

JULY 8, 2024
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns. S. Campbell, S. Lawand, B. Knight and G. Pentz. Also present was the Chief Administrative Officer S. Higdon.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as amended to include under Correspondence, Notice of Approved Regulations Equity and Anti-Racism Plan for Municipalities and Villages on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from June 10, 2024 Public Hearing and June 10, 2024 Regular Council meeting were approved on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a. Old Foxbrook Road** – Coun. B. Knight provided some background information on Old Foxbrook Road; used to have two entrances to sports fields, but for safety reasons, the entrance from Hoyte was blocked off. The three soccer fields and indoor sports complex were added later which increased usage and traffic. He recommends widening the road and putting in a sidewalk on the west-side with curb; another suggestion would be to have a second entrance on Poplar Street via Babe Mason Way.

Coun. S. Lawand comments re matters of safety being a priority; Hemlock Street should have a sidewalk for kids walking as well Old Foxbrook Road.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to take money from the reserves and put sidewalks on Old Foxbrook Road, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

Coun. S. Lawand made a second motion to expand the dirt road from Babe Mason Way to the soccer field all the way to Old Foxbrook Road for next budget deliberations, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

On the Question:

Mayor D. MacGillivray stated that there is no costing until the fall as per the Town Engineer.

Coun. G. Pentz comments re working within the Town's budget, and feels that this should be a budget item next year; not comfortable approving motion without knowing the costs.

Coun. S. Lawand and Coun. B. Knight voted yea, Coun. G. Pentz and Coun. S. Campbell voted nay; Mayor D. MacGillivray broke the tie by voting nay since there is no costing available. Motions lost.

Coun. B. Knight made recommendation to put this in the next budget deliberations.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re some residents not in favor of sidewalks because they lose some front yard area.

Coun. B. Knight re consulting with residents.

Coun. S. Lawand commented that safety trumps any concerns about losing some front yard footage.

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

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service
CAO S. Higdon stated that Chief Hobeck has started his services with the Town of Westville today; as well the Town has room for three new officers – two term and one part-time; it was recommended to make these positions full-time permanent for recruitment and retention purposes; Council approved. Initially there were two officers on per shift, now this will bring it to three officers on per shift. Coun. G. Pentz re costs. CAO S. Higdon replied that this will be \$200,000 on the budget.
Coun. S. Campbell made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**
 - b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for June 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. S. Campbell.
Motion Carried.
 - d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
Coun. B. Knight comments re Grant Street flooding issues; Town Engineer will look into this; also, the street may need the pavement extended because of more housing.
Coun. G. Pentz re area on MacGregor Avenue that needs to be repaired.
CAO S. Higdon will check with Town Engineer concerning repair plans.
Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve Town Engineer’s Reports, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**
5. **Correspondence**
- a. **Healthy Pictou County - Re: June Report** – CAO S. Higdon stated that Healthy Pictou County is the group that helps with doctor recruitment and health care professionals in the county; they will be doing monthly reports. For Council’s information.
 - b. **Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library – Re: Financial Statements, March 31, 2024 & Annual Report** – For Council’s information.
 - c. **Prostate Cancer Foundation – Re: Light Up Blue** – CAO S. Higdon reported that September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and Prostate Cancer Foundation Canada is asking landmarks across Canada to light up in Blue, to raise awareness of prostate cancer. Coun. B. Knight made motion to light up in blue for a week in September, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.
Motion Carried.
 - d. **Notice of Approved Regulations Equity and Anti-Racism Plan for Municipalities and Villages** – CAO S. Higdon commented that municipalities are now required to have an Equity and Anti-Racism Plan in place by April 1, 2025; she stated that this process will be started soon. Coun. G. Pentz asked if the whole County can work on this as a group; CAO S. Higdon will ask the other towns at the Mayors and Warden meeting in September.
6. **Committee of the Whole Report – No Report**
7. **Temporary Borrowing Resolution** – Sidewalk Plows (Resolution attached); Mayor D. MacGillivray stated that the amount is \$361,300 for two sidewalk plows, and read Temporary Borrowing Resolution for the record. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$361,300, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**
8. **Mutual Aid Agreement** – Re: Final Draft of the 2024 Intermunicipal Fire Services Agreement – CAO S. Higdon reported that the Mutual Aid Agreement was drafted by a Mutual Aid Committee made up of different fire fighters across the county;

Fire Chief M. O'Sullivan forwarded correspondence to CAO with comments regarding the mutual aid agreement; looking for Council's approval prior to final adoption from the Firefighters Association. Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept the Mutual Aid Agreement, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

9. Open Forum

Christine Farmer commented on the radar set up on street, doesn't seem to be hooked up. Coun. B. Knight stated that it is hooked up in "stealth mode". Paul Gerior commented re Babe Mason Way as additional entrance to the sports fields and Old Foxbrook Road; should have a separate motion for that issue.

10. Next Council Meeting: Monday, September 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER