax payer due to any potential liability to the taxpayer. Mayor MacGillivray wanted to take the opportunity to thank the group for trying to save the building. Councillor Lawand and Deputy Mayor Campbell voted nay. Mayor MacGillivray voted in favour of the motion. Motion carried.

There was no other business arising from the minutes.

4. PRESENTATION- DEANS

Cindy MacKinnon, Managing Director gave an update to council. Highlights include:

- Vision- Facilitate sustainable and economic growth
- Three Pillars of focus; destination marketing; visitor services; and Industry Partnerships
- Ambassador Program
- Social Media and New website
- 2020 initiatives
- No increase to financial request or 2020-21

Questions/Comments:

Mayor MacGillivray congratulation DEANS on their successful Ambassador Program. Councillor Knight commented on the good job Cindy and DEANS are doing.

5. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- a. Police Service – Chief Hobeck presented report. He added that six tickets were issued on the weekend due to non-compliance with physical distancing.

Questions/Comments:

Councillor B. Knight asked if there are issues with PPE? There are not at this time.

Councillor B.Knight made a motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Councillor S. Lawand. Motion carried.

- b. Emily Lutton – Building Official; Fire Inspector presented report.

Questions/Comments:

Councillor G. Pentz made a motion to accept the Building Official report, seconded by Councillor B.Knight. Motion carried.

- c. Roland Burek- Planner presented report. He added that PQ Properties site plan approval will require a Public Hearing because there were complaints raised. He is aware of other municipalities that are doing these and it can be worked out that people can phone in to speak to council with any issues or complaints. S.Higdon noted that a number can be provided for them to call in. The Public Hearing can be held before the next council meeting in May

Questions/Comments:

Councillor G. Pentz asked if people wanted to complain how could they notify council? R. Burek noted that a conference call is probably the only way to go.

Mayor MacGillivray asked R.Burek if he could speak to the businesses that would be affected by the Sidewalk Café By-law. Councillor B. Knight has asked that the Fire Chief, Police Chief and R. Burek look at alternate locations.

Councillor G. Pentz made a motion to accept Planner's Report, seconded by Councillor B. Knight. Motion carried.

- d. Fire Chief, Mike O'Sullivan presented the Fire Department report.

Questions/Comments:

Councillor G. Pentz made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report, seconded by B. Knight. Motion carried.

- e. Paige Clarke- Marketing & Communications Coordinator presented her report.

Questions/Comments:

Councillor's Knight and Pentz commented on a good job being done.

Councillor B.Knight made a motion to accept the Marketing and Communications Report, seconded by Councillor Pentz. Motion carried.

- f. Blaine Murray- Town Engineer presented his report.
Questions/Comments:
Councillor B. Knight noted there are 43 new cases of Covid-19 today.
Councillor G.Pentz made a motion to accept the Town Engineer's Report, seconded by Councillor S.Lawand.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Attorney General Justice Re: Accessibility Act. – For Council's information. Town Clerk S.Higdon read letter regarding the requirements for the Town of Stellarton and the Accessibility Plan for 2021 for information. Mayor MacGillivray noted that the Town has an Accessibility Advisory Committee and will have a plan ready for 2021.
- b. Warden Parker Re: Letter of Support- Town Clerk S. Higdon read an email from Warden Parker asking the Town of Stellarton for a letter of support with regards to their application for funding for Internet Access.
Councillor B. Knight made a motion to write a letter of support for the Municipality of the County of Pictou for internet access, seconded by Councillor G.Pentz. Motion carried.

7. Committee of the Whole Report- No Report

8. Police Commission Report

Recommendation #1 Council approve the annual donation to the Stellarton/Westville Youth Police Corps. in the amount of \$200.00;
Recommendation #2 Council approve selling the Rambler Police Car through the tender process.
Councillor B. Knight made a motion to accept the recommendations brought forth by the Police Commission, seconded by Councillor Lawand. Motion carried.

9. Resolution 04-12-20- Waiving of Interest on Water and Taxes

WHEREAS the Municipality has received approval from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board regarding water interest;
AND WHEREAS The Municipal Government Act (MGA) s.111 gives municipalities the authority to set the due date for taxes, and establish interest rates to charge on overdue accounts;
AND WHEREAS The Province has declared a State of Emergency effective March 22, 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Stellarton approve the waving of interest for Water and Taxes on overdue accounts until June 30, 2020.
Councillor G. Pentz made motion to accept Resolution 04-12-20, seconded by Councillor B.Knight. Motion carried.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. with a Public Hearing scheduled for 5:15 PM.

Town Clerk. S.Higdon noted some of the postponements for future events.

- Volunteer Reception is postponed until September
- Community Clean up is postponed (TBD)
- Police Commission- May 7 (Teleconference)
- Committee of the Whole – April 27 (Virtual through Zoom)
- Council – May 11 (Virtual through Zoom)

11. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councillor G. Pentz the meeting adjourned.

STELLARTON TOWN COUNCIL
April 14, 2020
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK