

**MARCH 9, 2020**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 9, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

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

**1. AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved as amended to include 7.g. Active Pictou County Report, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from February 10, 2020 Council were approved on motion by Coun. S. Lawand seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. PRESENTATION – SMART METERS**

Nova Scotia Power Jamie Chipp & Mary Black provided background and information re power meters and smart meters; very similar to the digital meters already in use in Nova Scotia. Highlights:

- Smart technology
- Governed by the Nova Scotia Utility Review Board and the Federal Agency Measurement Canada
- Concerns addressed and available on the URB and the NSP website
- Safe and secure
- Information gathered more often; 15-minute increments
- Consumers have access to information re energy usage
- Outages are reported as they occur
- Target to complete transition to Smart Meters is the end of 2020
- “Opt-Out” program available
- Installation will be performed by Tribus Services, a Canadian-based utility services provided; Stellarton scheduled for March 2020.
- Information / communication cards sent via mail to customers

Questions/Comments:

Coun. S. Lawand re no increase costs associated with Smart Meters; what other benefits; how to offset the expense of installing new meters and timelines for payment; will there be any lay-offs?

Jamie Chipp referred to their website which outlines 16 benefits identified with the NS URB; more accurate information; energy awareness for efficiency purposes. There will be job loss for meter readers; programs in place to assist workers impacted.

Coun. S. Campbell re costs to “Opt-Out”.

Mr. Chipp stated that there will be a fee of around \$4.00 per month for residents; business customers will be more.

Coun. B. Knight re time of day savings; risk of fire?

Mr. Chipp reassured that these Smart Meters are safe and commonly used; high standards are met.

## 5. EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Mayor D. MacGillivray read Proclamation of Purple Day March 26, 2020; dedicated to promoting epilepsy awareness around the world.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to declare March 26, 2020 as Purple Day in Stellarton, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

## 6. STELLARTON MEMORIAL RINK

Town Clerk S. Higdon for the record; there are three tiers with regard to the Stellarton Memorial Rink - engineering, insurance and financial (report attached).

Comments:

Coun. S. Lawand re Town is not in position to financially support the Rink; other essential priorities; supporter of all recreational facilities in Town; not in favour of spending on recreational facilities when our essential infrastructure is in need of upgrading; not in favour of raising taxes to support non-essential services. Coun. S. Lawand does support the Stellarton Memorial Rink Citizens Group morally, and provide them the opportunity to fundraise to keep the building standing and transform it into a community centre.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to accept the recommendation of not demolishing the building while they fundraise the required amount and to assign a Councillor to that Committee, motion seconded by Coun. S. Campbell.

On the question:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re provincial and federal grant funding concerns.

Coun. B. Knight and Coun. G. Pentz voted nay. Motion defeated.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to get quote for demolition and come back to Council at next regular meeting in April, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand with amendment to provide an option for a non-profit organization to purchase the building for one dollar with the intent to turn it into a community centre. Mayor D. MacGillivray asked Coun. Pentz if the motion included to permanently cease the rink operations, agreed.

Town Clerk S. Higdon for clarification, what is the deadline for amendment.

After discussion, Mayor D. MacGillivray reported that deadline will be April 14, 2020 by 4:00 p.m.

Mayor D. MacGillivray comments for the record re: love of Stellarton; SNC Lavalin Report; Council tried best to look at all scenarios for the Rink; renovations too costly; safety concerns; community centre option not recommended; referred to the indoor sports complex who is struggling financially; happy memories of the Memorial Rink; it would jeopardize the Town's future by investing in the Rink; very difficult decision losing a Memorial Rink; possible use of the area in future; recreational and social benefit to residents while honoring the Stellarton Memorial Rink and what it stood for.

Coun. S. Campbell comments: if all worked together, Council, staff, concerned citizens group, and volunteers, the Stellarton Memorial Rink can be reserved and restored to a community centre; not easy but worthwhile.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re motion on the floor to permanently cease operations at the Stellarton Memorial Rink effective immediately and to ask staff to investigate the cost of demolition for budget deliberations and to offer a non-profit association, (not a business), the option to purchase the building for one dollar to be used for recreational purposes only. Offer stands until April 14, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

**Motion Carried.**

## 7. REPORTS FROM STAFF - for information; reports attached.

- a. Police Service – Chief Hobeck presented report.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

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

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept report, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

