

**APRIL 12, 2021**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

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

Regrets: Coun. B. Knight.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from March 8, 2021, Public Hearing and Regular Council meetings were approved on motion by Coun. S. Campbell, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. Proclamation – Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Mayor D. MacGillivray read proclamation for the record, proclaiming April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the Town of Stellarton.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve proclamation, seconded by Coun. S. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

**5. Presentation – Sarah Wiseman, PC Regional Enterprise Network (attached).**

Sarah Wiseman provided update on REN highlighting:

- Stakeholders and funders
- Now under the Department of Inclusive Economic Growth
- Objectives and management
- Five-year commitment from funders and stakeholders
- Funding structure reviewed; around \$21,000 Stellarton's annual contribution
- Goals
- Regional strategies and priority areas
  - o BRE – Business Retention and Expansion
  - o Workforce Development
  - o Business Navigation
  - o Economic Innovation
  - o Regional Branding and Business Attraction
- Revenue and budgets
- Work performed and projects, current and long term
- Business plan
- Tracking software called "Insightly"

Questions/Comments:

Mayor D. MacGillivray comments re economic development; into its fourth year; thanked staff; new software to spread relevant information.

Coun. S. Lawand comments re website. S. Wiseman reported that they have a temporary website PictouCounty.com; it will be updated as REN moves forward; two

components – a RENs site for the businesses, and a more holistic page for all things Pictou County.

Coun. S. Lawand re quick information (all inclusive) to attract new businesses; data base as well.

Coun. S. Lawand re workplace development and how to access. Sarah Wiseman talked about resources available; underemployed and unemployed; systems and programs; welcomes feedback for potential future projects.

Coun. S. Lawand re reduce “red tape” amongst municipalities. S. Wiseman reported that they offer a “concierge service” to employers to assist them with a variety of things.

**6. Presentation – 2021-2022 Operating Budget and 2021-2022 Capital Budget**  
Copies of Budgets attached, and available on the Town’s website and the Admin Office. Town Accountant Brenda MacKay presented 2021-2022 Operations and Capital Budgets to Council; reviewing the summary pages; highlighting:

- Residential & Resource Tax Assessment 2021 is \$184,102,500.00 at a rate of \$1.82 for \$3,350,666 tax revenue.
- Commercial Tax Assessment is \$83,982,500.00 at a rate of \$4.15 for \$3,485,274 tax revenue.
- Budget is presented without a change in the tax rate.
- General Operation Budget; Revenue and Expenditures; balanced budgeted.

Comments/Questions:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re no change in the tax rates; Active Living Coordinator included in this year’s budget (\$35,000); water and sewer lines on Allen and Victoria Avenues; Public Works salt shed \$100,000; no increase to Council honorariums.

Coun. S. Lawand comments re Operating Budget, very tough year; no increase to the residential tax rate since 1997.

Brenda MacKay continued with the Water Operation Budget and Capital Budget; projects and descriptions attached.

Comments/Questions:

Coun. S. Lawand comments re thinnest capital budget.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re no major paving in the budget; streets are in good shape; Victoria and Allen Avenues project includes waterlines and those expenses.

Mayor D. MacGillivray read Resolution for the record (attached).

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the 2021-2022 Operations Budget and the 2021-2022 Capital Budget, seconded Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**7. 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. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department  
Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan presented report for March 2021 commenting re no calls in Town; adding that on April 26, 2021, MFR are going to be tested for mask-fitting so that they can respond to cardiac arrest calls again. The fire hall can be open following the current provincial restrictions.  
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for March 2021, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Clarke – Marketing & Communications  
P. Clarke presented report adding that the water sampling/testing information was included in last week’s Newsletter and on the Town’s website. She also reported that Stellarton has been challenged by New Glasgow’s Mayor, Nancy Dicks, to take part in the Go Clean Get Green event. Stellarton is registered to participate on Friday, April 23; residents, staff and Council welcome to join, information on Town’s Facebook page. P. Clarke

commented re Homecoming; there are some activities that can occur according to guidelines; exploring options; meeting with Events Nova Scotia soon to determine what can happen. P. Clarke received information from Heritage Plan Committee member reporting that this year the Miners' Memorial Monument and Cemetery is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; could include with the Davis Day Service or a separate service on September 5<sup>th</sup>  
Questions/Comments:

Coun. G. Pentz re Go Clean Get Green event, will that include the G. R. Saunders Elementary students. P. Clarke will reach out to them, but it will be a School Board decision.

Mayor D. MacGillivray asked if residents can participate. P. Clarke confirmed that they can take on an individual role or sign up as a team with immediate bubble; supplies are provided by Pictou County Solid Waste and Go Clean Get Green; can be delivered directly to homes; there will be a community bin for drop off; information on Town's Facebook page. Town Clerk S. Higdon added that the community bin will be in the Town's parking lot on Saturday April 24, for litter only, not spring cleaning.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re use of the "Buy & Exchange" site. P. Clarke not sure of the frequency of use, but has seen it be used; positive feedback and widely shared.

