

**May 11, 2020**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

## **MEETING**

A virtual regular meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5:30 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, Police Chief M. Hobeck, and Active Pictou County Coordinator, Sally O'Neill.

### **1. AGENDA**

Councillor B. Knight approved the Agenda, seconded by Councillor G. Pentz with the following additions:

- 4. World Lupus Day Proclamation
- 5(h) Stellarton Homecoming Update
- 5(i) David Day Update **Motion Carried.**

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councillor G. Pentz made a motion to accept the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Town Council minutes seconded by Councillor S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

### **3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **4. PROCLAMATION- WORLD LUPUS DAY MAY 10, 2020**

Mayor D. MacGillivray read proclamation designating May 10, 2020 as World Lupus Day, accepted on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

### **5. PRESENTATION - 2020-2021 Operations Budget 2020-2021 Capital Budget**

Town Accountant Brenda MacKay presented to Council the 2020-2021 Operations and Capital Budgets providing details and comments; copies attached; no change to the tax rates.

Town Clerk S. Higdon read Resolution for the record (signed and sealed copy attached):

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Stellarton that the assessment for 2020-2021 is confirmed at \$85,386,300 for commercial;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the assessment for residential is confirmed at \$183,354,800;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the tax rates for 2020-2021 be approved at **\$1.82** per \$100 of residential assessment and **\$4.15** per \$100 commercial assessment;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** as per the Resolution passed be Council on April 14, 2020 regarding the waiving of interest due to COVID-19;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Operating Budget for 2020-2021 is approved at \$8,122,498;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Capital Budget for 2020-2021 is approved at \$991,655.

Motion made Coun. G. Pentz to approve Budget Resolution for 2020-2021, seconded by Coun. B.Knight. **Motion Carried.**

## 6. 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 G. Pentz asked about where to report animal abuse? Chief Hobeck advised to call the police  
Councillor B.Knight made a motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Councillor S. Campbell. 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 noted they are starting to see an increase in permits due to the time of year.  
Questions/Comments:  
Councillor S. Lawand asked if there had been any questions or concerns raised regarding the Outdoor Café By-law. Roland indicated there had not been.  
Councillor S. Lawand made a motion to accept Planner's Report, seconded by Councillor S.Campbell. 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 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. asked about the Memorial Wall from the rink. B. Murray reported that it is down and can be stored until Council makes a decision on where to put it. It is not weather proof. In the meantime, it was suggested to be stored in the Soccer Complex.

Councillor G. Pentz asked about ensuring that all crosswalks will be painted this year.

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

- g. Sally O'Neill- Active Pictou County presented her report.  
Questions/Comments:  
Mayor MacGillivray congratulated Sally on the Daily Dose of Nature. She said it will be featured with Recreation NS.  
She also reported she is working with Dream Candy to produce an 8 week summer program. Bike Week will still go ahead, but it will be done in a virtual way. She also updated Council on the Highland Connect site  
Councillor G. Pentz made a motion to accept the Active Pictou County Report, seconded by Councillor B. Knight. Motion carried.
- h. Stellarton Homecoming  
Councillor B. Knight provided an update regarding the status of Homecoming. Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions, unfortunately it will be cancelled for 2020.
- i. Davis Day  
Councillor G. Pentz informed the public that due to COVID-19 that unfortunately Davis Day will also be cancelled.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Real Canadian Recreation- Re : Thank you for the donation. ct. Town Clerk S. Higdon read letter Thank you. They were given \$200.00 under the 2019-2020 Annual Grants.
- b. Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice Re: Accessibility Act extension of Deadline for Accessibility Plan. .  
Councillor G. Pentz made a motion to accept for information, seconded by Councillor B. Knight. Motion carried.

## **8. Committee of the Whole Report**

The following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting virtually held on April 27, 2020:

### Recommendation # 1:

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the Tender received from S.W. Weeks Construction Ltd. for asphalt patching for the amount of \$47,236,25 including HST.

Councillor B. Knight made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Committee of the Whole seconded by Councillor S. Lawand. Motion carried.

## **9. Resolution #2020-05 Provincial Capital Assistance Program**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Stellarton

That the Town Clerk and Town Engineer be authorized to submit applications for projects under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for the following project (in phases) for the fiscal year 2020-2021:

Rundell St., Victoria, and Allen Avenue Infrastructure Renewal Project subject to the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) \$1,298,315.00

Councillor G. Pentz made a motion to accept the resolution #2020-05 PCAP, seconded by Councillor S. Lawand. Motion carried.

B.MacKay, Town Accountant recommended that in the event that the PCAP funding is late or not approved, that the plan was to move forward with Rundell on it's own. The relevant costs would be total \$717,600. Water depreciation would cover \$359,015 and gas tax funding would be \$360,585. Councillor S. Lawand made a motion that if PCAP is not funded, to move ahead with Rundell St. only, seconded by Councillor G. Pentz. Motion carried.

**10. Application for Site Plan Approval- PQ Properties 25 Bunker Hill**

A public hearing was held prior to the Council meeting. Two appellants noted their concerns and issues at the public hearing.

Mayor MacGillivray asked for a motion to accept the application for the site plan approval. All those approved signify by saying aye, all those against signify by saying nay.

Councillor Lawand voted in favour, Couns. B. Knight, G. Pentz. and S. Campbell voted against. Motion defeated.

**11. COVID- 19 Property Tax Financing Plan Draft Policy**

The COVID-19 Property Tax Financing Policy will allow municipalities to offer a payment plan at a low rate of interest for residents and businesses. In order to qualify for a low interest loan to cover expenses, municipalities have to approve a policy allowing people up to 30months to pay the current year's levy. Many people have taken a financial hit during the pandemic, the municipality still needs tax revenue to pay for services. This is a tax financing program, not a deferral or forgiveness. Council agreed in principle that they accept this concept. The financial officers in Pictou County are meeting to finalize the policy so that it will be similar for all Pictou County municipalities. This policy will come before council in June.

**12. BIDS RECEIVED RE: STELLARTON MEMORIAL RINK**

As per the email sent to council on April 22 regarding approaching local rinks to see if they were interested in buying anything from the rink before it went public, council agreed. The following bids were received:

Rubber Mats:           \$300 (Hector Arena)  
                                  \$501.00 (Thorburn Arena)

Ice Edger:                \$251 (Hector Arena)  
                                  \$400 (Westville Arena)

Set of Exit Doors:    \$400 (Westville Arena)

Nets:                     \$1202 (Thorburn Arena)  
                                  \$1000 (Trenton Arena)

Net Mesh:              \$200 (Trenton Arena)

Ven-Rez Chairs(50) \$100 (Trenton Arena)

Councillor B.Knight made a motion to accept the highest bidder for each item, seconded by G. Pentz. Motion carried.

**13.NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

STELLARTON TOWN COUNCIL  
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**14. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councillor G. Pentz the meeting adjourned.

**MAYOR**

**TOWN CLERK**