

**JUNE 10, 2024**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

Deputy Mayor S. Campbell, Couns. S. Lawand, and B. Knight. Also present was the Chief Administrative Officer S. Higdon.

Regrets: Mayor D. MacGillivray and Coun. G. Pentz.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as amended to include 12. Police Chief Sale of Service Agreement with the Town of Westville, and 10. Pictou County Shared Services Authority East River Environmental Control Centre PCAP Assistance Program, on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from May 13, 2024 Regular Council meeting were approved on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a. Speed Limit** – CAO S. Higdon re the issue of speed limits within Town; spoke with the Traffic Authority, Chief Hobeck; spoke with the Provincial Traffic Authority and there is a Traffic Study that would be required for each different street that Council wishes to have the speed limit reduced. Coun. B. Knight commented on the various streets that need to be studied. Coun. B. Knight made motion to study the following streets: Old Foxbrook Road, Riverbank and River Streets, George Street, Hemlock Street, and Weir Avenue; and pass on to the province to have the speed limit adjusted to 30, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Presentation of the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements**

Matt Gallant of Grant Thornton made presentation of the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements; highlighting:

- Clean audit opinion and recommended for approval
- Financial position of Town; Cash balance is up during the year
- Capital funds growing
- Net Financial Debt up slightly
- Healthy Reserves
- Accumulated surplus
- Clean balance sheet year over year
- Depreciation of capital assets; continue to monitor
- Statements and notes consistent with previous years

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

Deputy Mayor S. Campbell proceeded to read a note from Mayor D. MacGillivray, who's attending a FCM Conference and was briefed on the Audit and made the following comments: "The Town made a total investment in capital assets this year of \$2.6 million which includes the start of the infrastructure improvements on Claremont Avenue and a new fire truck. Once again we are seeing the positive impact of results of operations related to the increase in the interest rates. Although we are dealing with

some clean-up efforts as a result of Fiona, our major weather event this year was snow. With the snowstorms in February, which had a significant impact on the Town and its residents.”

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

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service  
Coun. S. Lawand made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department  
Coun. B. Knight motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for May 2024, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications  
Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.  
On the Question: Deputy Mayor S. Campbell commented on the Town’s 3 new e-bikes (nearly road-ready), Davis Day Ceremony will be held June 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Miner’s Monument, and Homecoming Festival dates July 24 to 28. **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.**

**6. Correspondence**

- a. **Tabitha Lane** - Re: Request for donation – She’s an EA at Northumberland Regional High School; she’s requesting a donation towards transportation costs for a class trip. Coun. S. Lawand referred to the Town’s Policy on donations, adding that there is no money left in budget for such donations. Council denied request.
- b. **Pictou County Seniors Festival** – Re: Request for Volunteer Assistance – CAO S. Higdon received correspondence from the Pictou County Seniors Festival, looking for volunteers; Coun. B. Knight suggested that Paige Draper, Marketing and Communications, post this information / request on the Town’s website.
- c. **Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue** – Re: Thank you for your donation; CAO S. Higdon stated that this donation was part of the Annual Grants in the amount of \$1,548.00.
- d. **Ryan’s Case for Smiles** – Re: Thank you for donation- CAO S.Higdon stated that Council approved a donation for Ryan’s Case for Smiles in the amount of \$250.00.
- e. **Joe Earle Memorial Road Race** – Thank you for donation – CAO S. Higdon stated that the Town donated to the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Joe Earle Memorial Road Race.

**7. Committee of the Whole Report**

The following recommendations are for Council’s consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 3, 2024.

Recommendation #1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the 4 x 4 Truck tender received from Highland Ford in the amount of \$109,400 plus HST as this was the lowest tender received.

Recommendation #2

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the Capital Paving tender received from S. W. Weeks in the amount of \$219,296.95 plus HST as this was the lowest tender received. This is \$36,000 more than budgeted.

Recommendation #3

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve an extra \$75,000 for storm water separation for Claremont Avenue.

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

**8. Bylaw Amendment Noise Control #54 Second and Final Reading** – CAO S. Higdon reported that this is the second and final reading for Council's consideration; the first reading was on May 13, 2024; a Public Hearing was held today at 5:00 p.m. Coun. S. Lawand comments re updating bylaws as required to accommodate the changing needs of the Town; understands the concerns from the resident regarding noise; he supports this amendment with the exception of the Allan Avenue Apartments, Park Street because it's in a residential area.

