



TOWN OF STELLARTON

Council
March 8, 2021
5:30 PM

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** February 9, 2021
- 3. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 4. Acknowledgement-** International Women's Day
- 5. Proclamation-** Proclamation of Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness)
- 6. Presentation – Deborah Searle, Pictou County Solid Waste**
- 7. Reports from Staff:**
 - a. Chief Mark Hobeck- Stellarton Police Service
 - b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department
 - c. Paige Clarke- Marketing & Communications
 - d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
 - i. Occupational Health and Safety Update
 - e. Sally O'Neill- Active Pictou County
- 8. Correspondence**
 - a. Letter from Mayors & Warden of Pictou County to Premier Rankin Re: Mental Health
- 9. Committee of the Whole Report**
- 10. Ratification of Superintendent Position** Jamie MacDonald
- 11. Dangerous & Unsightly Motion** Re: 127 & 129 Hudson St.
- 12. Open Forum**
- 13. Next Council Meeting:** April 12, 2021
- 14. Adjourn**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2021
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

(Date was rescheduled due to storm on February 8).

PRESENT

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns. S. Lawand, B. Knight, S. Campbell and G. Pentz. Also present was the Town Clerk S. Higdon.

Mayor D. MacGillivray asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of recently passed Joe Gennoe, former Mayor from 2006 – 2016.

1. Approval of Agenda

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

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from January 11, 2021, Council meeting were approved on motion by Coun. B. Knight seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Proclamation – African Heritage Month

Mayor D. MacGillivray read Proclamation in celebration of African Heritage Month 2021 (attached). Motion made by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. B. Knight recognizing February as African Heritage Month. **Motion Carried.**

5. Recognition of Fire Department Members Years of Service

Mayor D. MacGillivray recognized the following members of the Stellarton Fire Department for their years of Service:

Robbie Brown – 5 Years of Service
Austin Hughes – 5 Years of Service
Brett Irvin – 10 Years of Services
Dave Prindeville – 10 Years of Service
Trevor Kearley – 20 Years of Service
Lee Caldwell – 25 Years of Service
Dave Field – 30 Years of Service
Charles MacLaren – 50 Years of Service; including accolades from MLA's Pat Dunn; Tim Houston; and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

6. Reports from Staff - for information; reports attached.

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service
Coun. S. Campbell made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.** Coun. B. Knight commented re his disappointment of the Dept. of Health not including police personnel as tier two (first responders) for the COVID 19 vaccine. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to pre-approve writing letter to NS Health Minister if that is what is asked of the Chiefs of Police, seconded Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department's report for January 2021, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. G. Pentz re grass fire in January, rare occurrence.

Motion Carried.

c. Paige Clarke – Marketing & Communications

P. Clarke presented report; commenting on deadline for volunteer award nominations.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. S. Lawand re Web Demo clarification. P. Clarke reported that she has been researching different App developments for the Town; get alerts out faster; public reporting and feedback capabilities; etc. She is seeing what would be best for Stellarton; based on needs and costs; not built into our existing website. Coun. S. Lawand suggested an option he learned about at a previous NSFM Conference and report back to Council.

Coun. B. Knight re EMO App; P. Clarke replied that the EMO App is Emergency specific; ours would be for Stellarton and not only for emergencies.

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

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Town Engineer B. Murray presented his reports, commenting that yesterday's storm will be included in next month's report; clean-up is underway and sidewalks are still being cleared.

Questions/Comments:

Coun. B. Knight commented re Bingo; sewer back-up at the soccer complex building; thanked the Public Works for their prompt response to help assess the situation.

Coun. S. Lawand re snow removal equipment problems. B. Murray confirmed that two trucks were down; one is back up running and the other is being repaired; also, a sidewalk plow needed repairs.

Coun. G. Pentz re aluminum poles for signs. B. Murray reported that they were supposed to receive these poles for the crosswalk traffic structures and stop signs; many delays and aluminum shortage; poles were found to have welding defects; still waiting; no timelines. Discussion re galvanized poles. Mayor D. MacGillivray commented re preventative maintenance on South Foord Street.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

e. Sally O'Neill – Active Pictou County Report

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to approve Active Pictou County Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

7. Correspondence

a. Municipal Affairs & Housing Minister Porter Re: Safe Restart Program – Town Clerk S. Higdon re the Safe Restart funds given by the government of Canada; Municipalities need to continue to put in place appropriate precautions to minimize the spread of COVID 19 and manage public spaces and critical services; in partnership with the government of Canada, the Province through the Safe Restart Agreement, has provided \$67.5 million to support municipalities with COVID 19 operating costs. The Town of Stellarton estimated that we would reach \$67,500 based on a survey that was conducted by the NS Federation of Municipalities back in spring 2020. The Town has received \$69,165 under the Safe Restart Program to help the Town address increased operating costs resulting from a reduction in revenue due to COVID 19; continue to implement social distancing and infection prevention and controlled protocols required

to operate facilities, public spaces and effectively deliver services to citizens; to support safe transit operations and innovative solutions required to adjust to modify capacity and acquire additional p.p.e. For Council's information.