**Motion Carried.**

- c. Rachael McLean Planner, Development Officer – on leave; No report.
- d. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department, presented monthly report.  
Coun. B. Knight motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for February 2020, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**
- e. Paige Clarke – Marketing & Communications  
P. Clarke presented report.  
Questions/Comments:  
Coun. G. Pentz re business community in the downtown area. P. Clarke confirmed that she has been reaching out to the businesses and hopes to have the Business Advisory Committee up and running in the future.  
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approved Marketing & Communications report, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**
- f. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer  
Town Engineer B. Murray presented his reports.  
Questions/Comments:  
Coun. G. Pentz re update on the Town Barn renovations. B. Murray reported that the walls are painted; the floor is down; putting in fixtures; switchover to the existing building soon.  
Coun. B. Knight re lights by the post office. B. Murray reported that poles are ready and installation planned for spring.  
Mayor D. MacGillivray re estimate for Rundell Street sewer/water replacement improvements. B. Murray stated that preliminary costs are at \$600,000.00; still working on the specifications and design for project.  
Mayor D. MacGillivray re Water Report; NS Environment directives to the Town. Town Engineer B. Murray comments: the province required system assessment reports on all water utilities across the province; met with municipal staff; reviewed documents, procedures; end result was every water department received a set of directives; Stellarton received four directives – mainly administrative tasks to do; submit a Disinfection SOP; updated Filtration SOP; Process Schematic; quarterly samples submitted.  
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept the Town Engineer’s Report and Water Utility Report, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**
- g. Active Pictou County Report received as information.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Royal Canadian Legion Branch #28 Re: Veteran Remembrance Flags – Town Clerk S. Higdon read letter; inquiring if the Town wanted to purchase Veteran Remembrance Flags to place along the street; cost is \$200/flag; price drops for bulk orders. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to look into purchasing some of the flags, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**
- b. G. R. Saunders Re: Thank you from Barb Jerrett re SHS Soccer Uniforms – Town Clerk S. Higdon commented that Barb Jerrett approached Town re SHS memorabilia that is stored in Community Centre; she was looking for soccer uniforms; Public Works provided the uniforms; she wanted to say Thank You.
- c. Commissionaires Re: Corps Rapport (copy available in the Administration Office)

**9. 2020 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – Bill Colbourne**

Mayor D. MacGillivray reported that Bill Colbourne has been selected as the 2020 Volunteer of the Year; nominated by the Christ Anglican Church. Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that 11 nominations were submitted from volunteer groups within the Town of Stellarton; reviewed by the Recreation Committee; all 11 nominees will be recognized at our Towns’ Volunteer Reception event on April 22 at the Stellarton Fire Hall. Mr. Bill

Colbourne was chosen by Committee to be the Town's representative at the Provincial Reception. Town Clerk S. Higdon read Mr. Colbourne's volunteer efforts. Town Clerk re still time to nominate individuals for our local volunteer reception on April 22, 2020.

Coun. B. Knight re selection process; nominees' names are not known; only credentials. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve Bill Colbourne as 2020 Volunteer of the Year, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**10. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT – No Recommendations**

**11. BACK UP FIRE INSPECTOR – TOM STEELE**

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to appoint Tom Steele as Back Up Fire Inspector, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**12. RESOLUTION 202-03-09\_A – Appointment of Returning Officer**

Town Clerk S. Higdon read resolution appointing Josephine MacDonald as Returning Officer for the municipal election to be held in October 2020 in the Town of Stellarton. Coun. B. Knight motioned to approve the appointment of Josephine MacDonald as Returning Officer, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.** Coun. S. Lawand voted Nay.

**13. BYLAW – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING Noise Control Bylaw**

Town Clerk S. Higdon, as per the Municipal Government Act, the Bylaw was advertised in the paper; this would be the second reading. No objections submitted. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to pass second reading of the Noise Control Bylaw, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**14. BYLAW – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING – Outdoor Cafes and Eating**

Town Clerk S. Higdon, same concept as above; Bylaw was advertised in paper. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to pass the second reading of the Outdoor Cafés and Eating Bylaw, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**15. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

**16. OPEN FORUM**

Darren Stroud, representing the Stellarton Memorial Rink Citizens Group, comments:

- Positive meeting
- Seeking clarity on the motion: 1. Will there be a continued warm idle on the building? 2. Terms and conditions re not for profit organization purchasing the rink for one dollar

Mayor D. MacGillivray confirmed that the building will be kept on warm idle; also any terms and conditions can be discussed with relevant staff.

John MacLeod comments:

- Thanked Council for cooperation and work
- Will need support from the Town
- Not profit status for organization will take time
- Demolition costs and repurposing area costs

Philip MacLeod comments:

- Comparing stray cat to the Rink

**17. ADJOURN**

STELLARTON TOWN COUNCIL 1  
MARCH 9, 2020

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

**MAYOR**

**TOWN CLERK**