



## **TOWN OF STELLARTON**

Council

April 14, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**2. Approval of Minutes:** March 10, 2025 Regular Council

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a. Deer Population**

**b. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library- Funding**

**4. Proclamation- Lyme Disease Awareness Month**

**5. Proclamation- Gaelic Nova Scotia Month**

**6. Presentation –** 2025-2026 General Operations Budget  
2025-2026 General Capital Budget  
Tax Rates for 2025-2026  
2025-2026 Water Utility Operating Budget  
2025- 2026 Water Capital Budget

**7. Reports from Staff: October**

**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

**8. Correspondence**

**a. Fibromyalgia Association Canada** Re: Request for Light up

**b. Healthy Pictou County** Re: Monthly Report

**9. Committee of the Whole Report**

**10. Volunteer of the Year - 2025**

**11. Equity and Anti Racism Plan**

**12. 2025-2028 Town of Stellarton Strategic Plan**

**13. Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate**

**14. Open Forum**

**15. Next Council Meeting:** Monday, May 12, 2025 @5:30 PM

**16. Adjourn**

**MARCH 10, 2025**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

Mayor D. Stroud, Couns. S. Eis, M. Fortune, S. Campbell and G. Pentz. Also present was CAO S. Higdon, Fire Chief M. O'Sullivan, Marketing and Communications P. Draper and Town Engineer B. Murray

**1. AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved as amended to include the Accessibility Plan Update, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from February 10, 2025 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. S. Eis seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. Proclamation – Purple Day Epilepsy Awareness Day**

Mayor D. Stroud read Proclamation raising epilepsy awareness:

**WHEREAS** Purple Day is a global effort dedicated to promoting epilepsy awareness in countries around the world, and

**WHEREAS** epilepsy is one of the most common neurological conditions, estimated to affect more than 50 million people worldwide, and 42 people in Canada are diagnosed every day, and

**WHEREAS** one in ten persons will have at least one seizure during their lifetime, and

**WHEREAS** the public is often unable to recognize the common seizure types, or how to respond with appropriate first aid, and

**WHEREAS** Purple Day will be celebrated on March 26 annually to increase understanding, reduce stigma and improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy throughout the country and globally,

**THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Darren Stroud, Town of Stellarton, proclaim March 26 Purple Day in Stellarton, NS, in an effort to raise awareness of epilepsy in Canada.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to proclaim March 26, 2025 as Purple Day in Stellarton, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

**5. Presentation – Coastal Nova Scotia – Cindy MacKinnon, Managing Director**  
Cindy MacKinnon made presentation to Council highlighting:

- Visitors' Services; Events; Partnerships; and Destination Marketing
- Conferences
- Digitable Marketing; Regional Guides
- 8 Visitor Centres in our region; 2 in Pictou County
- Itinerary planning on their website
- E-newsletters

- Partnerships include Events Nova Scotia, 55 Plus Games, Pictou County Style Pizza Documentary, and the Municipalities
- Accessibility Lunch and Learn Project
- Signature events i.e. The Buoys
- Marketing Levy
- Putting in bids to host a National Ball event as well as Music Week in 2026
- Finances
- Requesting same amount from the Town as previous years

Questions/Comments:

Coun. S. Eis re local activities and improvements to facilities infrastructure funding. Cindy replied that Coastal Nova Scotia offers letters of support, not traditionally a funder; could help with marketing and advice where to find grants or other government assistance.

Mayor D. Stroud thanked Cindy for presentation.

**6. Presentation – Creative Pictou County** – Carissa Ainslie, Executive Director Vivianne LaRiviere Chair of Creative Pictou County addressed Council highlighting:

- Many benefits Creative Pictou County offers
- Impact of art to society
- Art culture sometimes overlooked by local economies
- Recognizing the economic opportunities by supporting art cultures
- Community involvement
- Sustainable future requires support
- Staffing needs
- Asking for additional funding, sponsorships and partnerships

Carissa Ainslie, Executive Director of Creative Pictou County addressed Council highlighting:

- Upcoming projects and grants received
- “Artistry in Action” event March 22, 2025 at the Museum of Industry, and September 11 at the Pictou Landing First Nations School
- “Culture Days” runs four weeks in the fall
- Pictou County ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the small municipalities category for most engaged communities during Culture Days 2024
- Pop-up exhibitions across the county
- Free art workshops
- Rely on community partners to provide space, access to networks and events support
- Reiterated their staffing requirements
- Community Grants application submitted

Questions/Comments:

Coun. S. Eis re collaborate during our Homecoming Festival, with focus on youth engagement.

Mayor D. Stroud re paid staff and congratulated them on their operations.

