

DECEMBER 9, 2024
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor D. Stroud, Couns. S. Eis, M. Fortune, S. Campbell and G. Pentz. Also present was CAO S. Higdon.

1. AGENDA

The Agenda was approved, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from November 12, 2024 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. S. Eis seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Presentation – Pictou County Food Bank East – Shelley Manning

Shelley Manning made presentation to Council; highlighting:

- Area the Food Bank serves
- All activities are run by volunteers
- Transparency and Operation Excellence
- Over 1500 households supported; approximately 17,000 individuals since January 2024
- Overview of clients including seniors and children
- Depend heavily on community support; Food industry partners, private donors and Feed Nova Scotia
- Costs and demands are increasing; \$23,000 per month on food; \$400,000 per year to operate
- Thanked the Town Police for their recent Food Drive at Sobeys Stellarton

CAO S. Higdon commented on the Police Food Drive this past Saturday where they collected three full car loads of donations; will become an annual event. She also noted the Town's Annual Grants program.

Mayor D. Stroud asked about the process of purchasing food.

They have great relationships with local stores and the Second Harvest Program.

Coun. S. Eis inquired about volunteer opportunities.

5. Presentation – Pictou County Roots for Youth – Kathryn Tanner

Kathryn Tanner made presentation to Council, highlighting Pictou County Roots for Youth which opened in 2011:

- Emergency shelter for at risk youth ages 16 to 24, located on Stellar Street
- Supportive housing unit located on Poplar Street; where the residents pay rent
- Outreach program in the community
- Housing crisis consideration
- Provides programs and transition opportunities
- Mental Health needs
- Rules are in place
- Support from the Police
- Event on February 22, Coldest Night of the Year, major fundraiser

Coun. G. Pentz commented re the difficulties associated with this line of work; he commended and wished them the best of luck.

Coun. S. Eis comments re supporting Roots for Youth and thanking them for the valuable information.

Coun. M. Fortune comments re trauma informed practices and training.

K. Tanner outlined the staff training.

Coun. S. Campbell inquired about the day-to-day activities for the youth.

K. Tanner stated that the goal is to get the youth into school and to get employed by providing resources and support.

Mayor. D. Stroud asked what is the biggest challenge.

K. Tanner replied that it is mental health and addictions.

Mayor D. Stroud re management of the houses and any impact to their neighbours.

Coun. S. Eis re capacity and if there are plans to open additional spaces.

K. Tanner stated that they are turning youth away constantly due to being at full capacity; their aim is to build stability with the program prior to expanding.

Mayor D. Stroud thanked Kathryn for her presentation.

6. Reports from Staff: November (Attached)

a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for November 2024, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications

Coun. S. Eis made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Coun. G. Pentz commended the Town Engineer with the work done on Kirk Avenue.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer’s Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

7. Correspondence

a. Healthy Pictou County Re: Monthly Update – CAO S. Higdon stated that this is a monthly report; they are a group that helped promote Pictou County as an area for Health Care Providers; for Council’s information.

8. Committee of the Whole Report – No Report

9. Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development (GRID) Program

CAO S. Higdon, for Council’s information, the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program, is a new funding opportunity; for shovel-ready projects to expand or preserve housing which includes water, sanitary sewer or storm water. She informed Council that Rutherford Street experienced a number of water breaks (due to the work on Kirk), because the infrastructure is old; she reported that it is strongly recommended by staff that Rutherford Street would be the next priority; the deadline to apply for this funding is December 13, 2024; looking for a resolution from Council to allow the Town to apply for funding not to exceed \$3 million dollars. Town Engineer is working on costs. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-12-09, Growth and Renewal For Infrastructure Development Program, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Stellarton

That the Chief Administrative Officer and Town Engineer be authorized to submit an application for a project under the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID) for the following prioritized project for the fiscal year 2025-2026

- 1. Rutherford Street Infrastructure Renewal Project Not to exceed \$3,000,000*

10. Open Forum

Coun. G. Pentz thanked Paige Draper and the Stellarton Fire Department for doing a great job on the Tree Lighting event on November 29.

- 11. Next Council Meeting:** Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz

MAYOR

CAO