

MAY 11, 2026
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, May 11, 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, Town Account Bonnie Coulter, Police Chief Mark Hobeck, Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan, Marketing and Communications Paige Draper and Town Engineer Blaine Murray
Regrets: Coun. S. Campbell

1. AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as amended to include 4. Presentation of the John Dunlop Memorial Award, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune.

Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 13, 2026 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Coun. G. Pentz re update on the Library. CAO A. Grover commented that the library was closed for three weeks; there was an electrical issue; Town Electrician addressed the issue and NS Power completed an inspection of the electrical work.

4. Presentation of the John Dunlop Memorial Award

Nova Scotia Criminal Justice Association President, Marlee Jordan presented the John Dunlop Memorial Award for the 2025 assessment year to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the NS Justice System and the community; this year's recipient is Stellarton's Chief of Police Mark Hobeck; highlighting his extensive 40 year career in policing in NS as well as work with youth through coaching and volunteering. Chief Hobeck was presented the award and received well-deserved accolades.

5. Presentation

Town Accountant Bonnie Coulter presented the following, highlights:

- 2026-2027 General Operations Budget – Total Residential and Resource Assessments \$259,381,100 for Total Taxes of \$4,876,365; Commercial Assessments \$96,285,700 for Total Taxes of \$4,140,285.
- Sewer charge for the upcoming fiscal \$195,000
- General Operating Budget
 - o Revenue Budget total at \$11,015,599; no change in the tax rates
 - o Total Expenditures at \$11,015,599
 - o Balanced Budget

Mayor D. Stroud comments re increase in recreation expenses; shared services with the Town of Westville.

- 2026-2027 General Capital Budget
 - o Equipment purchases
 - o Recreation
 - o General – Robertson Memorial Park
 - o Police
 - o Fire Department

- Infrastructure Projects
- Total Capital at \$1,809,865
- Funding from the Canada Community-Building Fund, Debt Financing, Provincial GRID Funding, Provincial Recreation Funding, Contributions, and the General Capital Reserve
- Total Funding at \$1,809,865
- Balanced Budget

Mayor D. Stroud comments re year over year increases; Albion Ball Field upgrades; prudent use of funding

- 2026-2027 Water Utility Operating Budget
 - Water Rate Study; NS Regulatory and Appeals Board to set water rates; hearings set
 - Meter and Flat Rate revenue
 - Total Revenue is \$2,334,644
 - Operating Expenditures at \$2,054,982 with additional \$453,494 Interest & Principal on debt charges
 - Transfer from Surplus of \$200,000 to balance budget
- 2026-2027 Water Capital Budget
 - Equipment; PLC Upgrade
 - Total Capital at \$120,000
 - Funded by the Water Depreciation Fund

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve budgets, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

6. 2026-2027 Tax Resolution

CAO A. Grover read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Stellarton that the assessment for 2026-2027 is confirmed at \$96,285,700 for commercial;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the assessment for residential and resource is confirmed at \$259,381,100;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rates for 2026-2027 be approved at \$1.88 per \$100 of residential and resource assessment and \$4.30 per \$100 commercial assessment;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the General Operating Budget for 2026-2027 is approved at \$11,015,599;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the General Capital Budget for 2026-2027 is approved at \$1,809,865

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Water Operating Budget for 2026-2027 is approved at \$2,534,644 for Revenue and \$2,508,476 for expenditures;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Water Capital Budget for 2026-2027 is approved at \$120,000

Coun. M. Fortune made motion to approve 2026-2027 Tax Resolution, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

7. Proclamation – Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Mayor D. Stroud read Proclamation raising awareness for the record; proclaiming May 2026 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

8. Proclamation – Gaelic Nova Scotia Month

Mayor D. Stroud read Proclamation for the record; proclaiming May 2026 as Gaelic Nova Scotia Month in the Town of Stellarton.

9. Reports from Staff: April 2026

a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service, highlights:

- Calls for Service = 224
- Total of 24 Charges and 72 Warnings
- Traffic Enforcement
- Foot Patrol
- Community Relations
- Officers participated in the Go Clean Go Green

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

Mayor D. Stroud inquired if there were any encampments in Town. Chief Hobeck responded that he knew of only one which was cleared up last week.

Motion Carried.

b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department

Chief O’Sullivan reported that the Stellarton Fire Department had 12 calls in April; participated in the annual MD Boot Drive; practices were held every Thursday evening with an average of 12 members attending; Equipment checks were completed weekly.

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department’s report for April 2026, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications

P. Draper presented report and stated that the next Homecoming meeting will take place May 12; and planning to have a Heritage meeting within the next two weeks.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Town Engineer Blaine Murray presented reports to Council; highlighting that spring clean-up is underway; asphalt patching has begun.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer’s Reports, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.

Coun. G. Pentz re littering issue. B. Murray confirmed that litter is an issue everywhere. Coun. S. Eis re posting signage.

Coun. G. Pentz commented on the reduction in water usage compared to same time last year. **Motion Carried.**

10. Correspondence

a. Healthy Pictou County Re: Monthly Report – CAO A. Grover received the April Healthy Pictou County Report; highlights:

- Site visit with a Nurse Practitioner in Pictou County; an increase in interest from providers from the US
- Ongoing planning and preparation for Doctors Day (May 1), Rural Week (May 25 – 29), the Aberdeen Medical Staff Awards Gala (June 4), and the North Nova Family Medicine Residency Graduation (June 18).

11. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendation is for Council’s consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 27, 2026:

Recommendation #1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the flag raisings for Gaelic Nova Scotia Month, Lime Disease Awareness Month, Access Awareness Week, VON Week and Pictou County Pride Week.

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 \$77,900.00 plus HST as it was the lowest tender received.

Recommendation #3

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the tender received from Norvon Enterprises Ltd. for Albion Drainage Improvements at the Albion Baseball Field in the amount of \$131,046.23 plus HST as it was the lowest tender received.

Recommendation #4

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve Municipal Grant requests received for the 2026/27 fiscal year totaling \$10,650.00.

Recommendation #5

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the 2026 Municipal Tax Exemption which will provide property owners with an exemption up to \$300 towards their annual property taxes providing total household income from all sources for the year 2025 is less than \$30,406.00.

Coun. M. Fortune made motion to approve recommendations from Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.

Coun. G. Pentz re Municipal Tax Exemption. CAO A. Grover clarified that the \$300 exemption has not changed since 2021, by the total household income was raised based on the CPI.

Motion Carried.

12. Volunteer of the Year 2026 – Mayor D. Stroud reported that in April, the Annual Volunteer Reception was held; Clifton Mason was selected as Stellarton's Volunteer of the Year. Clifton and his dog Lola, can be seen strolling the streets of Stellarton, collecting trash and other debris; they were never asked to do this work however they're a duo whose kindness and thoughtfulness has caught the attention of many residents. The Town is incredibly grateful to Cliff and Lola for their tireless work.

13. Open Forum

No one spoke at the Open Forum.

14. Next Council Meeting: Monday, June 8, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

15. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

STELLARTON TOWN COUNCIL
MAY 11, 2026

MAYOR

CAO