**7. Reports from Staff: February (Attached and available online)**

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service  
CAO S. Higdon reviewed report to Council; 193 Calls in February; 5.5 hours of Foot Patrol; 67 hours of Traffic Enforcement; and 13 hours of Community Relations where Sgt. Morrell attended the African Heritage Month Ceremony at Summer Street; and two officers went to the G. R. Saunders Elementary School to educate students on internet safety.  
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis . **Motion Carried.**
- b. Fire Chief Mike O’Sullivan – Fire Department  
Chief O’Sullivan reported that the Stellarton Fire Department had 11 calls in February; practices were held every Thursday evening; Equipment checks were completed weekly.

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department's report for February 2025, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications

P. Draper mentioned that Volunteer of the Year deadline for nominations is March 19.

Coun. M. Fortune asked if groups can be nominated; P. Draper replied that it would be up to the Selection Committee.

Coun. M. Fortune made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

B. Murray noted the South Foord Street project is completed; the traffic light on Foord Street is still down, waiting for parts to arrive.

Coun. G. Pentz re new sanitary line on South Foord Street; B. Murray stated that an issue with that line was discovered in the fall; it will a capital item.

Coun. G. Pentz re water consumption is down again. B. Murray confirmed that it's down 3.9%.

Mayor D. Stroud asked about repairs to #3 Zeeweed. B. Murray explained that Zeeweed is the name of the membranes at the Water Treatment Plant.

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

**8. Correspondence**

**a. International Disability Pride** Re: Request for Flag Raising – CAO S.

Higdon noted that this is Council's first Flag Raising request and the Town has a Flag Raising Policy, enacted in 2020. Mayor D. Stroud recommends tabling request until Council has time to review Policy. CAO S. Higdon will include item on the Committee of the Whole Agenda for March 24.

**b. Healthy Pictou County** Re: Monthly Report – CAO S. Higdon re for Council's information.

**c. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library** Re: Funding Update – CAO S. Higdon received this from Chief Librarian Eric Stackhouse to provide brief update on the Provincial Budget and how it impacts public libraries.

**d. NSFM** Re: Pending Legislation – CAO S. Higdon re Pending Legislation from NSFM; read for the record. CAO S. Higdon and Mayor D. Stroud attended meeting where this was discussed in detail. Follow-up correspondence received re Bill 24; updates will continue.

**9. Committee of the Whole Report**

The following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 24, 2025:

**Recommendation #1**

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve a \$50 donation to the Northumberland Regional High School Boys Hockey Team for the 2025 Provincial Championships.

**Recommendation #2**

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the Rutherford St. water and sewer lines infrastructure project for a total of \$3.05 million, including HST, with 50% funding already approved, CCBF funds for 2025/26 to be applied for sewer with the balance of the funding by provincial debenture for each of the Town and the Water Utility.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve recommendations from Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**10. Accessibility Plan** – P. Draper provided background information; in 2020 an Accessibility Committee was established with representatives from the community; plan was developed and submitted to the Province in 2021 outlining five areas to focus on to become fully accessible by 2030. Revisions were discussed at recent Committee meeting; new plan emailed to Council; looking for approval to submit to the Province. Coun. M. Fortune made motion to approve the Accessibility Plan, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**  
CAO S. Higdon extended appreciation to Paige for her advocacy and work on this project.

**11. Equity and Anti Racism Plan Draft** – P. Draper noted that the Town is mandated by the Province to submit; recommended a regional plan; P. Draper and CAO S. Higdon have been working with CAO's from Trenton, Westville, Pictou and the Municipality of Pictou County to put together a Draft which was submitted to the Province last week; the other towns will be bringing plan to their Councils for approval as well. Final approval / discussion will occur at our Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor D. Stroud supports the combined effort.  
Paige noted New Glasgow's involvement; they've been a "champion" for Equity and Anti Racism; they have an "Inclusive Community" Committee established several years ago and have been at the table for our planning. The Region has been invited to sit on that Inclusion Community Committee.

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

**13. Next Council Meeting:** Monday, April 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

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

**MAYOR**

**CAO**



## STELLARTON POLICE SERVICE

Report up to March 31st, 2025

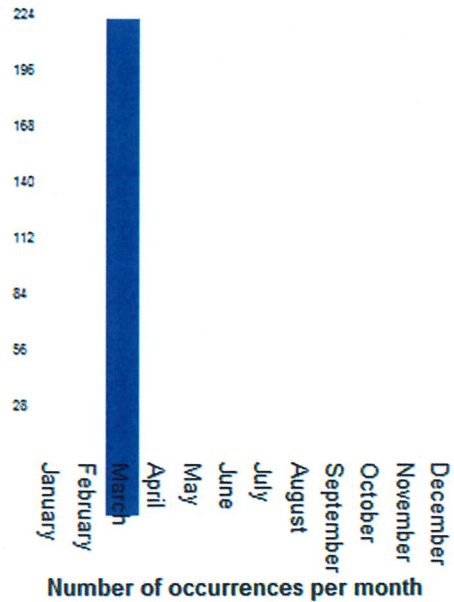
Calls for Service : 219 (2024 calls: 222)

