

**MAY 13, 2024**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, May 13, 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 11. Police, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from April 8, 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 -** CEF 144 Roy Burn, Chairman of the Community Board of the 144 Construction Engineering Flight in Pictou, along with Flight Lieutenant Marsetta, made presentation to Council. Highlights:

- Community Advisory Board, Members, and the Mandate of the Board
- Training and employment opportunities
- On the Job Training (OJT)
- Community projects, beneficial to community and trainees
- Not for profit organizations
- Screening process by the Board
- Not competing with local contractors

Lieutenant Marsetta addressed Council; highlighting:

- Offer free labour to not for profit community organizations in a variety of trades; carpenters, electricians, plumbers and other technicians

Roy Burn added that they also work with high schools; offers opportunities to graduates (or anyone under age 50) looking for career options; discussed the advantages of military trades training and requirements of the program.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. B. Knight asked if training was recognized by industry and government standards. R. Burns stated that they need to write the necessary tests following their training.

Mayor D. MacGillivray thanked both for the informative presentation and stated that the information will be passed on to organizations that may benefit from it.

**5. Presentation -** Pictou County Partnership – CEO Wade Tibbo made presentation to Council. Highlights:

- Supporting businesses and entrepreneurs providing workshops
- Launched three new programs last year: Side Hustle Program, Elevate Program, and Newcomer Business Navigation Program
- Partnerships with other organizations to promote Pictou County businesses
- Supporting immigration and Community integration
- Employer support and Outreach events

- Workshops on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Community and Business Leaders
- Digital Nomad Initiative
- Community Connections Initiatives
- Working with volunteer organizations
- Participated in the Destination Canada Labour Mobility Event
- Database of individuals with different skill sets for employers
- Hosted the annual REN Conference
- Economic development
- Child Care Access; Housing; Transportation barriers
- Funding breakdown
- Government resources and program building
- Sustainable revenue streams moving forward
- Investment attraction and expansion
- Regional asset inventory
- Enhance public awareness
- Quarterly reports will be released

Questions/Comments:

Coun. B. Knight inquired about putting together a film to showcase what Pictou County has to offer. W. Tibbo stated that a video was done last year highlighting some of the businesses in the county and their successes; this year they're doing a video around the supports that are available for businesses; also videos on youtube highlighting areas throughout the county i.e. parks, beaches, riverfronts.

Coun. S. Lawand, Vice Chair of the Committee, commented on some of the work done by the group; the Business Succession Plan, the REN Conference; the Asset Inventory Database.

Mayor D. MacGillivray thanked Mr. Tibbo for the informative presentation.

Mayor D. MacGillivray welcomed Municipal Advisory Ross MacDonald to the meeting.

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

**a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service**

Mayor D. MacGillivray commented re Constable Vandergrift gave a Cyber Safety talk at the Sharon St. John Church and a Youth Internet Safety talk at the G.R. Saunders Elementary School. Coun. B. Knight stated that this week is National Police Week and there was an outdoor open house event today. Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

On the Question: Coun. S. Lawand re email from resident asking for speed bumps, request was forwarded to Police Department. **Motion Carried.**

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

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

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

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

**d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer**

Coun. S. Lawand re any issues with water meters. CAO S. Higdon stated that this is the trial period and Neptune is investigating any possible issues prior to billing for consumption in 2025; this is the time to see the consumption and identify what may not be working; there will be a rate study done by the NS Utility and Review Board and we hope to do a "mock bill" showing consumption to customers. Coun. S. Lawand re increases in the water rates. CAO S. Higdon replied that there was an increase April 1, 2024 and there will

be another increase April 1, 2025. Coun. S. Lawand re Birch Hill Drive asphalt and would like the Town Engineer to take a look at the condition. Coun. S. Campbell made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**7. Correspondence**

**a. Province of NS Municipal Affairs and Housing** - Re: Canada Community-Building Fund – CAO S. Higdon re information from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Canada Community Building Fund which expired on March 31, 2024, they are providing us with an update on the renewal of the CCBF. For Council's information.

**b. Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library** – Re: Update on Funding Formula – CAO S. Higdon stated that at the regular PARL Board Meeting, the Annual Budget was reviewed and approved; a copy is attached for Council's information; in 2020 the province of Nova Scotia introduced a new funding formula, no increases to the municipalities. Mayor D. MacGillivray commented on all the programs offered through the libraries now. Coun. S. Lawand also commented on how the library has evolved through the years.

**8. Committee of the Whole Report**

The following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 22, 2024.

Recommendation #1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the Curb and Gutter Replacement tender received from S. W. Weeks in the amount of \$371,467.00 plus HST as this was the lowest tender received.

Recommendation #2

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the Kirk Avenue Infrastructure tender received from S. W. Weeks in the amount of \$2,117,450.00 plus HST as this was the lowest tender received.

Recommendation #3

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the Patching tender received from Webster Bros Paving and Concrete in the amount of \$59,785.00 plus HST as this was the lowest tender received.

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

**9. Stellarton Town Council Honorarium** – CAO S. Higdon re Council had approved a minimum increase in 2021/2022 of 2%; recommending increases every four years in the last budget of that year; a cumulative change as in the CUPE Union contract; this rate would hold until the next adjustment. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Council Honorarium, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**10. Bylaw Amendment Noise Control #54 First Reading** – Exemption to Commercial properties requiring solid waste pick up before 7:00 a.m. – CAO S. Higdon reported that this is the first reading of the amendment for Noise Control Bylaw #54; the amendment will read under General Exemptions #12, Letter L: "Solid Waste Service providers to commercial businesses who require access between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. due to traffic concerns and accessibility under the provisions of #13". She stated that this was given to the Town Engineer as well as the Traffic Authority and was acceptable to them.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Bylaw Amendment Noise Control #54 First Reading, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

There will be Public Hearing on June 10 at 5:00 p.m. for public input.

On the Question: Coun. S. Lawand re adopting amendment with exemptions. CAO S. Higdon provided information re specific locations requested. Coun. S. Lawand not in favour of one location on Rundle Street; too populated. Coun. B. Knight concerns re number of times a week for pick-up. Mayor D. MacGillivray recommends specifying the exact locations to ensure little impact as possible. Council agreed to specify actual locations in the Bylaw for clarification. CAO S. Higdon will include this in the Bylaw.

**Motion Carried.**

**11. Police** – Coun. B. Knight commented on the speeding issue and a request for speed bumps and stop signs; he discussed the issue and options; he recommends that Town Council submit a request to the Department of Justice giving the Town's Traffic Authority the ability to set our own speed limits. Coun. B. Knight made the motion to submit request to the Department of Justice, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**12. Open Forum**

No one spoke at the Open Forum.

**13. Next Council Meeting:** Monday, June 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.  
Public Hearing Monday, June 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

**14. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

**MAYOR**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**