Mayor D. MacGillivray commented re the Volunteer of the Year, Tanya Oldford-Cowley; ceremony will be held virtually.

Mayor D. MacGillivray asked about the free Sunday Fundays at the YMCA. Page Clarke reported that the YMCA is working with the funding municipalities to offer a free service to residents; the month of May, every Sunday from 12 to 5, Stellarton residents have access to the weight room, pool and gym; registration is required; will be shared on Facebook.

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

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Town Engineer B. Murray presented his reports adding that the Public Works Department is in spring clean-up mode; work on the Albion Trail; plow-damage repairs have commenced.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. G. Pentz re the nets at the basketball pad on Pleasant St needs replacing.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **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.**

8. **Correspondence**

a. Letter from Minister Maguire, Municipal Affairs – Town Clerk S. Higdon read letter from Municipal Affairs Minister Maguire to Mayor D. MacGillivray.

b. Email from Nick Barr, DMA Re: REN Moving to Dept. Inclusive Economic Growth – Town Clerk S. Higdon read email from Nick Barr, acting Director of Governance and Advisory Services for the Municipal Affairs Department; stating that the responsibility for the Regional Enterprise Network program will be moving from the Department of Municipal Affairs to the Department of Inclusive Economic Growth as of April 1, 2021.

c. Email from COVID 19 INFO Re: Response to letter to Dr. Strang on Vaccination Clinics – Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that this was in response to her letter, on behalf of the Town Council, addressed to Dr. Strang, and copied to

the NS Premier, the Health and Wellness Minister Pat Dunn, and Sean Fraser regarding vaccination clinics in Pictou County; S. Higdon read email for the record.

d. Letter from Glen Haven Manor Re: March 31, 2020 Audited Financial Statements (full statement available in Admin Office). Town Clerk S. Higdon read letter for the record.

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

The following recommendation is for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on March 22, 2021:

Recommendation #1 – On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the ratification of the Stellarton Heritage Plan in principle. Mayor D. MacGillivray comments as Chair of the Heritage Committee, thanked Council for approving the funds to do the Heritage Plan. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Committee of the Whole recommendation, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

#### **10. Volunteer of the Year Tanya Oldford-Cowley**

Mayor D. MacGillivray reported that the Volunteer of the Year and recipient of the Francis Bud MacKay Memorial Award is Tanya Oldford-Cowley. Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that she made masks for different organizations during COVID; will be doing a virtual ceremony. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to accept Tanya Oldford-Cowley as Stellarton's Volunteer of the Year, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

#### **11. Go Clean Get Green 2021**

This item has been covered in the Marketing and Communications Report; April 19 to April 24; Stellarton's clean-up will be April 23.

#### **12. Library Fence**

Coun. S. Lawand reported that six years ago, the Library asked to have the fence removed; Town decided to keep the fence because of safety concerns, but would sand-blast and paint it; nothing has been done since. Coun. S. Lawand stated that the fence is in bad shape, and requests that the fence be removed or fixed up. Mayor D. MacGillivray commented that the Miners' Monument fence also needs attention/paint. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to paint the fences at the Library and the Miners' Monument, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

#### **13. Land for Sale Signage – Albion Business Park**

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that this was brought forth by Coun. B. Knight, wanting to know what Council's direction would be for the Land for Sale sign that's in the Albion Park on the site that is now owned by the SPCA. Coun. G. Pentz re moving sign directly across the street, corner of Lawrence and Heritage. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to move the Land for Sale sign to the corner of Lawrence Boulevard and Heritage Avenue, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

#### **14. Stellarton Police Service – Strategic Plan Recommendation**

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that the Police Commission met on March 18, 2021; it was decided to develop a Town of Stellarton Police Service Strategic Plan; a working document; it was prepared and facilitated in-house by Inspector Christopher Pond and Town Clerk; asking Council to approve it in principle; it has been reviewed by the Police Commission and is recommended that Council approve it. Mayor D. MacGillivray comments re involved with process, thanked Town Clerk and Inspector for a well-done

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plan. Coun. S. Campbell made motion to accept the Stellarton Police Service Strategic Plan, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

On the question:

Coun. S. Lawand re one of the goals in the Plan, "*to upgrade and improve technology for more efficient service*". Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that the idea is to put computer in a police vehicle that can access information for checking license plates and licenses, etc.; a more efficient procedure than requesting such information from dispatch.

**Motion Carried.**

**15. Open Forum**

No one spoke at the Open Forum.

**16. Next Council Meeting**

Next Council meeting will be Monday, May 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**17. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

**MAYOR**

**TOWN CLERK**