

MARCH 11, 2024
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 11, 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 Item 5. Purple Day Proclamation and under Correspondence 7.c. Aberdeen Health Foundation Re AGM, on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 12, 2024 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. Presentation – Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia – Hugh MacKay gave presentation to Council highlighting:

- Creating awareness of the Rural Communities Foundation and the work they do across the province as well as their programs
- Fund development on behalf of different organizations and provide grant opportunities
- Mission is to support sustainability and improvement in rural communities throughout Nova Scotia
- Registered charity; able to provide tax receipts for donations
- Current projects include the Ukrainian Nova Scotia Resettlement Fund, the Joan Fineman Climate Change Fund, Housing for Health, Soar Eagles Fine Arts Grant, and Community Impact Conferences
- The Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund which provides free pantries; operated by individual schools which provides nutritious food for kids to take home
- This year's goal is to raise \$200,000 to use towards school grants – setting up or restocking the free pantries
- Funds raised locally will be directed to local schools
- Complimenting the work of the Food Banks and addressing food insecurity

Questions/Comments:

Mayor D. MacGillivray thanked Hugh MacKay for presentation and for the good work the Foundation is providing; will pass the information on to our community.

5. Purple Day Proclamation

Mayor D. MacGillivray read Proclamation, raising epilepsy awareness, attached. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to proclaim March 26, 2024 as Purple Day in Stellarton, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

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

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service

Mayor D. MacGillivray commented that Chief Hobeck and Insp Pond attended the Special Olympics Gala at the Halifax Convention Centre, where Chief Hobeck's team won Team of the Year. Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department

Coun. B. Knight commented re the picture of the female fighters on fire truck in recognition of International Women's Day. Coun. S. Lawand reported that the Department received some wet suits for ice rescue and did appropriate training.

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

c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications

Mayor D. MacGillivray commented on her work with REMO during recent weather events; Heritage Day activities; and Volunteer of the Year nominations are available. Coun. B. Knight added that there will be a Homecoming meeting March 12 at 2:30 p.m.

Coun. S. Campbell inquired about Jays Care Foundation; CAO S. Higdon replied that it is a charitable organization coming to Stellarton in May to provide some baseball clinics for children.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Mayor D. MacGillivray read some of the report, focusing on the snow event on February 2-4.

Coun. G. Pentz complimented Public Works employees for their hard work during the recent weeks and snow removal.

CAO S. Higdon thanked the Administration staff for taking the calls and dealing with public concern.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

7. Correspondence

a. Town of New Glasgow Re: Request Arbitration to PCSSA – CAO S. Higdon stated the Town along with participating municipalities in the Pictou County Shared Services Authority received this regarding the East River Environmental Control Centre; giving notice that the Town of New Glasgow intends to request arbitration in resolving the funding formula matter related to the East River Environmental Control Centre which operates under the umbrella of PCSSA. She updated that all parties are meeting to come up with a formula that will benefit and be fair and efficient for all of the municipalities. The issue is the delay of the installation of the flow meters. Stellarton's flowmeter has been installed; looking for a formula in the meantime before the actual data is received from the flowmeter.

b. Province of Nova Scotia – The Future of our Coastline – CAO S. Higdon re for Council's information from the Minister of Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on the proposed future of our coastline, Nova Scotia's plan to protect people, homes and nature from climate change on the Coastal Protection Act.

c. Aberdeen Health Foundation Re: AGM – CAO S. Higdon received notice that the Aberdeen Health Foundation AGM is taking place on March 21, 2024; featuring a panel discussion on "Can We Prevent Mental Illness".

8. Committee of the Whole Report

CAO S. Higdon – the following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 26, 2024

Recommendation #1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the emergency purchase of 2023 Trackless MT7 Articulating Municipal Tracker for the amount of \$162,365.00 plus HST.

Recommendation #2

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the recommendation to renovate the Stellarton Town Hall for administration only dependent upon the acquisition of a suitable building for the Stellarton Police Department.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

9. Resolution 2024-03-11 – Appointment of Returning Officer – Mayor D.

MacGillivray read Resolution 2024-03-11, Appointment of Returning Officer (attached) appointing Josephine MacDonald as Returning Officer.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve appointment of Returning Officer, seconded by Cou. Pentz.

On the Question:

Coun. B. Knight asked if the Town was going to have a poll with paper ballots as well as electronic voting. CAO S. Higdon commented that it would not be determined tonight, but Josephine will do the will of Council. CAO S. Higdon recommends that costs be determined before making decision.

Motion Carried.

10. Open Forum

Bill Cameron, 144 North Foord Street comments:

- Concerns about water from adjacent property flowing onto his property/house
- Pipe was installed, but does not work during winter
- Snow being plowed on his land

Coun. G. Pentz informed Mr. Cameron that Council is unable to comment on situation until they receive report from the Town Engineer.

11. Next Council Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER