



TOWN OF STELLARTON

Council

March 11, 2024

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** February 12, 2024
- 3. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 4. Presentation – Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia-** Hugh MacKay
- 5. Reports from Staff:**
 - a. Chief Mark Hobeck- Stellarton Police Service
 - b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department
 - c. Paige Draper- Marketing & Communications
 - d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer
- 6. Correspondence**
 - a. **Town of New Glasgow** – Re: Request Arbitration to PCSSA
 - b. **Province of Nova Scotia- The Future of our Coastline**
- 7. Committee of the Whole Report**
- 8. Resolution 2024-03-11- Appointment of Returning Officer**
- 9. Open Forum**
- 10. Next Council Meeting:** Monday, April 8, 2024 @5:30 PM
- 11. Adjourn**

FEBRUARY 12, 2024
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns. S. Lawand, B. Knight, S. Campbell, and G. Pentz. Also present was the Chief Administrative Officer S. Higdon

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as amended to include #8. Dorrington Ball Field and #9. Request for Access across Evansville Softball Field Parking Lot by Nova Scotia Power, on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and January 8, 2024 Regular Council meetings were approved on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

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

a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service

Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell.

On the Question: Mayor D. MacGillivray thanked Insp. Pond and Const. Morrell for attending the Keith Masonic Lodge Levy; and Chief Hobeck for participating in the G. R. Saunders Elementary School Literacy Week.

Motion Carried.

b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department's report for January 2024, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications

Council and CAO S. Higdon acknowledged Paige for her work with EMO in the aftermath of the snowstorm.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

On the Question: Coun. S. Lawand re the Community Centre bookings and automated bookings. CAO S. Higdon replied that Paige is still looking into that, mostly for the sports fields. Coun. S. Lawand asked about Family Day. CAO S. Higdon stated that she has been in contact with Gary Matheson at the Indoor Soccer Complex.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re Homecoming Dates set for 2024, July 24 to 28; also commented on the Albion Ball Field being the oldest in the province. Council recommends erecting information panel at the field. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Coun. B. Knight comments re sidewalk plows, suggested having a larger one. Coun. B. Knight complimented the Public Works on their work clearing snow. CAO S. Higdon confirmed that contact information is available in the Town Office for people looking for contractors to clear snow. S. Higdon also provided update on the continuing work.

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

On the Question: Coun. S. Lawand re the removal of logs and any remaining work. CAO S. Higdon stated that work remains on High Street and the reservoir.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re the reservoirs and ROV's. CAO S. Higdon will find out what ROV's are. Mayor D. MacGillivray asked about the status of water meter installation. CAO S. Higdon stated that Neptune is nearing completion of work; the trailer court remains to be done; Public Works will be trained to install meters as well; software issues are being addressed; hoping to send out "mock" bills to show customers what their consumption looks like; actual consumption billing will commence in 2025. **Motion Carried.**

5. Correspondence

a. Fibromyalgia Association Canada Re: Lighting request – CAO S. Higdon stated that the Fibromyalgia Association is asking the Town to light up purple on May 12. Coun. B. Knight made motion that we light up in purple in recognition of their cause, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

On the Question: Mayor D. MacGillivray asked if we had purple lights? CAO S. Higdon confirmed that the light is multicolored and can shine purple. **Motion Carried.**

6. Committee of the Whole Report

There was no Committee of the Whole Report.

7. Clean Foundation Proposal – CAO S. Higdon stated that the Town applied to this program, and was approved; to replant trees in the Poplar Street area; she met with the Clean Foundation group; they reviewed the report that was done by Kirk Schmidt.

They are recommending 1500 trees, some will not survive; planting will take place in the fall. Discussion regarding plan of action. Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept recommendation from the Clean Foundation, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

On the Question: Coun. S. Lawand wants to ensure that this will be well communicated to the public.

Motion Carried.

8. Dorrington Ball Field – CAO S. Higdon met with Town Engineer Blaine Murray and Superintendent Jamie MacDonald along with Dwayne Cameron, lead volunteer at the Dorrington Ball Field; they are applying for provincial government grant to perform work on the field and is asking the Town for permission to do the work which consists of removing the existing out building and dugouts, put some infield mix, have new fenced dugouts and upgrades and repairs to fencing to maintain integrity as well as upgrades to the clubhouse. CAO S. Higdon stated that the grant will cover two thirds of the \$100,000 costs; asking Town to consider the remaining third during budget deliberation. Discussion commenced re money spent on other fields; little work done at the Dorrington for some time. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to write the required letter permitting them do this work as well Council will consider their request for one-third of funding during budget deliberations, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

9. Request for Access across Evansville Softball Field Parking Lot by Nova Scotia Power – CAO S. Higdon stated that NS Power is looking for access to their substation, which is located up behind MacGregor; she read letter from Planner Roland Burek; NS Power asking to acquire a right-of-way access across the Town-owned parking lot immediately north of the Evansville Softball Field on MacGregor Avenue, immediately south of Lehigh and Water Streets. They are in the process of establishing a new location for a substation to service the immediate area including the Albion Business Park. This will allow for added development to the commercial area as well as other residential and industrial proposals in the future; map and drawings provided. Town Planner recommended that the approval be granted for an easement over Town-owned land in favor of NSPI so they can access this piece of land. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to allow access across Evansville Softball Field parking lot, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

On the Question: Coun. S. Campbell re effects to homeowners. CAO S. Higdon replied that there will be no interference to homeowners in the area.

Motion Carried.

10. Open Forum

No one spoke at the Open Forum.

STELLARTON TOWN COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 12, 2024

11. Next Council Meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

12. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



STELLARTON POLICE SERVICE

Report for February, 2024

Calls for Service

Total: 194

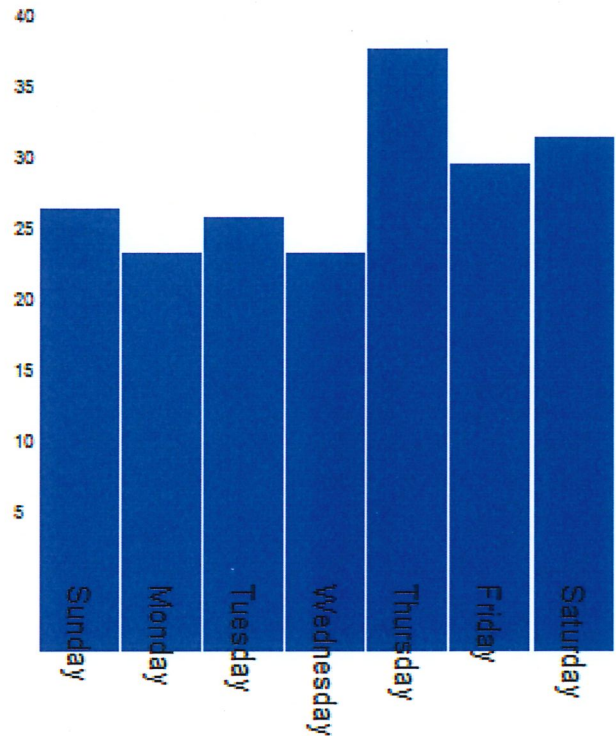
(2023 calls 181)

Calls	Type	Charges
1	911 Act-Other Activities	
5	Animal calls	
3	Assaults	1
6	Assists to Can. Police Agency	
1	Assist non-Government Agency	
12	Assist s to the General Public	
1	Breach of Peace	
2	Corrections and Conditions	
2	Coroner Act	
1	Distribute Intimate images	
6	Causing a Disturbance	2 warning
1	Dog Act- Other Activities	
3	Fail to remain at accident	
5	Fail to comply with conditions	6
2	Family Relations Act	
2	Fail to attend	2
3	False Alarms	
3	Fraud	

3	Information Files	
3	Item Lost/Found	
15	Mental Health Act	
1	Liquor Control Act	
1	Litter Act	
7	Mischief	3
14	Motor Vehicle Act Violations	9 (25 warning)
16	Municipal Bylaw	Coll Ave
29	Municipal Bylaw winter parking	13 (12warning)
1	S.T.E.P	(5 warning)
3	No Pursuit involved flight	
8	Traffic Collision	2
4	Thefts	2
12	Suspicious Persons	
2	Trespass Act	
6	Well-Being Checks	
1	Threats	

Breakdown by day of the week:

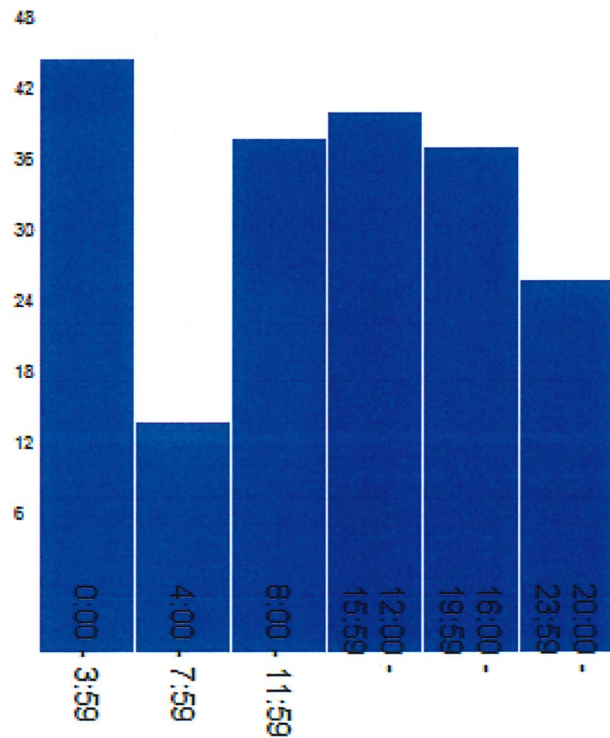
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Number of occurrences</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Sunday	26	13.4%
Monday	23	11.9%
Tuesday	25	12.9%
Wednesday	23	11.9%
Thursday	37	19.1%
Friday	29	14.9%
Saturday	31	16.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Total	194	100%



Number of occurrences per weekday

Breakdown by time of day:

<i>Time</i>	<i>Number of occurrences</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
0:00 - 3:59	44	22.7%
4:00 - 7:59	13	6.7%
8:00 - 11:59	37	19.1%
12:00 - 15:59	39	20.1%
16:00 - 19:59	36	18.6%
20:00 - 23:59	25	12.9%
Unknown	0	0.0%
Total	194	100%



Number of occurrences per time of day

Other Activities

Foot/Bike Patrol	13	hours
Traffic Enforcement	40	hours
Community Relations	16	hours

Noteable Events

- Cst Morrell attended the NG square for African Heritage Month
- Cst Holland was requested and attended AG Ballie for a school talk
- Chief Hobeck and Insp Pond attended the Special Olympics Gala at the Halifax Convention Center. Chief Hobeck's team won team of the year.
- Sgt Veenhuis, Cst Morrell, and A/Sgt Clarke(WPS) attended the Atlantic Police Academy with the Stellarton/Westville Youth Troop



Stellarton Fire Department
Monthly Report – February 2024

CALLS:

During the month of February, we responded to 9 calls: 3 were mutual aid calls, 3 were alarm calls, 1 was assistance to the Police, 1 was for a dog on the ice and 1 was a medical call. An average of 12 fire fighters responded to each call with the exception of the Mutual Aid calls.

PRACTICES:

Practices were held every Thursday. On average 17 members attended.

Clean-up/Equipment checks:

Weekly clean-up and equipment checks are performed with individual crews.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Fortune(secretary)

February Council Report Marketing & Communications

REMO

As a result of the significant weather (both snow and rain/melt), the REMO team operated in full force this past month. Once things were somewhat open after the snow event, the REMO team began operations at the Municipality of Pictou County office as a central command centre. We opened a hotline for Pictou County residents to call in who were experiencing emergencies (ran out of food, need medication, trapped in homes, etc.). These calls were triaged and then dispatched with assistance from provincial teams and resources (DNR, Team Rubicon). I monitored any requests that came into REMO via email, as well as operated the hotline on day 1 of opening.

Rain/Melt Event

In preparation for the rainstorm we experienced, senior management met with REMO Coordinator, John Davison, and Alternate Coordinator, Dan MacDonald, to proactively plan for the event of flooding – especially with regard to the Twin River Park on Bridge Avenue. As a result of this planning, I put out flood preparation material online, and created flood preparation and evacuation planning packages for residents in commonly flooded areas. This included a letter, an emergency kit checklist, and a number to a phone line for residents to call to notify us that they would be self-evacuating ahead of time – to save valuable time for first responders in the event of an emergency evacuation. These materials will be able to be reused in the future if more significant weather events are forecasted.

African Heritage Month

On behalf of the Town of Stellarton, I attended the African Heritage Month proclamation at the Glasgow Square on February 1. It was an incredibly well-attended event with special guests, musical performances, and speeches throughout the hour.

DEI Workshop – PC Partnership

Hosted by the Pictou County Partnership, I attended a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workshop on February 16. This event offered insight into some best practices, as well as what it can mean and look like for businesses and organizations to be diverse, equitable, and inclusive. It was good information to receive and provided an interesting look at some of the standard practices that have been adopted – as well as how to reshape those standards in a positive way.

Heritage Day

I coordinated the Heritage Day activity at the W.M. Sobey Indoor Sports Complex for Monday, February 19. This free event took place from 11am until 2pm and had activities like inflatable obstacles, bubble soccer, and a toddler zone. Gary Matheson confirmed that attendance was over 500 people over the course of the day.

One issue that had been noted was that parking was difficult – only one of the parking lots had been cleared after the snowstorm. In the event of significant snow next year, we will have the Public Works crew plow the lower parking lot ahead of time.

In addition to our event, the Museum of Industry had free admission for the day, as well as two new exhibits on display. This was promoted with our event as well.

DEANS/Coastal Nova Scotia

I attended an information and loose planning session with the team from DEANS, other municipalities, as well as with local venue and music organizations. DEANS is hoping to put a bid in to the province for Pictou County to host the Nova Scotia Music Awards in 2025. There were some great questions asked and good information shared. I expect there will be further meetings and discussions before requests for support and a bid is submitted. One key highlight to note is that the Tourism Marketing Levy would cover the financial portion of Stellarton's support, should a bid be put forward.

Homecoming

I have been doing some preliminary Homecoming planning throughout the month including submitting sponsor requests and reviewing action items from last year. We are planning to host a full committee meeting in the early weeks of March and should have more information after that meeting.

Jays Care Foundation

I continue to assist the Jays Care Foundation with their planning for a one-day event in May. I have been helping to coordinate the event and get their organizer in touch with local amenities that they require for this event. They are really keen on supporting local businesses as best as they can, but struggle as they are planning out of Toronto, so I'm happy to be their local contact. I am scheduled to meet with the organizer again on March 4, and may have additional information to share after this meeting.

Social Media Highlights

There have been several social media posts that are important to highlight for residents:

- Tax Sale – Stellarton's annual Tax Sale is scheduled for March 20 at 10am in the Council Chambers. Information on available properties can be found on our website: <https://stellarton.ca/tax-sale-march-20-2024.html>
- Volunteer of the Year – We are accepting nominations for our annual Volunteer of the Year. Nominations are due on March 22 and the Volunteer Reception will be held in April. The form and accompanying information can be found on our website: <https://stellarton.ca/volunteer-of-the-year-nominations-now-open-3.html>
- Winter Parking – Residents are reminded that the winter parking regulations are in place until April 15 and are effective daily (regardless of weather). Full regulations can be found on our website: <https://stellarton.ca/winter-parking-regulations-2.html>

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Draper

Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Town Engineers Report

February 2024

Engineering & Public Works Report

Streets/Properties

1. On February 2-4 the province received a massive snowstorm setting snowfall records. It was reported that anywhere from 1 – 1.5m had fallen in parts of Pictou County. Public Works was forced to contract additional resources for snow removal which included a grader and 2 loaders with operators. The conditions were hard on the equipment and all 3 sidewalk machines were down intermittently throughout the storm and the weeks to follow. The amount of snow received is very hard on all snow removal equipment.
2. Two rain/melt events occurred in February. On February 24 the Stellarton Water Treatment recorded 32 mm of rain with warm weather. On February 28 – 29 the Stellarton Water Treatment recorded 35 mm of rain Thursday night into Friday with warm weather. REMO was on high alert in the event the Twin Rivers Park had to be evacuated. Although Bridge Avenue was closed for a brief period, no evacuation was required.
3. On February 27th a large sinkhole was reported on MacGregor Avenue near the Pioneer Coal Transfer Station. The whole was 16-17' in depth. Pioneer Coal was contacted for input. The cause of the sinkhole is unknown. Pioneer commented that the area was mined, and they did not know the reason for the disturbance. The hole was filled, and the Town will monitor this area.

Mechanical Equipment

4. Maintenance on winter equipment is ongoing. Two of our sidewalk machines are need of replacement. One new machine will be coming the first week of March with the other coming in April.

Blaine Murray, P.Eng.,
Town Engineer

Town of Stellarton Town Engineers Report February 2024 Water Utility Report

Water Quality Testing

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

Water Distribution

2. February 21 Water break – MacGregor Avenue.

WTP

3. Average treated water Production for February 2024 (1,599,998 LPD) compared to February 2023 (1,802,699 LPD) was ~11% lower. However, after February 10th the plant has seen higher flows. The Town is keeping an eye out for any leaks.

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