**JULY 13, 2026**
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**
A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, July 13, 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, Police Chief Mark Hobeck, Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan, Marketing and Communications Paige Draper and Town Engineer Blaine Murray
Regrets: Coun. Susan Campbell.

Mayor D. Stroud extended condolences to the family of Dr. John Hamm, a widely respected Stellarton resident, and former Nova Scotia Premier.

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

**2. Presentation: Stellarton Memorial Community Centre Association**
Mark Stroud provided update on the development of this project, highlighting:
- Mandate; redeveloping the property
- Planned amenities include retractable bleachers, new dressing rooms, a café, etc.
- Operational efficiency and economic sustainability
- Progress report; exterior and interior work
- Planned opening Spring 2027
- Solar panels to provide 90% of the power consumption
- Review of the conceptual drawings/plans
- Tenants booked; community events

Mayor D. Stroud thanked Mark for presentation.

**3. Approval of Minutes**
The minutes from June 8, 2026 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**
There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Reports from Staff: June 2026**
**a.** Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service, highlights:
- Calls for Service = 219
- 94 hours of Traffic Enforcement
- 24 hours of Foot Patrol
- 12 hours of Community Relations
- Events included the Pride Flag Raising Ceremony in the Town Square, the Annual Ice Cream Bike Ride and the Johnny Miles Marathon
- Charges: 18 Criminal Code, 2 Motor Vehicle Act, and 36 Warnings.

Coun. M. Fortune made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.
Mayor D. Stroud inquired about active encampments in Town. Chief Hobeck stated that there are no new encampments; will be putting a drone to look for any suspected sites.
**Motion Carried.**

**b.** Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department
Chief O'Sullivan reported that the Stellarton Fire Department had 9 calls in June with an average of 9 members attending; practices were held every Thursday evening and are now suspended over the summer; Equipment checks were completed weekly.

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

**c.** Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications
Highlights:
Heritage Wednesdays during the summer
Special events
Concert Series in the Town Square and Allan Park
Homecoming Festival

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.
Coun. S. Eis re the Town's new Web page completion date. Paige stated that it is ready to launch and she will focus on that after Homecoming.
Coun. S. Eis inquired about Homecoming events and how people can access up to date information. Paige replied that the Website has all the information as well as the Town Office staff. **Motion Carried.**

**d.** Melanie Dash – Recreation Director
CAO A. Grover noted that interviews are set for the MPAL position.
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Recreation Director's Report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

**e.** Blaine Murray – Town Engineer (absent)
CAO A. Grover stated that there are no changes or additions to the Town Engineer's reports.

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

## 6. Correspondence

**a. Letter, Lynn Bowen, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change**. CAO A. Grover received response letter from the Executive Director Policy Division for Environment and Climate Change where we expressed concerns regarding the Natural Gas Power Plant proposed for Salts Springs and Marshdale. The letter stated that these projects had received environmental assessment approval on February 9, 2026 ensuring the environment is protected.
Mayor D. Stroud commented that the Mayors and Warden also discussed this project and learned more about the plans.

**b. Media Release, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library**
CAO A. Grover briefed Council on a Media Release by the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library; the Library is launching a new fundraising initiative, The Library Fund. Core provincial government funding for public libraries has remained unchanged since 2020. For the current fiscal year, the regional library faces a funding gap of $140,000. The Library Fund has a goal of raising $300,000.00 by the end of the current fiscal year on March 31. Meeting this goal will not only close the current funding gap but also allow the regional library to make an initial $160,000 investment in its long-term sustainability.

## 7. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 22, 2026:

**Recommendation #1**
On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the request received from Women Alike Society for a grant donation of $250 towards the cost of travelling,

with 26 breast cancer survivors from Pictou County, to the 2026 International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission being held in France the August, 2026.

**Recommendation #2**
On recommendation of Committee of the Whole, Council approve the tender received from Highland Ford for a new half ton truck for Public Works Dept, in the amount of $63,602.70 plus HST as it was the lowest tender received.
Coun. S. Eis motion to approve recommendations from the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune.
**Motion Carried.**

**8. Deer Management Bylaw, 1st Reading**
CAO A. Grover re upon motion of Council to accept first reading of the Bylaw, the Bylaw will be available to view and for comments by Council up to September 14, 2026. The Bylaw can be viewed at the Administration Office Town Hall or on the Town's website. When it goes to second reading on September 14, there will be a period of a Public Hearing to allow any comments or concerns by residents. Following the Public Hearing, this will go directly to Council for a motion of Council to approve second reading of the Bylaw; then to the Province for filing.
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the 1st Reading of the Deer Management Bylaw, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

**9. Amended Terms of Reference, Heritage Committee**
CAO A. Grover referred to the updated Terms of Reference for the Heritage Committee; these updates were proposed at the last Heritage Committee meeting; to properly outline the mandate, membership, meeting arrangements and reporting of the Committee back to Council. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Amended Terms of Reference, Heritage Committee, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

**10. Open Forum**
No one spoke at the Open Forum.

**11. Next Council Meeting:** Monday, September 14, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

**12. Adjourn**
Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

**MAYOR** **CAO**