

**FEBRUARY 9, 2021  
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

(Date was rescheduled due to storm on February 8).

**PRESENT**

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

Mayor D. MacGillivray asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of recently passed Joe Gennoe, former Mayor from 2006 – 2016.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from January 11, 2021, Council meeting were approved on motion by Coun. B. Knight seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. Proclamation – African Heritage Month**

Mayor D. MacGillivray read Proclamation in celebration of African Heritage Month 2021 (attached). Motion made by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. B. Knight recognizing February as African Heritage Month. **Motion Carried.**

**5. Recognition of Fire Department Members Years of Service**

Mayor D. MacGillivray recognized the following members of the Stellarton Fire Department for their years of Service:

Robbie Brown – 5 Years of Service

Austin Hughes – 5 Years of Service

Brett Irvin – 10 Years of Services

Dave Prindeville – 10 Years of Service

Trevor Kearley – 20 Years of Service

Lee Caldwell – 25 Years of Service

Dave Field – 30 Years of Service

Charles MacLaren – 50 Years of Service; including accolades from MLA's Pat Dunn; Tim Houston; and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

**6. Reports from Staff - for information; reports attached.**

a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service

Coun. S. Campbell made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.** Coun. B. Knight commented re his disappointment of the Dept. of Health not including police personnel as tier two (first responders) for the COVID 19 vaccine. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to pre-approve writing letter to NS Health Minister if that is what is asked of the Chiefs of Police, seconded Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department's report for January 2021, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. G. Pentz re grass fire in January, rare occurrence.

**Motion Carried.**

c. Paige Clarke – Marketing & Communications

P. Clarke presented report; commenting on deadline for volunteer award nominations.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. S. Lawand re Web Demo clarification. P. Clarke reported that she has been researching different App developments for the Town; get alerts out faster; public reporting and feedback capabilities; etc. She is seeing what would be best for Stellarton; based on needs and costs; not built into our existing website. Coun. S. Lawand suggested an option he learned about at a previous NSFM Conference and report back to Council.

Coun. B. Knight re EMO App; P. Clarke replied that the EMO App is Emergency specific; ours would be for Stellarton and not only for emergencies.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Marketing & Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Town Engineer B. Murray presented his reports, commenting that yesterday's storm will be included in next month's report; clean-up is underway and sidewalks are still being cleared.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. B. Knight commented re Bingo; sewer back-up at the soccer complex building; thanked the Public Works for their prompt response to help assess the situation.

Coun. S. Lawand re snow removal equipment problems. B. Murray confirmed that two trucks were down; one is back up running and the other is being repaired; also, a sidewalk plow needed repairs.

Coun. G. Pentz re aluminum poles for signs. B. Murray reported that they were supposed to receive these poles for the crosswalk traffic structures and stop signs; many delays and aluminum shortage; poles were found to have welding defects; still waiting; no timelines. Discussion re galvanized poles. Mayor D. MacGillivray commented re preventative maintenance on South Foord Street.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

e. Sally O'Neill – Active Pictou County Report

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve Active Pictou County Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**7. Correspondence**

a. Municipal Affairs & Housing Minister Porter Re: Safe Restart Program – Town Clerk S. Higdon re the Safe Restart funds given by the government of Canada; Municipalities need to continue to put in place appropriate precautions to minimize the spread of COVID 19 and manage public spaces and critical services; in partnership with the government of Canada, the Province through the Safe Restart Agreement, has provided \$67.5 million to support municipalities with COVID 19 operating costs. The Town of Stellarton estimated that we would reach \$67,500 based on a survey that was conducted by the NS Federation of Municipalities back in spring 2020. The Town has received \$69,165 under the Safe Restart Program to help the Town address increased operating costs resulting from a reduction in revenue due to COVID 19; continue to implement social distancing and infection prevention and controlled protocols required

to operate facilities, public spaces and effectively deliver services to citizens; to support safe transit operations and innovative solutions required to adjust to modify capacity and acquire additional p.p.e. For Council's information.

b. Fulcrum Accessibility Consulting Re: Gauging Municipal Capacity to implement Accessibility Standards – Town Clerk S. Higdon reported the Accessibility Directorate is conducting interviews with Municipalities to gauge capacity to implement accessibility standards. For Council's consideration and will be discussed at the Accessibility Committee and to see who the appropriate representative from Stellarton will be.

c. NS Protocol Office Re: Order of Nova Scotia – Town Clerk S. Higdon commented that there are applications in the Town Office if anyone would like to nominate someone for the Order of Nova Scotia Award.

d. Paster Kelvin Balingit Re: Volunteering Community Projects – Town Clerk S. Higdon received an email from Paster Kelvin of Bethel Baptist Church in Westville; offering volunteer services for any projects in the Town of Stellarton. For Council's information and consideration.

e. Department of Justice Minister Furey to Chief of Police Julia Cecchetto – Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that this was received at the Police Commission as well; stating that the Dept. of Justice has struck an internal committee to carry out a preliminary analysis of policing service delivery across Nova Scotia; pertaining to both RCMP contract policing jurisdictions as well as those serviced by municipal police; updates will be provided in the future.

f. Department of Justice Minister Furey Re: Extension to Accessibility Plan – Town Clerk S. Higdon re on December 3, 2019, the Government of Nova Scotia announced that the Town of Stellarton will be prescribed as a Public Sector Body under the Accessibility Act as of April 1, 2020; timeline adjustments due to COVID 19 to ensure there is sufficient time and capacity to support the development of our Accessibility Plan; a one year extension; April 1, 2021; Stellarton must form an Accessibility Advisory Committee and have an Accessibility Plan in place by April 1, 2022. S. Higdon reported that the Town has had an Accessibility Committee in place for approximately one year and close to completing an Accessibility Plan.

## **8. Strategic Plan Update**

Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that Council's last Strategic Plan was done in 2019, which was to bring us up to 2024; Council and senior staff made three goals:

1. Make improvements to the Town's infrastructure
2. Increase communication, promotions and marketing
3. Reclaim the land from the mine

S. Higdon requests that Council and senior staff meet to review these goals and update; she added that the Police Commission is interested developing a Strategic Plan.

## **9. Temporary Borrowing Resolution File No. 21-22-02**

Town Clerk S. Higdon, for Council's information, the Temporary Borrowing process is to refinance this "balloon" payment over the next 10 years; coming due in October 2021; for \$6,030,802.00; relating to the 2006 loan for the water projects and the business park. She commented that there is no impact on the overall budget; this is a planned expense. S. Higdon asked Council to read for the record and having a motion to approve.

Mayor D. MacGillivray read the Temporary Borrowing Resolution File No. 21-22-02 for the record.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

Question:

Coun. G. Pentz asked about the interest rate. Town Clerk S. Higdon replied that it depends; but is the best rate available from the Municipal Finance Corp.

**Motion Carried.**

**10. Open Forum**

Coun. S. Lawand gave comments in memory of former Mayor Joe Gennoe; about his dedication to the Town; his stand against amalgamation; Coun. S. Lawand extends his appreciation and condolences to the Gennoe family.

**11. Next Council Meeting**

Next Council meeting will be Monday, March 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**12. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

**MAYOR**

**TOWN CLERK**