

NOVEMBER 10, 2025
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor Darren Stroud, Couns. Sandra Eis, Mark Fortune, and Garry Pentz. Also present was CAO Alanna Grover, Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan, and Town Engineer Blaine Murray. Regrets: Coun. Susan Campbell.

1. AGENDA

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from October 14, 2025 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. M. Fortune seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

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

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service
CAO A. Grover highlighted: October Calls for Service was 252; Events included – Take Back the Night Walk, annual international event that focuses on support, awareness and action for gender-based violence; Trick or Trail event at Trenton Park providing Halloween treats to close to 600 children. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. Coun. S. Eis added that her daughter volunteered giving out treats at the Trick or Trail event. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department
Fire Chief M. O’Sullivan presented Monthly Report for October; participated in the annual Fire Prevention Parade; conducted several Fire Drills; Hosted an Open House as part of Fire Prevention Week; Responded to 10 calls; practices held every Thursday; Clean-up and Equipment checks performed weekly.
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for October 2025, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.
Coun. G. Pentz re update on Fire School. M. O’Sullivan stated that there is a 51 page report; planning to open several locations; Board of Directors appointments. Mayor D. Stroud re recruitment for additional fire fighters. M. O’Sullivan replied that application forms are available in the Town Office; need to be a resident of Stellarton and other criteria required. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications
CAO A. Grover presented the October Report; highlighting a Community Deer Survey to allow residents an opportunity to give their input on the deer situation; Remembrance Day recognition, staff have painted a tribute on the sidewalk near the cenotaph, noting that there were 90,000 views on social media; Council Meet and Greet will take place on November 17 from 6 to 7 at the Stellarton Fire Hall; Plans are in the works for our annual tree lighting event that will take place on November 28 at 6 p.m.

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

Mayor D. Stroud commented on the Deer situation and survey; the tribute to veterans painting was raised by a resident. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

B. Murray presented reports to Council; highlighting that Rutherford project is wrapping up; Public Works staff are busy getting ready for the holiday season and prepping winter equipment.

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

5. Correspondence

a. Engage Nova Scotia Re: Quality of Life Survey; CAO A. Grover re an update for Council; information page shared; municipalities in Pictou County took part; the survey captures the perceptions, experiences and behaviors of residents across the province; it will be released in 2026. Website is engagenovascotia.ca.

b. News Release Premier Houston's Office Re: New Cabinet – CAO A. Grover re News Release issued on October 21, 2025 from Premier Tim Houston's office announcing cabinet changes; John MacDonald will be the new Minister of Municipal Affairs.

c. Letter, Minister of Municipal Affairs, John MacDonald – CAO A. Grover re letter received from Minister of Municipal Affairs John MacDonald reaching out to Mayors and Wardens and Councillors as an introduction with his new role and indicating he will be attending the NSFM Conference to connect with all members.

d. Letter, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board – CAO A. Grover re letter from Chair of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board Clyde Fraser addressed to Premier Tim Houston; requesting meeting with province to discuss provincial funding to our region; also requesting base grant be increased to offset minimum wage increases; other concerns noted.

e. Pictou County Partnership - Q2 Report – CAO A. Grover re quarterly report from July 1 to September 30, included in Council package; highlighting business support for development, community impact organizations, and provided navigation support to several businesses.

f. Healthy Pictou County – CAO A. Grover received the October 2025 Report from Health Pictou County; highlighting student rotations; supported a site visit of a nurse practitioner; and participated in a meeting with Dalhousie Continuing Medical Education Team discussing support for learners and future opportunities.

6. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on October 27, 2025:

Recommendation #1

On the recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the request received from Highland District Soccer Association to continue with a Tax Assistance Grant for a further 4 years from June 2025 to June 2029.

Recommendation #2

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council amend the current Water Collection Policy to update language to state that any Town of Stellarton Water Utility account that is two (2) or more water billings in arrears is in position for water disconnection.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept the recommendations from the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

7. Resolution, Deputy Mayor Signing Authority

Mayor D. Stroud commented that this occurs every year. CAO A. Grover explained that from November 1 to October 31 annually, a new Deputy Mayor is appointed; alternating between wards. CAO A. Grover read the Resolution:

***BE IT RESOLVED** the appointment of Deputy Mayor of the Town of Stellarton and adopted under authority of Section 16(2) of the Municipal Government Act, that Deputy Mayor Garry Pentz be authorized to sign cheques and other legal documents in the absence of the Mayor from November 1, 2025 until October 31, 2026 for the Town of Stellarton.*

Coun. S. Eis made motion to approve Deputy Mayor & Signing Authority Resolution, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

8. Open Forum

John Hawley spoke re street lighting and maintenance:

- North Foord intersection street light is burnt out
- Recurring pothole by the Scotia Bank
- Need for an assessable Town Hall building; possible location
- Water meter program; when will consumption billing commence

Mayor D. Stroud thanked Mr. Hawley; stating that there will be a Meet and Greet on Monday November 17; these such issues will be discussed.

CAO A. Grover added that at any time, people can call the Town Office with concerns.

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

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CAO