b. Fulcrum Accessibility Consulting Re: Gauging Municipal Capacity to implement Accessibility Standards – Town Clerk S. Higdon reported the Accessibility Directorate is conducting interviews with Municipalities to gauge capacity to implement accessibility standards. For Council's consideration and will be discussed at the Accessibility Committee and to see who the appropriate representative from Stellarton will be.

c. NS Protocol Office Re: Order of Nova Scotia – Town Clerk S. Higdon commented that there are applications in the Town Office if anyone would like to nominate someone for the Order of Nova Scotia Award.

d. Paster Kelvin Balingit Re: Volunteering Community Projects – Town Clerk S. Higdon received an email from Paster Kelvin of Bethel Baptist Church in Westville; offering volunteer services for any projects in the Town of Stellarton. For Council's information and consideration.

e. Department of Justice Minister Furey to Chief of Police Julia Cecchetto – Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that this was received at the Police Commission as well; stating that the Dept. of Justice has struck an internal committee to carry out a preliminary analysis of policing service delivery across Nova Scotia; pertaining to both RCMP contract policing jurisdictions as well as those serviced by municipal police; updates will be provided in the future.

f. Department of Justice Minister Furey Re: Extension to Accessibility Plan – Town Clerk S. Higdon re on December 3, 2019, the Government of Nova Scotia announced that the Town of Stellarton will be prescribed as a Public Sector Body under the Accessibility Act as of April 1, 2020; timeline adjustments due to COVID 19 to ensure there is sufficient time and capacity to support the development of our Accessibility Plan; a one year extension; April 1, 2021; Stellarton must form an Accessibility Advisory Committee and have an Accessibility Plan in place by April 1, 2022. S. Higdon reported that the Town has had an Accessibility Committee in place for approximately one year and close to completing an Accessibility Plan.

8. Strategic Plan Update

Town Clerk S. Higdon stated that Council's last Strategic Plan was done in 2019, which was to bring us up to 2024; Council and senior staff made three goals:

1. Make improvements to the Town's infrastructure
2. Increase communication, promotions and marketing
3. Reclaim the land from the mine

S. Higdon requests that Council and senior staff meet to review these goals and update; she added that the Police Commission is interested developing a Strategic Plan.

9. Temporary Borrowing Resolution File No. 21-22-02

Town Clerk S. Higdon, for Council's information, the Temporary Borrowing process is to refinance this "balloon" payment over the next 10 years; coming due in October 2021; for \$6,030,802.00; relating to the 2006 loan for the water projects and the business park. She commented that there is no impact on the overall budget; this is a planned expense. S. Higdon asked Council to read for the record and having a motion to approve.

Mayor D. MacGillivray read the Temporary Borrowing Resolution File No. 21-22-02 for the record.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Temporary Borrowing Resolution, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

Question:

Coun. G. Pentz asked about the interest rate. Town Clerk S. Higdon replied that it depends; but is the best rate available from the Municipal Finance Corp.

Motion Carried.

10. Open Forum

Coun. S. Lawand gave comments in memory of former Mayor Joe Gennoe; about his dedication to the Town; his stand against amalgamation; Coun. S. Lawand extends his appreciation and condolences to the Gennoe family.

11. Next Council Meeting

Next Council meeting will be Monday, March 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK



STELLARTON POLICE SERVICE

Report for Month End February 28, 2021

Calls for Service

Total: 132

Activities

Arrests

1- 911 Act- Other Activities	
1- Alarm	
1- Animal Call	
4- Assaults	2
6- Assists to Canadian Police Agency	
21- Assists to the General Public	
2- Assists to non-Government Agencies	
2- Assists to the RCMP	
1- Being unlawfully in a Dwelling	
1- Break and Enter	
2- Check Stops	
2- Coroners Act –Sudden Death	
4- Dog Act – Other Activities	

1- Driving while Disqualified	1
1- Fail to Stop/Remain at Accident	
3- Failure to Comply with Order	2
5- False Alarms	
2- Family Relations Act	
1- Flight from Police	
2- Fraud	
3- Harassing Communications	
2- Health Act (Covid)	
1- Information File	
2- Items Lost/Found	
1- Liquor Control Act	1
1- Litter Act	
2- Mental Health Act	
4- Mischief	
11- Motor Vehicle Act	2
3- Motor Vehicle Insurance	
1- Moving Traffic/Intersection	1
2- Moving Traffic/Speed	1
3- Municipal Bylaws	
1- Operation while Impaired (Impaired by Drug)	1

