

**FEBRUARY 12, 2024**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, February 12, 2024, 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 #8. Dorrington Ball Field and #9. Request for Access across Evansville Softball Field Parking Lot by Nova Scotia Power, on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and January 8, 2024 Regular Council meetings were approved on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **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. B. Knight made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell.

On the Question: Mayor D. MacGillivray thanked Insp. Pond and Const. Morrell for attending the Keith Masonic Lodge Levy; and Chief Hobeck for participating in the G. R. Saunders Elementary School Literacy Week.

**Motion Carried.**

**b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department**

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for January 2024, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

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

Council and CAO S. Higdon acknowledged Paige for her work with EMO in the aftermath of the snowstorm.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

On the Question: Coun. S. Lawand re the Community Centre bookings and automated bookings. CAO S. Higdon replied that Paige is still looking into that, mostly for the sports fields. Coun. S. Lawand asked about Family Day. CAO S. Higdon stated that she has been in contact with Gary Matheson at the Indoor Soccer Complex.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re Homecoming Dates set for 2024, July 24 to 28; also commented on the Albion Ball Field being the oldest in the province. Council recommends erecting information panel at the field. **Motion Carried.**

**d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer**

Coun. B. Knight comments re sidewalk plows, suggested having a larger one. Coun. B. Knight complimented the Public Works on their work clearing snow. CAO S. Higdon confirmed that contact information is available in the Town Office for people looking for contractors to clear snow. S. Higdon also provided update on the continuing work.

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

On the Question: Coun. S. Lawand re the removal of logs and any remaining work. CAO S. Higdon stated that work remains on High Street and the reservoir.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re the reservoirs and ROV's. CAO S. Higdon will find out what ROV's are. Mayor D. MacGillivray asked about the status of water meter installation. CAO S. Higdon stated that Neptune is nearing completion of work; the trailer court remains to be done; Public Works will be trained to install meters as well; software issues are being addressed; hoping to send out "mock" bills to show customers what their consumption looks like; actual consumption billing will commence in 2025. **Motion Carried.**

## 5. Correspondence

a. **Fibromyalgia Association Canada** Re: Lighting request – CAO S. Higdon stated that the Fibromyalgia Association is asking the Town to light up purple on May 12. Coun. B. Knight made motion that we light up in purple in recognition of their cause, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

On the Question: Mayor D. MacGillivray asked if we had purple lights? CAO S. Higdon confirmed that the light is multicolored and can shine purple. **Motion Carried.**

## 6. Committee of the Whole Report

There was no Committee of the Whole Report.

7. **Clean Foundation Proposal** – CAO S. Higdon stated that the Town applied to this program, and was approved; to replant trees in the Poplar Street area; she met with the Clean Foundation group; they reviewed the report that was done by Kirk Schmidt. They are recommending 1500 trees, some will not survive; planting will take place in the fall. Discussion regarding plan of action. Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept recommendation from the Clean Foundation, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

On the Question: Coun. S. Lawand wants to ensure that this will be well communicated to the public.

**Motion Carried.**

8. **Dorrington Ball Field** – CAO S. Higdon met with Town Engineer Blaine Murray and Superintendent Jamie MacDonald along with Dwayne Cameron, lead volunteer at the Dorrington Ball Field; they are applying for provincial government grant to perform work on the field and is asking the Town for permission to do the work which consists of removing the existing out building and dugouts, put some infield mix, have new fenced dugouts and upgrades and repairs to fencing to maintain integrity as well as upgrades to the clubhouse. CAO S. Higdon stated that the grant will cover two thirds of the \$100,000 costs; asking Town to consider the remaining third during budget deliberation. Discussion commenced re money spent on other fields; little work done at the Dorrington for some time. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to write the required letter permitting them do this work as well Council will consider their request for one-third of funding during budget deliberations, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

9. **Request for Access across Evansville Softball Field Parking Lot by Nova Scotia Power** – CAO S. Higdon stated that NS Power is looking for access to their substation, which is located up behind MacGregor; she read letter from Planner Roland Burek; NS Power asking to acquire a right-of-way access across the Town-owned parking lot immediately north of the Evansville Softball Field on MacGregor Avenue, immediately south of Lehigh and Water Streets. They are in the process of establishing a new location for a substation to service the immediate area including the Albion

Business Park. This will allow for added development to the commercial area as well as other residential and industrial proposals in the future; map and drawings provided. Town Planner recommended that the approval be granted for an easement over Town-owned land in favor of NSPI so they can access this piece of land. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to allow access across Evansville Softball Field parking lot, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

On the Question: Coun. S. Campbell re effects to homeowners. CAO S. Higdon replied that there will be no interference to homeowners in the area.

**Motion Carried.**

**10. Open Forum**

No one spoke at the Open Forum.

**11. Next Council Meeting:** Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

**12. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

**MAYOR**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**