

MARCH 9, 2026
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 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.

1. AGENDA

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 9, 2026 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. S. Eis seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Presentation: IESO Nova Scotia, Re: Power Generation Project, Aaron

Long and Colleen Rollings; Highlights:

- Clean Electricity Report; Long Term Grid Planning
- Fast Acting Natural Gas Power Generation – Marshdale and Saltsprings
- Wind Energy; 80% renewable by 2030; replacing coal-fired energy
- Transforming Nova Scotia’s energy system
- Marshdale and Saltsprings proposed project sites
- Stellarton’s Watershed protection area; met with Town Engineer and staff
- Environmental Assessment complete and approved by the province
- Municipal Planning Strategy Requirements
- Environmental protections for watershed area includes field studies, groundwater aquifer test wells, environmental assessment commitments for fuel storage with spill prevention and secondary containment; and discussions with the Municipality of Pictou County
- Reviewing test results
- Conditions regarding fuel storage and water discharge requirements
- Permits
- Erosion and sediment control plans
- Outlined the environmental protections for watershed area
- Submitting a Request for Proposals soon
- Facility design and construction timeline with operations commencing in 2030

Questions/Comments:

Coun. G. Pentz re water consumption concerns. Colleen replied that power generating facilities can use different technologies; studied variety of scenarios for best results.

Mayor D. Stroud commented re contamination concerns as well as water withdrawal amounts; awaiting results. Colleen re technology-based and will comply with assessment requirements to use less water.

Mayor D. Stroud asked if any other areas have this similar module. Aaron commented re natural gas sites and power line locations; more efficient and better for the customers; there are several other locations including Ontario and other countries.

Coun. S. Eis re the two phases of the project, during construction and general operations; any anticipation of an influx of personnel into the area. Aaron stated that they have 10 – 15 long term jobs and between 100 and 200 construction workers during construction; peripheral economic impacts.

Mayor D. Stroud re the use of available natural gas. Aaron confirmed that existing renewable energy sources will be accessed when possible, with some back-up sources being utilized.

Mayor D. Stroud re timeline of project. Aaron re timelines is driven by the organization's mandate to achieve the phase-out of coal by 2030.

5. Reports from Staff: February

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service
CAO A. Grover highlighted – 203 Calls for Service in February; Events included; Chief Hobeck, and Insp Pond attended the Special Olympics Inspired Gala in Halifax; Sgt Sampson attended “Breaking the Silence” at the Wellness Centre; and Sgt Irving attended the African Heritage Ceremony at Summer Street Industries.
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department
Chief Mike O’Sullivan presented report for February highlighting; Responded to 7 calls; 2 teams representing the Fire Department participated in a curling bonspiel in Amherst where all the funds raised went to the Nova Scotia Burn Camp; practices were held weekly; and crews completed hall clean-up and equipment checks.
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for February 2026, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.
Coun. S. Eis re volunteer update policies. Chief O’Sullivan confirmed that calls are being made this week to the 7 new applications received; and updates to bylaws are in progress; will report back to Council. Coun. M. Fortune provided additional information on the application process. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications
CAO A. Grover presented report highlighting:
 - the Heritage Committee met to review membership and to discuss next steps; staff are working to revitalize the Committee’s current terms of reference and will be doing a call out for those who may have an interest in joining
 - Quality of Life Survey – Engage Nova Scotia has officially launched the Quality of Life Survey across the province; invitations have been mailed outCoun. S. Eis made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**
- d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
B. Murray presented his reports, anticipating the end of snow removal.
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer’s Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell.
Coun. G. Pentz appreciated everyone who assisted in clearing snow around the hydrants.
Mayor D. Stroud inquired about the water break on Emmanuel. B. Murray stated that it was an old fitting/bolt that rusted off. **Motion Carried.**

6. Correspondence

a. **Letter from Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, Re:** Public Library Funding - CAO A. Grover summarized the letter re reduction in operational funding; they will be looking to library users and supporters to help achieve stability.

b. **Letter from Deputy Minister, Paul LaFleche, Municipal Affairs, Re:** Budget 2026-27 – CAO A. Grover summarized; government is reducing the size of the civil service by 5%; reducing the size of the broader public service by 3%; and reducing

government operating costs. Also, for the Department of Municipal Affairs, the following programs will end:

- Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program
- Provincial Capital Assistance Program
- Municipal Innovation Program
- Growthe & Renewal for Infrastructure Development

Many of the projects that would have been eligible under these provincial grant programs will also be eligible for consideration under other programs

c. Healthy Pictou County, Re: February 2026 Report – CAO Grover highlighted: In February, they supported Nova Scotia Health with two site visits, welcoming new doctor; in the process of launching a new Spouse/Partner group; and preparing for the launch of the Aberdeen Medical Staff Awards.

7. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendation is for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 26, 2026:

Recommendation #1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the request received from Creative Pictou County for a grant donation of \$500.00 towards the organization's operational funding needs.

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

Motion Carried.

8. Open Forum

No one spoke at the Open Forum

9. Next Council Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CAO