

**MARCH 14, 2022**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns. S. Lawand, S. Campbell, and G. Pentz. Also present was the Chief Administrative Officer S. Higdon.

Regrets: Coun. B. Knight.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as amended to include under Correspondence 6.c. Letter from the Vida Hexo Corp Re: Expiry of Vida Cannabis Ltd. license, and 11. Town Clock, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from February 14, 2022 Regular Meeting were approved on motion by Coun. S. Campbell, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no Business arising from the Minutes.

**4. 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**

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for February 2022, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**c. Paige Clarke – Marketing and Communications**

Mayor D. MacGillivray commented on the ACOA grant received; signage to highlight heritage districts in Town; Walking Tour Map; Homecoming Festival. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer**

Coun. G. Pentz commented on the Public Works staff and their effectiveness with the snow removal operations; extends his appreciation. Mayor D. MacGillivray added that the clearing of snow from the main street occurred in a timely manner, also well appreciated. Mayor D. MacGillivray commented that the residents of the Twin Rivers Trailer Park were evacuated for one night during recent flooding conditions.

CAO S. Higdon reported that a flyer was mailed out to residents regarding the installation of water meters.

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

**e. Noah Delorey – Active Community Living Coordinator Report**

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve Active Community Living Coordinator Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell.

On the Question: Mayor D. MacGillivray stated that the deadline for Volunteer of the Year submissions has been extended to April 15; Restriction-free Homecoming; Community Centre re-opened; Heritage Murals.

**Motion Carried.**

## 5. Employee Service Awards

Mayor D. MacGillivray presented Cst. Garnet MacPherson with his 5 Year Service Award and thanked him for his service.

Mayor D. MacGillivray stated that Sgt. Paul Veenhuis, not present, received his 10 Year Service Award.

## 6. Correspondence

**a. AMA Re: Model Videoconferencing Policy** – CAO S. Higdon re the Provincial Government's State of Emergency, March 21, 2020, is coming to an end; March 21, 2022; Councils held meetings virtually during that time; after March 21, 2022, no longer permitted to hold meetings virtually. The letter from the AMA states that if Councils wish to have videoconferencing in place, a policy would have to be in place. Mayor D. MacGillivray asked Council about developing a policy. Coun. G. Pentz comments re circumstances may arise again where virtual meetings are needed, he recommends having a policy in place. Coun. G. Pentz made motion for staff to develop a draft Videoconferencing Policy for Council's approval, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**b. Municipality of East Hants to NSFM Re: Member Dues Renewal** – CAO S. Higdon re letter from Warden Eleanor Roulston, from the Municipality of East Hants to the President of the Nova Scotia Federation Municipalities Mayor MacDougall asking why their membership fees increased considerably, up 41% from 2019 to 2022; letter cc'd for Council's information. CAO S. Higdon reported that Stellarton's fees went up 12% during the same time period. Coun. S. Lawand questioned if the NSFM make money on the live conferences? S. Higdon replied that is how they generate their revenue. Coun. S. Lawand commented re formula for setting member fees. CAO S. Higdon reported that there will be a Spring and Fall Conference this year.

**c. Vida Hexo Corp Re: Expiry of Vida Cannabis Ltd. License** – CAO S. Higdon stated that on March 8, 2022, the Town was notified from Vida Hexo Corp., the owners of the cannabis plant on Acadia Avenue, the expiry of their license. She reported that their operation ceased on February 28, 2022. CAO S. Higdon noted that the commercial assessment value decreased \$4.5 million due to the closure.

## 7. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendation is for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 28, 2022.

### **Recommendation #1**

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve a donation of \$100 to the Mariposa East Skating Centre for an advertisement in their program for an event at the Pictou County Wellness Centre on April 10, 2022.

### **Recommendation #2**

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve committing to a second term of five years with the Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network to March 31, 2028.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

## 8. Citizen Appointment Report

CAO S. Higdon updated Council on the current citizen representation for the Town of Stellarton.

The Police Commission, three citizens:

- Nancy Terris has accepted a second term as per the Town Policy, expiring in 2025.
- Kevin Mason's term expires 2024, with the opportunity to sit a second term.
- A vacant position currently being advertised, applications are due March 31.

The Audit Committee:

- A vacant position currently being advertised, applications are due March 31.

## 9. Resolution – No. 2022-03 – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Project, attached.

CAO S. Higdon stated that the Town Engineer and CAO are looking for authority to submit applications under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program; looking at submitting two applications; Claremont Avenue and Kirk Avenue. Mayor D.

MacGillivray read resolution for the record.

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

*That the Chief Administrative Officer and Town Engineer be authorized to submit applications for the projects under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the following prioritized projects for the fiscal year 2022-2023:*

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <i>1. Claremont Avenue Infrastructure Renewal Project</i> | <i>\$1,888,634.00</i> |
| <i>2. Kirk Avenue Infrastructure Renewal Project</i>      | <i>\$1,558,393.00</i> |

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-03, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Project, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

On the Question:

Coun. S. Lawand asked how many applications did the Town submit the last few years and how many were approved. CAO S. Higdon replied that the Town submitted four, since 2018, and two were approved.

**Motion Carried.**

## 10. Reports from Outside Agencies

- a. Pictou County Solid Waste
  - b. Pictou County Wellness Centre
- For Council's information.

## 11. Town Clock

Coun. G. Pentz commented that the Town Clock is not working. CAO S. Higdon reported that the repair person is from New Brunswick, and the difficulty having them come to Stellarton. CAO S. Higdon will follow up with the Town Engineer to provide the status of the clock repairs.

Coun. G. Pentz also reported that the flood light on the south side of the Miner's Monument has been burnt out for several months; ask Town Engineer to address issue.

## 12. Open Forum

Coun. S. Lawand comments:

- Thoughts are with the Ukrainian people
- Would like to see support from the Town(s), i.e. letter of support or donations
- He can relate to the hardships being experienced in this conflict

Mayor D. MacGillivray comments:

- Received call from Gerald Roma, originally from the Ukraine, Stellarton resident; will reach out to him regarding donations

**13. Next Council Meeting:** April 11, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

**14. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

**MAYOR**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**