

**JANUARY 12, 2026
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, January 12, 2026, 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.

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 December 15, 2025 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz 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 A. Grover read names and Mayor D. Stroud presented the following Service Awards to:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| a. Paige Draper | 5 years |
| b. Nancy Cullen | 5 years |
| c. Gabe Vandergrift | 5 years |
| d. Brad Green | 5 years |
| e. Andy Hartery | 5 years |
| f. Jason O'Donnell | 5 years |
| g. Lori Dunbar | 10 years |
| h. Vince Conway | 15 years |
| i. Dillon Stancombe | 15 years |
| j. Tracey Fitzpatrick | 35 years |

5. Presentation – Andrew Taylor, Dustin O'Leary and Jonathon Taylor of St. Barbara Limited, Atlantic Mining Operations

Introductions Dustin O'Leary, Business Development Manager for St. Barbara Atlantic Operations, along with VP of Operations Andrew Taylor and Superintendent of Community Relations Jonathon Taylor. D. O'Leary provided update on their business in Nova Scotia and future projects, highlighting:

- Legal disclaimer protocol
- Former Atlantic Gold company
- Safety, diverse teams, stronger communities, respect the shared environment, and grow sustainably
- Mine located outside of Moose River
- Economic impact and employment
- Reclamation of lands
- Hydro storage station option; renewable energy
- 15 Mile processing hub locations
- Operational phase
- Community partnerships agreements; investment in communities
- Business opportunities

Mayor D. Stroud thanked Mr. O'Leary for the presentation and commented on the benefits and opportunities.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. S. Eis re official government approval.

Andrew Taylor stated that it is a multi-year process for final approval; they are going through all the relevant requirements and regulations; target date is 2028.

Mayor D. Stroud re local trades personnel i.e. Nova Scotia Community College trades. Andrew confirmed local trades are utilized.

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

a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service

CAO A. Grover highlighted – 174 Calls for Service in December; total calls for 2025 was 2,603; Events included; Officers provided an escort for GR Saunders Christmas Party Sleigh Ride in the park; Insp. Pond gave a tour of the Police Station to Career Connections; Cst. Gabe Vandergrift attended Operation Christmas; Chief Hobeck and Insp. Pond attended GR Saunders turkey dinner; Officers escorted Santa on the fire truck through Stellarton; and Network Migration has been completed with the last of the RCMP equipment being transferred over to the Police Server Room.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.

Mayor D. Stroud re Municipal Bylaw infractions were up from 2 to 31; discussed at the Police Commission meeting; largely due to the Winter Parking Ban.

Motion Carried.

- b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department
Chief Mike O’Sullivan presented report for December highlighting; participated in several events at GR Saunders; helped out with the annual Tree Lighting; the popular Santa trek through Town on Christmas Eve and entered a float in the Parade of Lights in Westville. Responded to 10 calls; practices were held weekly; and crews completed hall clean-up and equipment checks. He added that he will be attending a meeting in New Glasgow at Station 33 regarding the Fire School in Waverly and across the province.
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for December 2025, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune.
Coun. G. Pentz extended thanks for the Christmas Eve event.
Mayor D. Stroud asked about volunteer recruitment. M. O’Sullivan stated that they received 5 new applicants. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications
Paige presented report.
Coun. M. Fortune made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.
Coun. S. Eis thanked Paige for her work, i.e. Tree Lighting event.
Mayor D. Stroud commented on volunteers for future events. P. Draper said the biggest need is during Homecoming. **Motion Carried.**
- d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
B. Murray presented his reports, commenting on December weather events.
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer’s Reports, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune.
Coun. G. Pentz commented on the great job Public Works does with snow clearing and salting.
Mayor D. Stroud re infrastructure projects; Rutherford Street 99% complete; South Foord Street Sanitary Replacement project waiting for approval from CB&CNS Railway. B. Murray stated that the existing sanitary line is within the railway right-away, which requires their approval.
Mayor D. Stroud re Water Treatment data; and Water Withdrawal. B. Murray stated that the data is annual volumes; continuous trend using less water in Town for various reasons. **Motion Carried.**

7. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendation is for Council’s consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 22, 2025:

Recommendation #1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the newly created Display of Religious Symbols on Municipal Property Policy.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept the recommendation from Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.

Coun. S. Eis re municipal neutrality and governance and not belief; she respects the important role religion plays in people's lives; as a municipality, we represent residents of many faiths as well as those with no religious affiliation; even with equal opportunity and access to all organizations, religious displays on public properties can still create an appearance of endorsement and exclusionary to some residents. She said that for this reason, maintaining a religiously neutral municipal space is the most inclusive approach. She does not support this policy.

Coun. G. Pentz comments re historically, the Town never put rules in place regarding setting up religious displays, i.e. Nativity Scene; he fully approves the recommendation from the Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried. Coun. S. Eis voted Nay.

8. Open Forum

No one spoke at the Open Forum

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

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz

MAYOR

CAO