

MARCH 13, 2023
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as amended to include as #8. Recommendation from the Police Commission regarding the citizen representation and #9. Reforestation Plan, on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, seconded by Coun. G. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 13, 2023 Regular Council meeting were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Proclamation – Proclamation of Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness)

Mayor D. MacGillivray read proclamation marking March 26 as Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to proclaim March 26 as Purple Day, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

5. 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 February 2023, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Clarke – Marketing and Communications
Coun. B. Knight commented re Homecoming.
Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**
- d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve Town Engineer’s Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- e. Noah Delorey – Active Community Living Coordinator Report
Mayor D. MacGillivray comments re Volunteer Recognition Reception, Homecoming, and the NS 55 Plus Games in Pictou County.
Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve Active Community Living Coordinator Report, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

6. Correspondence

- a. Tupper Family Re: Thank you – CAO S. Higdon received thank you card to Council for the flowers sent to the Tupper Family.

- b. NS Health Foundation Re: Mental Illness Prevention Launch – CAO S. Higdon re information received from NS Health regarding a Mental Illness Prevention and Early Intervention Program coming to Pictou County.
- c. Healthy Pictou County Re: Community Fund Application – CAO S. Higdon received March 1, stating that Healthy Pictou County was successful through the office of Health Care Professionals Recruitment Community Fund for over \$57,000.

7. Committee of the Whole Report

There is no Committee of the Whole Report this month.

8. Recommendation from the Police Commission Re Citizen Representation

CAO S. Higdon reported that the Police Commission had a resignation; as per the Town Policy, an advertisement was placed; one submission was received; the recommendation from the Police Commission is to accept citizen Don Taylor as the representative for the next three years. Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept recommendation from Police Commission to approve Don Taylor to the Police Commission, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

CAO S. Higdon stated that Mr. Taylor will be sworn in at the next Police Commission meeting.

9. Reforestation Plan

Coun. S. Lawand comments re the devastation caused by hurricane Fiona; many calls from residents regarding dangerous trees; Town Engineer created a plan to address issue; recommendation was to hire contractor to perform the work. He recommended a plan for future weather events and limit the liabilities on the Town; Council and staff need to come up with a reforestation plan. Coun. S. Lawand made motion for staff to provide costs for a reforestation plan, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

On the Question:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re timelines and budget considerations; staff to investigate plan. **Motion Carried.**

10. Amendment to Tax Exemption Bylaw #57 Second and Final Reading

CAO S. Higdon reported that this is the Second and Final Reading to our Tax Exemption Bylaw, to remove Riverview Home Corporation – 43 Birch Hill Drive and 31 St. Bernard Street – from the Tax Exemption Bylaw requiring them to become fully taxable April 1, 2023. Also, adding to Schedule A, the Stellar Curling Club which will give them a full tax exemption beginning April 1, 2023. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve amendment to Tax Exemption Bylaw #57, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

11. Pictou County Wellness Centre, Minutes of November 14, 2022

For Council's information from the meeting held November 14, 2022.

12. Open Forum

Robert Pentz, 89 Poplar Street spoke:

- Concerns re mess behind his property
- Damage done to his house
- Spoke with Engineer and Contractor

CAO S. Higdon will speak with engineer on the issue

Brian Works, 33 Cedar Drive spoke:

- Pleased with proposed plan for reforestation

- Clearing of debris; not clear-cutting
- Worry about future liabilities such as flooding and wind tunnelling

Coun. B. Knight commented that Town will address any water issues

Mayor D. MacGillivray comments re the huge impact to the aesthetics; the Town relied on the experts for remediation.

Matt Holland, 71 Cambey Avenue spoke:

- Not happy with clear-cutting around his property
- Loss of privacy
- Question re the scope of work; determine what should be cut and what didn't have to be
- Cutting was excessive
- A lot of debris left behind; will there be clean-up?

CAO S. Higdon replied that the scope of work for that particular land was changed because of the dead and damaged trees that the contractor did not know about until they went in.

Coun. S. Lawand re number of complaints.

Mayor D. MacGillivray reiterated that the damage was done by Hurricane Fiona; the Town is doing the best they can to rectify issue.

13. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER