

**FEBRUARY 9, 2026
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, February 9, 2026, 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 Alanna Grover.

Mayor D. Stroud commented that February is African Awareness Month.

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 January 12, 2026 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. Presentation: Property Valuation Services Corporation, Paul Beazley, Steve Howley and Patrick Mitchell, Re: 2026 Assessment Roll (virtual)

Highlights:

- Provincial data; Stellarton up approximately 8% for Residential and 3.2% for Commercial
- CAP program
- Market values and determinations
- Sales analysis data
- Evidence-based assessments; increases since the pandemic
- Appeal process

Mayor D. Stroud re comparative information, Stellarton and HRM.

Mayor D. Stroud re the income approach on Commercial assessments; is this information voluntary?

Patrick responded that various methods are used, i.e. rentals, R.F.I.'s, etc. If this information is not provided by commercial property owners, then they lose their right to appeal.

Mayor D. Stroud thanked presenters.

5. Reports from Staff: January (Attached and available online)

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service
CAO A. Grover highlighted – 210 Calls for Service in January; Events included; Chief Hobeck, A/Sgt Holland and Cst Vandergrift read stories to the kids at GR Saunders during Literacy Week.
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 Mike O'Sullivan presented report for January highlighting; Responded to 10 calls; practices were held weekly; and crews completed hall clean-up and equipment checks.
Coun. S. Eis motioned to accept Fire Department's report for January 2026, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications

Paige presented report adding a point of clarity re Playfinder; it has not launched yet; still in the testing phase.

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

Coun. G. Pentz re update on the Town's Website. Paige met with website developer; in the initial stages of development; need to be on a more up to date platform.

Mayor D. Stroud re "Quality of Life Survey"; has it been done before? Paige will find out and report back. CAO A. Grover stated that it had been done once before a number of years ago. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

B. Murray presented his reports.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune.

Coun. G. Pentz re Bridge Avenue project and that the sanitary installation dates back to 1915 and 1916; this work is very much needed; will it take two seasons to complete? B. Murray provided infrastructure information; work will be done in two phases – from Foord to Park Streets as phase one; and Park to Pleasant as phase two; part of the asset management program.

Mayor D. Stroud re Water Report and new cleaning technique. B. Murray confirmed and very little cost to new technique. **Motion Carried.**

6. Correspondence

a. Healthy Pictou County Re: Report for January 2026 (attached) – CAO A. Grover highlighting:

- preparing for arrival of new General Surgery recruit
- Hosted local student/resident dinner in Halifax
- Continued support for student placements and connections
- Coordinated welcome materials in partnership with the Pictou County Partnership team

b. Warden Nicholas MacInnis, Municipality of the County of Antigonish, Re: Letter to Premier Tim Houston (attached) – CAO A. Grover re letter received; to express concerns with respect to the General Rate Application filing for the 2026-2027 customer rates by Nova Scotia Power which are currently under review at the Nova Scotia Energy Board; asking for input in a decision on this application. For Council's information.

7. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 2, 2026:

Recommendation #1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the request received from Pictou County Highland Dance Association for a grant donation of \$100.00 towards the Debbie Memorial Highland Dance Competition taking place at the DeCoste Performing Arts Centre.

Recommendation #2

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the request received from U13AAA Fundy Highland Stars for a grant donation of \$100.00 towards the 2026 U13AAA Female Hockey Nova Scotia Provincials taking place at the Pictou County Wellness Centre.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve recommendations from the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell.

Coun. G. Pentz re grant applications/requests. CAO A. Grover explained the annual grant process and calls for interest have been advertised; deadlines are stressed because of the limited funding available.

Motion Carried.

8. Open Forum

Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan re congratulating Coun. Susan Campbell on her 51 years of service with the former Ladies Auxiliary; she was acknowledged at their annual banquet last Saturday as well.

9. Next Council Meeting: Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz

MAYOR

CAO