

JANUARY 13, 2025
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, January 13, 2025, 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. S. Eis, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.
Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from December 9, 2024 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. S. Campbell seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Presentation of Service Awards

CAO S. Higdon read names and Mayor D. Stroud presented the following Service Awards to:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------|
| a. Chief Mark Hobeck | 5 years |
| b. Cst. Adam Rideout | 5 years |
| c. Darryl Moss | 5 years |
| d. Brian Coffin | 5 years |
| e. Joe Landry | 10 years |
| f. Gina Markie | 30 years |

5. Presentation – Hospital Garden – Barb Young

Barb Young made presentation to Council; highlighting:

- Project background
- 2025 commemorates 30th Anniversary of the closure of the Aberdeen School of Nursing
- Plans to construct a Healing Garden with stone benches; design completed by Pictou County artists; displayed and described to Council
- Archive photos displayed
- Partnered with the Aberdeen Foundation
- Funding sources; grants, fundraisers, etc.

Mayor D. Stroud thanked Barb for presentation and worthwhile project. The ask will be discussed during budget deliberations.

6. Presentation – NS Health Municipalities and Health – Korede Esan, along with Jalisa Clarke, Stephane Feuer and Tabitha White made presentation to Council, highlighting:

- Working with community
- Northern Zone, 4 Public Health Offices – Truro, Elmsdale, Amherst and New Glasgow
- Public Health Core Areas include Health Protection, Early Years, and Healthy Communities

- Upstream Approach – Social Inequities, Institutional Inequities, Living Conditions, Behaviors, and Health Outcomes
- Development of partnerships to foster healthy public health policies and address the social deterrents
- Healthy Communities – Managers, Youth Health Centre Coordinators, Health Promoters, Admin. Support, School Health Promoter, Youth Engagement, Nutritionists, Dental Hygienists and Consultants
- Housing, Income, Food Insecurities, Active Communities, and Social Connection
- Collaborations with relevant groups
- Income is one of the most important determinants of healthy people and communities
- Working together to improve health through data collection, indicators and tools

Mayor D. Stroud thanked presenters and commented on the importance of public health.

7. Reports from Staff: December (Attached and available online)

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service
CAO S. Higdon commented – the “Calls for Service” are increasing; and Community Policing under Events – Officers attended the Provincial Operation Christmas Checkpoint; Sgt. Morrell attended the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and participated in the YMCA Ugly Sweater Run in full uniform; Officers held a Cram the Cruiser at Sobeys and raised \$1,500 towards the Food Bank.
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
CAO S. Higdon thanked the Fire Department for hosting Santa on Christmas Eve; a highlight for many families. Coun. S. Campbell thanked the Fire Department and the Town for working together on the Christmas Party.
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for December 2024, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications
Coun. G. Pentz inquired about the TownApp. CAO S. Higdon explained how to find / use the Town of Stellarton’s App; notifications are instantly posted on the App such as water breaks, events, etc.; there have been 1,500 downloads; a new update will be available soon. Coun. G. Pentz asked about the Film Commission. CAO S. Higdon stated that Paige reached out to Hallmark and in turn was directed to the NS Film Commission re potential areas for filmmaking; Paige and Cindy from DEANS got together and some filming took place in the Allan Park and our Main Street. Mayor D. Stroud asked if any of the towns have the TownApp. CAO S. Higdon replied that they do not, but Paige did provide them with the relevant information if they decide to have it in the future.
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**
- d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
Mayor D. Stroud re Capital projects, most completed; asked about the one ton truck that was ordered. CAO S. Higdon responded that it was approved during budget deliberations 2024/25 under Capital items; 2024 Ford F 550; costing \$108,894.28.
Mayor D. Stroud re the Water Utility Report – the downward annual water withdrawal. CAO S. Higdon reported that there are a number of reasons for this trend – replacement of some water mains which reduced leaks; and the installation of water meters; software can detect leaks; and the process

changes in the Water Treatment Plant, using less water to backwash the membranes and sandfilters.

Coun. S. Eis made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

8. Correspondence

a. Museum of Industry Re: 30th Anniversary – CAO S. Higdon re 30th Anniversary of the Museum of Industry in 2025; event planned in June; want to partner with the Town with some exhibits.

b. Museum of Industry Re: Thank you to Fire and Police – Manager Claire MacDonald-Mathews from the Museum of Industry thanking the Police and Fire Chiefs for their participation in their Fall Training Days.

c. Pictou County 4H Re: Thank you for donation – CAO S. Higdon stated that this is part of the Annual Grants, a thank you for the \$50 donation to the Pictou County 4H.

d. NS Association of Realtors Re: Introduction letter – CAO S. Higdon stated the NS Association of Realtors sent a letter to all Council congratulating them on the election; and wanted to introduce themselves; addressed housing issues; and welcomed Council's input. Coun. G. Pentz suggested inviting them to give a presentation to Council. CAO S. Higdon will reach out to them.

e. Municipal Affairs Re: Code of Conduct – CAO S. Higdon re letter from Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, commending all municipalities for successfully adopting the legislative Code of Conduct within the required timelines; and recommends reviewing it in three years.

f. NSFM Re: Code of Conduct Training – CAO S. Higdon informed Council that the NSFM are conducting in-person training sessions, in Truro; she will be attending along with Coun. S. Campbell; it's compliment to the mandatory online training that launches in February.

9. Committee of the Whole Report – No Report; next meeting January 27, 2025

10. Update from Pictou Antigonish Regional Library – Coun. S. Eis attended board meeting in December; had orientation of operations and the work happening at the Library. For Council's information.

11. Update from Riverview Home Corporation – Coun. S. Eis reported that she attended orientation and board meeting; provided some information.

12. Open Forum

No one spoke at the Open Forum

13. Next Council Meeting: Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

14. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz

MAYOR

CAO