

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2020  
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, September 14, 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 12. Lions Club Road Toll, 13. Report on Birch Hill Orphanage, 14. Halloween and 9.b. Police Commission Drug Issue, on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from July 13, 2020 Regular Council and August 14, 2020 Special Meeting were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. PRESENTATION – Challenger Baseball**

Trevor Kearley presented information regarding the Challenger Baseball; an overall view of the project. Looking for support from the Town, not financial but in-kind work. Questions/Comments:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re if minor ball would be affected by re-aligning the field.

T. Kearley has been in contact with minor ball representatives.

Coun. B. Knight re concern with closing one field during construction.

T. Kearley replied that the installation of lights can extend play.

Coun. S. Lawand supportive of project; generate sports tourism.

Town Clerk S. Higdon and Town Engineer will meet with group for planning.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to go forward with the Pictou County Challenger Baseball project, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**5. PROCLAMATION – Right to Know Week September 28 – October 4**

Mayor D. MacGillivray read Proclamation for the Right to Know Week September 28 to October 4, 2020.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to declare September 28 to October 4, 2020 as Right to Know Week in the Town of Stellarton, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

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

- a. Police Service – Chief Hobeck presented report for July and August.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. S. Lawand comments re the Walk Patrol.

Coun. G. Pentz re compliment from resident who received assistance from Cst. Morrell.

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

- b. Emily Lutton – Building Official; Fire Inspector no report.

- c. Roland Burek Acting Planner, Development Officer – No report.

- d. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department, presented report for July and August; noting that the Stellarton Fire Hall is closed to the public until January 2021, and reassess at that time.  
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for July and August 2020, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**
- e. Paige Clarke – Marketing & Communications  
P. Clarke presented report.  
Questions/Comments:  
Coun. S. Lawand re Bike Safety and Trail Development.  
Coun. S. Lawand re dog owners not picking up dog waste; Town Clerk S. Higdon re the Dog Bylaw, enforced by Police.  
Coun. S. Lawand re the Heritage Plan RFP. Paige Clarke stated that the RFP was looking for a plan to move forward with Heritage preservation within the Town.  
Coun. S. Lawand re signage and branding from the Planning and Advisory Committee.  
Coun. S. Lawand re REN Virtual Community website.  
Coun. B. Knight re 13. Report on Birch Hill Orphanage. P. Clarke has been working with individuals on project; draft is near ready; will bring to Council for final approval.  
Mayor D. MacGillivray comments re communications with public; fireworks; acknowledged and appreciates amount of work  
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approved Marketing & Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- f. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer  
Town Engineer B. Murray presented his reports; highlighting the graphs on the water report; illustrates water consumption during the Stage 1 Water Restrictions.  
Questions/Comments:  
Coun. S. Lawand re water consumption.  
Coun. S. Lawand re water issue with taste and smell. Town Engineer will continue more testing next year and look at options to resolve issue.  
Coun. S. Lawand re the Valley Woods Park Pond. Town Engineer stated that the dye has been put in the pond.  
Coun. S. Lawand re the Pleasant Street Park. Coun. S. Lawand made motion that no gravel or equipment be put in that park area in future, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.  
On the Question:  
Coun. G. Pentz re the work being done on Rundell; using the Pleasant Street Park for equipment, gravel, etc.  
Town Engineer confirmed; recommends that when project is complete, the area should be landscaped. Alternative area will be designated and used for stockpiling such materials.  
**Motion Carried.**  
Coun. S. Lawand re interpretive panels; plexiglass to protect panels.  
Town Engineer will look into this.  
Coun. G. Pentz commented on the flowers; very beautiful; lots of compliments. Town Engineer agreed that the Communities in Bloom did a great job.  
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept the Town Engineer’s Report and Water Utility Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Northumberland Regional High School Re: Thank you for Scholarships

- b. Hannah Fraser Re: Thank you for Oulton Scholarship
- c. Grace Hall Re: Thank you for Aubrey Dorrington Scholarship
- d. Cole Green Re: Thank you for Oulton Scholarship
- e. NSCC Re: 2019-2020 Annual Report on Giving (report available in the Admin Office); also thanking the Town for Memorial Scholarship.
- f. Property Valuation Services Corporation Re: 2019-2020 Annual Report; available online.
- g. Minister Keith Colwell, Fisheries & Aquaculture Re: Marine Debris Clean- Up Program. Town Clerk S. Higdon read letter; asking for support; it will be on the Shared Services Agenda.

## **8. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**

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

Recommendation #1. On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the installation of the Birch Hill Interpretive Panel for the amount of \$3,200 (HST included) as well as \$750.00 for the stand.

Recommendation #2. On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the Aspen Street paving of extension for an amount not greater than \$12,000.00.

Recommendation #3. On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the option of removing one section of sidewalk and re-sodding for \$4,000.00 plus HST for the Rundell Street Project.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve recommendations of Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

## **9. POLICE COMMISSION REPORT**

The following recommendation is for Council's consideration from the Police Commission meeting held on September 3, 2020.

Recommendation # 1. On recommendation of the Police Commission, Council approve the civilianizing of the Emergency Dispatch Services under the Authority of the Town of Stellarton, Stellarton Police Service effective October 20, 2020.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve recommendation of the Police Commission, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

### **9.b. POLICE COMMISSION DRUG ISSUE**

Coun. G. Pentz commented on complaints he received regarding a drug problem in Town. Police Commission Chair, Coun. B. Knight reported that this issue has been discussed many times; serious problem everywhere. Police Officers' duties are numerous; mental health care limited. Coun. Knight provided comments on the department, staffing and time-management. He feels that there should be one officer on day shift dealing with such issues.

Coun. G. Pentz asked about the Integrated Police Unit and how much time is utilized for Stellarton; any data report available. Chief Hobeck replied that they get updates at their monthly meetings; discuss ongoing files. Chief Hobeck can bring items to the Street Crime Unit; they prioritize their own work/investigations. He commented on the issue and what the department is doing; information gathering options.

Coun. G. Pentz re hiring another officer. Chief Hobeck re working within the budget; however, having another officer working day shift would definitely help; he will work with current set up to address issue.

Coun. S. Lawand re policing budget; issue is bigger than one officer.  
Discussion commenced; will stay with the status quo and have the Police Chief report back with recommendations to Police Commission.

**10. SALE OF STELLARTON MEMORIAL RINK FOR \$1.00 TO STELLARTON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION (SMCCA)**

Mayor D. MacGillivray read the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** by Section 51 of the Municipal Government Act for the Province of Nova Scotia a municipality may sell or lease property at a price less than market value to a nonprofit organization that the Council considers to be carrying on an activity that is beneficial to the municipality.

**AND WHEREAS** the Council for the Town of Stellarton considers that the Stellarton Memorial Community Centre Association is carrying out an activity that is beneficial to the Town of Stellarton and has complied with the provisions of section 51 of Municipal Government Act;

**AND WHEREAS** the said property known as 105 Stellar Street, Stellarton, Nova Scotia is no longer required for the use of the Town of Stellarton.

**AND WHEREAS** the price is considered by the Council to be fair and reasonable.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** this 14th day of September, 2020, that the Town of Stellarton, conveys the property known as 105 Stellar Street, Stellarton, Nova Scotia to the Stellarton Memorial Community Centre Association for \$1.00 subject to the Stellarton Memorial Community Centre Association subject to the Town of Stellarton receiving a right of first refusal to repurchase the property on terms agreeable to both parties.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Town of Stellarton agrees to provide the Stellarton Memorial Community Centre Association a grant in lieu of taxes for the property being conveyed to the Stellarton Memorial Community Centre Association so long as the Stellarton Memorial Community Centre Association is operating as a non-profit community organization on the property.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Town Clerk be and they are hereby authorized and instructed to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of Stellarton, a good and sufficient deed conveying the said property in conformity with the terms of this resolution and further to execute the right of first refusal agreement.

Coun. S. Campbell made motion to accept the resolution, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.  
On the Question:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re the buy-back; the Town has the first option to buy it back for \$1.00, no time limit.

Mayor D. MacGillivray added comments on why the Town decided to sell the rink property; too costly to keep the rink operational; did not want use taxpayers' dollars on such a venture; already contributes financially to the PC Wellness Centre. Town will assist in their fundraising efforts by issuing receipts to donors.

**Motion Carried.**

**11. APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT PQ PROPERTIES**

25 Bunker Hill File No. 01-20s – Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that a Public Hearing was held at 5:00 p.m. today; it was moved by Council to defer the decision on this application for development until Planner is available.

**12. LIONS CLUB ROAD TOLL**

Coun. B. Knight received call from the president of the Lions Club requesting permission to set up a Road Toll again this year. Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Lions Club to set up a Road Toll, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

**13. REPORT ON BIRCHILL ORPHANAGE**

Dealt with in the Marketing & Communications report.

**14. HALLOWEEN**

Coun. G. Pentz inquired whether the Town was going ahead with Halloween this year. Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that the Town of Stellarton, pertaining to COVID 19, has been following all the recommendations from the Province and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Strang; they see no issue with Halloween going forward.

Town Clerk S. Higdon informed Council that the Tax Sale, previously scheduled for March had to be cancelled due to COVID 19; Tax Sales has been rescheduled for October 14, 2020; one ad has already been published, the second ad will be in shortly. Those interested will have to pre-register to attend.

**15. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

**16. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. S. Lawand.

**MAYOR**

**TOWN CLERK**