- 4- Other Moving Traffic
- 1- Other Provincial/Territorial
- 1- Parking Offence
- 1- Peace Bond
- 3- Police Assistance
- 1- Possession of a Weapon 1
- 2- Property Checks
- 1- Property Related
- 1- Resist/Obstruct a Peace Officer 1
- 1- Sexual Interference
- 1- Selective Traffic Enforcement
- 4- Suspicious Persons
- 2- Thefts
- 1- Threat Assessment
- 3- Traffic Collisions
- 2- Uttering Threats
- 3- Well Being Checks

Open Cases 13 Open Cases (YTD) 16

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Qty. Type

None to report due to COVID-19 Restrictions.

Other Activities

Foot / Bike Patrol 4.5
Radar Patrol 105.0 hours

Fleet

Patrol Car 36 February 3200 km traveled Year to Date 6621 km travelled
Patrol Car 38 February 5144 km traveled Year to Date 10104 km travelled

Gas Used

Patrol Car 36 February 549 Litres Year to Date 1100 Litres
Patrol Car 38 February 1010 Litres Year to Date 2143 Litres

Respectfully Submitted:

Mark Hobeck
Chief of Police

Stellarton Fire Department
Monthly Report – February 2021

Overall, the month of February was quiet around the Fire Department.

CALLS:

During the month of February we responded to 2 calls: 1 was a motor vehicle accident(New Glasgow actually responded) and the other was an alarm on Foord St.

PRACTICES:

Practices that normally would only happen on Thursday evenings were split between two days to follow Public Health Protocols. This didn't stay that way as Dr. Strang gave permission for Fire Departments to practice normally. On average 17 members attended.

EQUIPMENT CHECKS:

Checks were completely weekly with 4-5 members performing the equipment check each week.

At this point in time our department is still not responding to medical calls and the Hall remains closed.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Fortune(secretary)

March Council Report

Marketing & Communications

- *Heritage Committee, Draft Plan*; WSP provided us with a draft version of their Heritage Plan. This draft was circulated and reviewed by the Heritage Committee to highlight positive notes, concerns, and any additional considerations – overall, the review was very positive. Mayor MacGillivray, Susan Higdon, and I met with WSP after this to discuss these revisions and finalize next steps. We're currently looking at having the plan by the end of March.

- *Accessibility*; Given the time of year, we have had to reschedule the Accessibility Committee meeting twice. The committee has received some informative videos that should help increase the overall understanding of accessibility (and the multiple facets of it) and are slotted to meet again in early March.

I attended a Built Environment Accessibility Presentation hosted by PEACH Research Unit and Dalhousie University. This presentation was conducted by two students who studied two specific accessibility factors – one on visual impairment and one on aging adults. These presentations highlighted several aspects of built environment that may be overlooked or simply not thought of when assessing accessible needs. It will be beneficial in aiding our Accessibility Plan. It was mentioned this presentation would be on their YouTube channel, however, at the time of this report, I was unable to find it – when I have access to a link, I will ensure it's sent to all Councillors and others who may find interest in it.

- *App/Alert System Demo*; I presented a brief overview of two different app/alert systems that may be beneficial to the Town of Stellarton and its residents. These two different systems are CitizenAlert – a Town-personalized app that requires a download, and SimplyCast – an alert system that can utilize SMS, email, and phone service. I will be presenting a more in-depth demo/overview of these systems during upcoming budget discussions for consideration.

- *REMO Tabletop Exercise*; I participated in an exercise in which we were given a scenario (based on heat alerts) and worked through how we, as an emergency management organization, can aid groups/organizations and can work to ensure citizens are safely prepared for anticipated heat-related emergencies or concerns. This scenario brought in additional concerns that could arise and what the best course of action could be from the REMO perspective, as well as from an individual municipality perspective as well.

- *Buy & Sell Exchange Signage*; A sign has been ordered to indicate an area of the Town's back parking lot as a "Buy & Sell Exchange Zone." The identification of these zones has been happening in many areas to provide individuals who buy and sell goods online with a space that's moderately secure to make the transaction more comfortable for users. These areas tend to be well-lit, monitored by video surveillance, and often are located at or near a local police station. In consultation with the Chief of Police, we have identified a section of the parking lot that may offer some comfort during these types of transactions. Once the sign and placement are fully established, this zone will be promoted to the local community.

- *Business Advisory Committee*; I have been in touch with the individuals who have identified that they were interested in joining the Town's Business Advisory Committee. Given that we are working with business owners/operators, I am trying to ensure that the meeting day and time is optimal for as many of these individuals as possible. There have been days and times identified that may work and at the first meeting, I'm hopeful that we'll be able to identify a time per month that may be able to accommodate everyone. I expect that we'll have our first official meeting in the next few weeks.

- *NSCC Achieve Class*; An instructor from NSCC reached out to Mayor MacGillivray to ask if he and Councillor Campbell were available to present to her class as they have done in the previous years. The

original class was slotted for earlier in February but was cancelled due to one of the storm days. I have been helping to coordinate with NSCC to determine when the presentation would be rescheduled for and we are prepared for March 2 to present. This presentation is focusing on community involvement and opportunities for the class to bring their individualism to the community.

- *Volunteer of the Year*; The VOY submissions have been collected and are ready for the committee to review and identify who will be the Town's representative at the provincial awards. For the annual Volunteer Recognition ceremony that we typically would do, there is likely to be restrictions due to COVID-19. I continue to receive updates from Events NS and attend applicable webinars about special events to help us make an informed decision about how we want to proceed with our celebrations.

- *Tax Sale Info*; Information for the Tax Sale on March 24 is now available on our website and is linked to our social media channels. The social media platforms have a general post indicating the date and time of the sale, as well as the requirement to pre-register. Full details on the available properties are on the website – there is a direct link to this information provided on the social media posts.

Town of Stellarton Town Engineers Report February 2021 Water Utility Report

Water Quality Testing

1. Routine weekly Bacteriological sampling was conducted. All results were negative for the month.

Water Distribution System

2. No water main breaks to report
3. PRV 1 was having difficulty opening. The lines were flushed and we were able to get it working.

Water Treatment Plant (WTP);

4. Reinstated Chlorine Room Exhaust Fans to operate fan if doors are opened or the chlorine levels are in alarm.
5. Quarterly Samples completed.
6. We developed a sampling plan and received pricing from BV Labs for testing of Geosmin/Microcystin sampling in June 2021. Costs will be \$26k excluding HST.
7. On February 21, 2021 we had a high Chlorine residual for 17 minutes leaving the plant and we notified NSE. A Valve failed (8860) on Train 3, and gave false high flow reading resulting in an over application of chlorine.
8. New UPS installed on PLC above the lab, and also at Lehigh Pump house.

Blaine Murray, P. Eng.
Town Engineer

Town Engineers Report February 2021 Engineering & Public Works Report

Engineering/ Capital

1. Drawings and cost estimates for Victoria/Allan infrastructure upgrades were provided for budget purposes.
2. Engineering staff were busy developing cost estimates for various capital projects. These estimates will be reviewed by council during budget deliberations.

Streets/Properties

3. On February 8 we received approximately 35-40 cm. The forecast allowed us to lift snow off Foord Street 2 days later. There were several small precipitation events requiring snow and ice control measures during the month of February.
4. Staff has been working in the Heritage doing small renovations. Several rooms have been painted including the entry way.
5. Mechanical staff has been busy with winter machine breakdowns over the last months. Units 58 (2015 Freightliner salt truck) and Unit 59 (2014 MacLean sidewalk machine) had several parts replaced resulting in expensive repairs.

**Blaine Murray, P.Eng.,
Town Engineer**

- Submitted application for Afterschool Funding from CCRCE to support spring programming.
- Provided assistance to Mountain Bike Trail Builders Pictou County in funding application to the Canada Healthy Community Initiative.
- Provided leadership to Hike Nova Scotia Guided Hike to Salt Springs Provincial Park. FEB 19th
- Hosted Winter Active Day FEB 21st on the Jitney. 18 hikers enjoyed a walk on the trail and prizes from Healthy Tomorrow Foundation, Hike Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Trails Federation and Recreation Nova Scotia. Self-made “unboxing” video promoting the event reached over 1900 people. 😊
- Rainbow Recreation event Feb 14th, utilized equipment from APC and the Municipality of Pictou County's loan program. 18 participants ages 13-18 used cross country skis and snowshoes on a trip to Keppoch Mountain. Thanks to Chad Transit for organizing use of the Rainbow Bus.
- Assisted with provincial ASK training at West Pictou. ASK (Active Smarter Kids) is a provincially supported program with a curriculum developed in Norway. Its purpose is to embed physically active lessons into non-PE academic time to benefit overall learning outcomes.
- Organized and hosted Pictou County regional trails zoom call to discuss funding opportunities and upcoming projects. Department of Communities Culture and Heritage were on the call to present various funding opportunities from the Province.





TOWN OF STELLARTON

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Committee Report

Date: March 8, 2021
To: Mayor and Council
From: Susan Higdon, Town Clerk

The following recommendation are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 22, 2021:

Recommendation # 1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the donation of \$100.00 to Big Brothers Big Sisters Pictou County for lane sponsorship for Bowl for Kids 2021.