Coun. B. Knight comments re traffic volume on Foord Street and safety concerns. Motioned by Coun. S. Lawand to approve the second and final reading by removing section 12. Letter L, number 1.112 Allan Avenue Apartments Park Street, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**9. Resolution** – MIP Application – CAO S. Higdon read the Resolution for the Municipal Innovation Program, attached. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve the Municipal Innovation Program, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**10. Police Commission Citizen Representative** – CAO S. Higdon reported that there was a vacancy on the Police Commission due to a resignation; as per policy, it was advertised and one application was received from citizen Dan Guthro. If Council approves, a background check will be performed and forwarded to the Police Commission. Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve Dan Guthro, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

On the Question:

Coun. B. Knight commented about Dan Guthro; feels he would make a great addition to the Police Commission.

**Motion Carried.**

**11. Police Chief Sale of Services** – CAO S. Higdon provided information re discussions between the Town of Westville and the Town of Stellarton, for the Town of Westville to purchase Chief of Police sale of services; wants to ratify for the public's information that beginning on July 8, 2024, the Town of Stellarton will be cost-sharing the services of the Chief of Police to Westville; it's done on a 60/40 split timewise and cost-shared 50/50. Coun. S. Lawand comments re in favor of a joint police chief. Coun. B. Knight comments re upcoming provincial police review. Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Police Chief Sale of Services, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

**Motion Carried.**

**12. Pictou County Shared Services Authority East River Environmental Control Centre** – CAO S. Higdon reported that the ERECC is applying under the Provincial Capital Assistance Program, deadline is June 13, 2024; it requires from motions from each participating municipal council endorsing specific project submissions; the staff from ERECC is proposing two submissions be made by the participating municipalities; the program funds up to 50% of eligible project costs and are intended to support categories such as capital construction for water, waste water or storm water infrastructure and could also include engineering design or technical studies related to these categories.

Moved by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand that Council prioritize the “emergency Standby/Backup power detailed design for Tender ready drawings – Wastewater Treatment Plant” as the Town’s first priority for funding application through the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for 2024.

On the Question:

Coun. S. Lawand asked if this would cost the Town additional money. CAO S. Higdon replied that it would not, it’s already approved under their budget.

**Motion Carried.**

Moved by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand that Council prioritize the “Emergency Power Concept Development Study – Wastewater Collection System 17 Pumping Stations” as the Town’s second priority for funding applications through the Provincial Capital Assistance Program for 2024. **Motion Carried.**

Signed and sealed motions attached.

**13. Conditions and Traffic on Old Foxbrook Road** – Christine Farmer addressed Council regarding the conditions and traffic on Old Foxbrook Road. Her concerns include:

- widening the street to accommodate traffic volume from the sports fields and Bingo operation
- speed is an issue
- a possible alternate route
- cars parking on both sides of the street preventing residents from accessing their own driveways even though there are “No Parking” signs posted
- becoming a dangerous situation
- also dangerous pulling out onto Acadia Avenue due to an obstructive bush
- concerns for children living on the street; no sidewalks; difficult to walk or push a stroller
- winter snow narrowing the street causing more hazards
- residents want these concerns dealt with

Coun. B. Knight commented that the Town is looking at solutions; looking at reducing the speed limit to 30; currently lobbying the provincial government to allow the Town to set speed limits; will talk with Traffic Authority re Stop signs at Coll intersection; widening the street was not feasible.

Coun. S. Lawand commented that widening the street is not the solution; sidewalks could be looked at if funding becomes available; Capital expenditures and priorities; this street has been brought up at prior discussions; he would like to see sidewalks on Old Foxbrook Road as well as Hemlock and River Streets; Council can only do so much; he will ensure that sidewalks will be considered during the next capital budget deliberations. Police can order tow trucks to remove vehicles blocking driveways.

Coun. S. Lawand also replied that the Town will investigate any alternate route that may be an option.

Coun. B. Knight reiterated the budget and funding process for capital projects; the issue of sidewalks discussed.

Coun. S. Lawand provided background information on the Town’s sidewalks; to focus on repairing/replacing old sidewalks before building new ones; and at times removing sidewalk from one side of the street, leaving one on the other side.

Coun. B. Knight will pursue options i.e. stop signs and speed limits, and get back to residents.

**13. Open Forum**

Paul Gerrior, from Old Foxbrook Road, comments:

- Asked if Babe Mason Way could be a possible alternate route to the facilities to alleviate some of the traffic using Old Foxbrook Road

STELLARTON TOWN COUNCIL  
JUNE 10, 2024

Coun. B. Knight stated that this was looked at before but was not ideal due to wet ground conditions; he will revisit the subject with the Town Engineer.

**14. Next Council Meeting:** Monday, July 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

**15. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. S. Lawand.

**MAYOR**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**