

JUNE 13, 2022
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as amended to add #5 Marie Street Capital Funding Approval, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from May 9, 2022 Regular Meeting and May 11, 2022 Special Budget Meeting were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Presentation of the 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statements

Accountant Brenda MacKay presented the audited consolidated financial statements for the Town of Stellarton, period ending March 31, 2022, reviewing each page; statements are online. B. MacKay commented that overall, it was a consistent year financially. Mayor D. MacGillivray thanked staff and the Audit Committee. He commented that property taxes have decreased by \$35,000; the additional finance capacity grant utilized to keep the tax rates unchanged; the Town refinanced a balloon payment on the business park debt and water projects for \$6.7 million over 10 years; and during the year, the Town invested \$1.4 million in capital assets; overall our expenses are lower for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 due to Covid, expects to see increases this year. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the 2021-2022 audited financial statements, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

5. Marie Street Capital Funding Approval

CAO S. Higdon reported that two bids were received for the Marie Street Infrastructure Upgrades Project, Council did approve this in the Capital Budget;

S. W. Weeks Construction for \$1,360,967.50

S. F. Construction Ltd. for \$1,568,600.00

(both prices include HST)

S. Higdon stated that the tender forms were checked and verified by the Town Engineer; the low bid is approximately 24% over the Town's original capital budget of \$1,350,544.00 including HST. B. Murray does not recommend putting the project off for a season, in hopes that prices will go down next year, due to the volatility of the market. Town Engineer recommends awarding the tender to the low bidder, S. W. Weeks Construction if the project falls within the financial limits of the Town.

Coun. G. Pentz asked Accountant Brenda MacKay about the Town's position to go ahead with this project. Brenda MacKay reported that the project is \$281,325 over budget – \$131,000 would be from the Water Utility and approximately \$150,000 coming from the General Fund. B. MacKay stated that there was enough in the Water Utility Fund, and there is room in the reserves for the \$150,000.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept Town Engineer's recommendation and award tender to S. W. Weeks Construction for the Marie Street Capital Project, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

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

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service
Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department's report for May 2022, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Clarke – Marketing and Communications
Mayor D. MacGillivray commented on Davis Day on June 11; Homecoming plans are underway; First Nation Flag raised in Town Square for June.
Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**
- e. Noah Delorey – Active Community Living Coordinator Report
Mayor D. MacGillivray commented that Recreation Day Camp is starting soon. CAO S. Higdon reported that Day Camp will start on July 4 and registration will be taking place this week; she also commented on the increase in costs.
Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve Active Community Living Coordinator Report, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

7. Correspondence

- a. **Pictou County Community Health Centre Working Group Re:** Business Plan – CAO S. Higdon received an update from Keith Collier, letting us know that they completed their Business Plan and can be found on their website at aberdeenhealthfoundation.ca.
- b. **Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network Re:** Update from CEO Scott Ferguson – CAO S. Higdon received an update from CEO Scott Ferguson from the REN and what their group has been up to.

8. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 24, 2022.

Recommendation #1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the water meter proposal received from Neptune for the proposed cost of \$975,000 plus HST for an AMI system.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Recommendation from the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

On the Question:

Mayor D. MacGillivray commented that the Town budgeted \$1.2 million, and there is money in the Water Reserves to pay for project.

Motion Carried.

9. Boundary Review – Resolution #2022-06-13

CAO S. Higdon reported that a Public Hearing was held June 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., and it's recommended to move along with the status quo of Boundary Review. Town Planner Roland Burek prepared the report. Mayor D. MacGillivray commented that Council talked about the plan at the Public Hearing, no questions for the Planner. Mayor D. MacGillivray read Resolution for the record:

Whereas the Town of Stellarton is legislated through Part XVI, Section 369, of the Municipal Government Act to conduct a review to study the fairness and reasonableness of the size of the Council;

Whereas the Town held a Public Meeting on Monday, June 13, 2022, duly advertised in a local paper on June 8, 2022, regarding the review;

Therefore be it resolved by the Council of the Town of Stellarton that Mayor Danny MacGillivray and Chief Administrative Officer Susan Higdon sign the application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to have the number of councillors within the Town of Stellarton remain at four (4).

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Resolution #2022-06-13 Boundary Review, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

10. Outdoor Café Application

Town Planner Roland Burek reported that he contacted the owners of Andres Seats informing them that this year the Town will not be allowing an outdoor café that protrudes out onto the street, as it did in previous years, based on an opinion from the Fire Department because of emergency vehicles making the turn from Jubilee onto Foord Street. He met with the owners to discuss another set up for their outdoor café area, with only one row of tables. This will allow the barrier to be entirely on the sidewalk, meeting the bylaw requirements for a bypass for wheelchairs and pedestrians. R. Burek recommends their license be renewed based on the new plan for 2022. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve Andres Seats Outdoor Café Application, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

11. Reports from Outside Agencies (For Council's Information)

- a. Pictou County Wellness Centre**
- b. Pictou County Shared Service Authority**

12. Open Forum

Roland Burek inquired when the work would commence on Park Street this year. Mayor D. MacGillivray replied that the Town is waiting on a grant.

13. Next Council Meeting: July 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER