

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, September 11, 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 and Town Accountant Brenda MacKay.

1. Approval of Agenda

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from July 11, 2023 Regular Council and July 24, 2023 Special Council meetings 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. Presentation of the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements

Brenda MacKay 2023 Audit has been completed by Grant Thornton, and was reviewed by the Audit Committee prior to this meeting. B. MacKay reviewed auditor's report – attached; some highlights:

- Consolidated Statement of Operations; total revenue budgeted at \$8.8 million; actuals at \$9.7 million; \$781,000 of capital contributions included.
- Total expenditures budgeted at \$9.7 million; actual at \$10.3 million
- Overall annual budgeted deficit of \$919,000 and came in at \$517,000 deficit; an improvement over the budgeted deficit
- Balance sheet – accumulated surplus
- Long term debt has decreased
- Net financial assets
- Details on the Statement of Operations
- Supporting schedules to the financial statements
- Overall positive audit

Comments:

Mayor D. MacGillivray thanked those who worked on the audit; a “clean audit opinion”; commented on the \$2.65 million spent on capital; positive impact from interest rates; hurricane related costs; province taking over some expenditures.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

5. Proclamation – Right to Know September 25 – October 1, 2023

Mayor D. MacGillivray read proclamation “Right to Know”, attached.

Coun. S. Campbell made motion accepting September 25 – October 1, 2023 as Right to Know Week, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

6. Proclamation – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month

Mayor D. MacGillivray read proclamation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month, attached.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion approving FASDA Month, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.
Motion Carried.

7. Flag Raising Request – Royal Canadian Legion Week September 17-23
CAO S. Higdon received email from Candice Hubley from the RC Legion asking the Town to consider a flag raising to be flown during the week of September 17 to the 23rd and be declared Royal Canadian Legion Week. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve request, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

On the Question:

Mayor D. MacGillivray asked if we had a flag. CAO S. Higdon will get all the details from the Legion.

Coun. B. Knight commented on their lunch program held on Wednesdays; very helpful service to community.

Motion Carried.

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

a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service

Coun. S. Lawand re speed sign on Poplar Street; any reports? Coun. B. Knight will forward information when he receives it.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept Police Service Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department

CAO S. Higdon added that the new fire truck is expected the end of September.

Coun. B. Knight motioned to accept Fire Department’s reports for July and August 2023, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications

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

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Coun. B. Knight commented on Public Works and the amount of work being done; fields prepared for upcoming tournament.

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 Reports

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve Active Community Living Coordinator Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

9. Correspondence

a. Richmond County CAO – Re: Vulnerable Persons Registry Resolution –

CAO S. Higdon stated that Troy MacCulloch, CAO of Richmond County, forwarded a request he received from Pictou County regarding listing a Provincial Volunteer Vulnerable Persons Registry; asking for a resolution by Council. This will be included in October’s agenda.

b. Provincial – Municipal Service Exchange Agreement – CAO S. Higdon re this Agreement has not been reviewed for the last 30 years; they are putting together some new initiatives; changes include:

- a decrease in the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant, but it will maintain at the current level for the next five years
- the Province will now absorb the cost for Corrections, saving the Town approximately \$49,000.00
- Obsolete schools; the Province will assume ownership of all pre-1981 schools closed after the service exchange is implemented; Municipalities will be given first right of offer

- Housing; the Province will absorb the annual costs associated with Public Housing; saving the Town approximately \$68,000.00
- Infrastructure Funding; municipalities will be able to leverage a new application based on \$15 million infrastructure program
For Council's information

c. NS Office of the Fire Marshal Re: Amendments to the NS Building Code Regulations – CAO S. Higdon re amendments to the NS Building Code Regulations for Council's information that they've been updated and copies are available

d. Joe Earle Memorial Road Races Re: thank you for donation – CAO S. Higdon stated that the Town made donation under the Annual Grants to the Joe Earle Memorial Race in Trenton.

e. RCAF Re: Battle of Britain September 24 – CAO S. Higdon reported that the Annual Battle of Britain ceremony will be taking place on September 24 at 2:00 p.m. if Council can attend; formation is at 1:30 p.m. at the Cenotaph with service at 2:00 p.m.

f. Roots for Youth Re: Property Tax Exemption – CAO S. Higdon reported that the Roots for Youth has moved to Stellarton; they are having an intimate Open House on Friday; asking the Town of Stellarton for a relief on their taxes; if Council approves, there will need to be two readings of an amendment of the bylaw under the Tax Exemption; taxes for the property are approximately \$5,500.00. Council will consider request and discuss further at the next Committee of the Whole.

g. NRHS Re: Thank for Graduation Bursary's – CAO S. Higdon re annual grants given to NRHS, two awards given; the Oulton Trophy was presented to Mallory Matlock and Robert MacPherson; the Aubrey Dorrington Award was presented to Elia Skelton.

h. Mallory Matlock Re: Thank you for Oulton Award – as stated above, Mallory thanked the Town for Oulton Trophy.

i. United Way Re: Thank you for participation in Back Pack Program – CAO S. Higdon reported that the United Way did an initiative this summer called "Back Packs for Kids"; they had a donation box in our Town Hall for school supplies donations; they thanked us for the opportunity.

j. Stellarton and Area Lions Club Re: Thank you for donation – CAO S. Higdon reported that the Town donated \$300 towards their calendar and they sent their thank you.

10. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on July 24, 2023:

Recommendation #1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the tender for the South Foord Culvert from C. F. Construction, the only bidder, in the amount of \$97,499.00 plus HST; requiring more funds from Reserves as it was approved at only \$75,000.00.

Recommendation #2

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the tender for St. Vincent sanitary sewer from S. W. Weeks in the amount of \$122,450.00 plus HST, this also requires \$22,450.00 from Reserves as it was approved at \$100,000.00.

Recommendation #3

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the tender Cleaning of the Reservoir site in back of Cedar Drive from Tupper's Trucking and Backhoeing in the amount of \$8,900.00 plus HST.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve recommendations from Committee of the Whole, seconded Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

11. Pictou County Partnership – Quarter 1 Stakeholder Report – CAO S. Higdon re for Council's information.

12. Licensing of Street Food Vendor Bylaw Amendment to the Bylaw (2nd and Final Reading) – CAO S. Higdon stated that this is the 2nd and final reading of the amendment to the Licensing of Street Food Vendor Bylaw. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve 2nd and final reading, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

13. George Kouyas Day – Coun. S. Lawand proposed this; commented on Mr. Kouyas' contribution to the Town with his well-known pizza sauce; it's now part of the Town's heritage; read an article from local newspaper highlighting George Kouyas. Coun. S. Lawand would like to include information on him in the Heritage Room as well as have a "George Kouyas Day" in Stellarton. Mayor D. MacGillivray agreed and with family input, have a display in the Heritage Room. Coun. B. Knight re calling it "George Kouyas Founder of Pictou County Pizza". Coun. S. Lawand made motion for a display in the Heritage Room honoring George Kouyas, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

14. Open Forum

No one spoke at the Open Forum.

15. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

16. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER