

MAY 12, 2025
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor Darren Stroud, Couns. Sandra Eis, Mark Fortune, Susan Campbell and Garry Pentz. Also present was CAO Susan Higdon, Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan, Marketing and Communications Paige Draper and Town Engineer Blaine Murray

1. AGENDA

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 14, 2025 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Deer Update – Mayor D. Stroud re issue of deer population in Town was brought up at the Mayors and Warden meeting; a representative from Natural Resources was present and provided information; all municipal units agreed to work together; New Glasgow has been sharing their procedures; a meeting of the Regional Urban Deer Management Committee, consisting of the Mayors and CAO's, will take place this Thursday; will provide future updates.

4. Reports from Staff: April (Attached and available online)

a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service

CAO S. Higdon reviewed report to Council; 212 Calls in April; Events include Sgt. Sutherland attended GR Saunders for Big Brothers Big Sisters; Cst. Vandergrift attended GR Saunder and gave a Text and Cyber Safety Talk to the students; Chief Hobeck attended the Atlantic Police Academy graduation for our new constable, Cst. Berthier who received an award for Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement in Leadership and Fitness; and Chief Hobeck presented at Pathways to Safety: Enhancing Support for Survivors of Sexualized and Gender Based Violence Forum. They had 13 hours of Foot Patrol; 149 hours of Traffic Enforcement; and 18 hours of Community Relations.

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

Chief O'Sullivan reported that the Stellarton Fire Department had 10 calls in April; practices were held every Thursday evening with an average of 11 members attending; Equipment checks were completed weekly with individual crews.

Coun. S. Eis motioned to accept Fire Department's report for April 2025, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications

P. Draper asked if there were any questions on her April Report.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell.

Mayor D. Stroud commented on the new neighborhood signage and ACOA funding. CAO S. Higdon stated that future funding is yet to be determined.

Motion Carried.

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Town Engineer Blaine Murray presented reports to Council; commenting re new Engineering Technologist Holly Miller; the Rutherford Project start up meeting. On the Water Report, carbon system was prepared and flushed. . Coun. G. Pentz commented on employee safety training. B. Murray confirmed that staff received First Aid, Scissor and Man-Lift training and confined space.

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

5. Correspondence

a. Municipal Affairs Re: Fire Records Management System – CAO S. Higdon read correspondence from Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding the Fire Records Management System; providing update on important investment in provincial management of records related to fire services and how the new system will support municipalities and fire departments across the province.

b. Riverview Home Corporation Re: Report – Coun. S. Eis updated Council re Riverview Home Corp., moving forward with their procurement and planning of building specialized homes for current residents in Riverton.

c. Pictou County Prostate Cancer Support Association Re: Thank you for donation; CAO S. Higdon commented that this is a "Thank you" from the 42nd Annual Donald Keddy Memorial Hockey tournament and the Pictou County Prostate Cancer Support Association; included in the Town's annual grant program.

d. Municipal Affairs Re: Reprofiling of the Beautification and Streetscaping Program (BSP) and the Community Works Program (CWP) – CAO S. Higdon received correspondence from the Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, informing Council that they are reprofiling the Beautification and Streetscaping and the Community Works Program, which were two separate funding opportunities, but now its put towards the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for the 2025-26 program year; increasing the PCAP budget from \$690,000 to \$1.69 million; huge benefit for the municipalities for do infrastructure work under this program.

6. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendation is for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 28, 2025:

Recommendation # 1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the tender received from S.W Weeks Construction for the Rutherford Infrastructure Project in the amount of \$1,569,895.00 plus HST as it was the lowest tender received.

Recommendation # 2

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the tender received from S.W Weeks Construction for asphalt patching in the amount of \$64,000.00 plus HST as it was the lowest tender received.

Recommendation # 3

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the donation of \$100.00 to the Northumberland Regional High School Yearbook Committee for an ad in the 2025 yearbook.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

7. Open Forum

Mayor D. Stroud acknowledged MLA Danny MacGillivray's presence in the gallery. Mayor D. Stroud commented on CAO Susan Higdon's seven years with the Town; she has submitted her resignation and she will be greatly missed.

CAO S. Higdon said that it's been an honor to serve the citizens of Stellarton.

Coun. G. Pentz also commented that it was the best move the Town made when hiring Susan Higdon, and her tremendous work she contributed to the Town.

Mayor D. Stroud reiterated her commitment to the Town; the replacement process has begun.

MLA Danny MacGillivray commented that he was also on the hiring committee when Susan was hired; an excellent decision; she was a definite asset to the Town of Stellarton.

8. Next Council Meeting: Monday, June 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CAO