Calls	Type
1	911 Act-Other Activities
1	Animal
5	Assaults
17	Assists to the General Public
0	Assist other Police Agency
0	Break and Enter
2	Checkpoint
3	Causing a disturbance
0	Disobeying a court order
0	Criminal negligence causing injury
1	False Alarms
3	Family Relations Act
4	Fraud under \$5,000
0	Fail to remain MVA
3	Fail to comply with conditions
6	Information Files
3	Item Lost/Found
5	Mental Health Act

1	Harassment
5	Mischief
40	Motor Vehicle Act Violations
35	Municipal Bylaw
0	Missing person
9	No pursuit flight from police
0	Offender Management
1	Operation while impaired (alcohol)
0	Operation while impaired (drug)
1	Peace Bond
0	Sexual Assault
2	Thefts
0	Possession of a weapon
1	Property check
11	S.T.E.P.
19	Suspicious Persons/person/vehicle
3	Traffic Collision non-fatal
0	Trespass Act
4	Uttering Threats -person
0	Unwanted person
6	Well-Being Checks

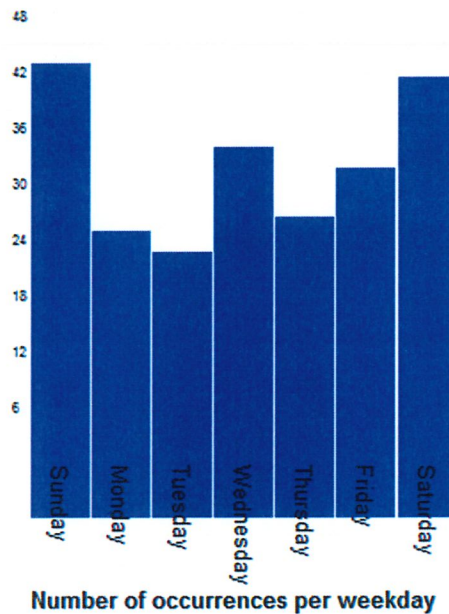
**Breakdown by month:**

<i>Month</i>	<i>Number of occurrences</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
January	0	0.0%
February	0	0.0%
March	218	99.5%
April	0	0.0%
May	0	0.0%
June	0	0.0%
July	0	0.0%
August	1	0.5%
September	0	0.0%
October	0	0.0%
November	0	0.0%
December	0	0.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100%</b>



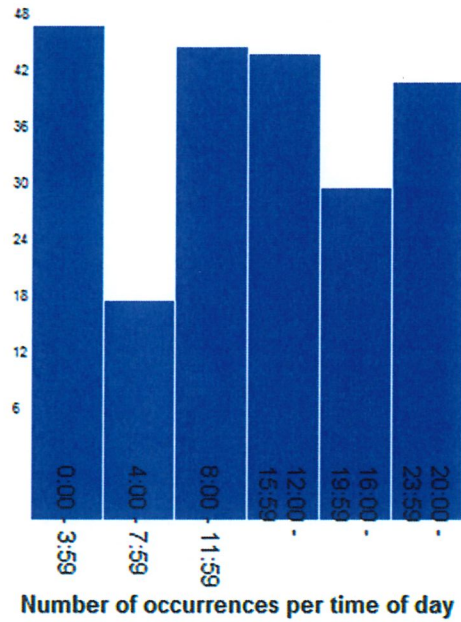
**Breakdown by day of the week:**

<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Number of occurrences</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Sunday	42	19.2%
Monday	24	11.0%
Tuesday	22	10.0%
Wednesday	33	15.1%
Thursday	26	11.9%
Friday	31	14.2%
Saturday	41	18.7%
Unknown	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Breakdown by time of day:**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Number of occurrences</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
0:00 - 3:59	46	21.0%
4:00 - 7:59	17	7.8%
8:00 - 11:59	44	20.1%
12:00 - 15:59	43	19.6%
16:00 - 19:59	29	13.2%
20:00 - 23:59	40	18.3%
Unknown	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Charges

Criminal Code - 6

Motor Vehicle Act - 16

Warnings - 42

Winter Parking - 11

## **Events**

- Sgt. Irving attended a school advisory committee meeting at Dr. W. A. MacLeod
- Sgt. Morrell attended a board meeting for the Pictou County Women's Resource and Sexual Assault Centre
- Cst. Vandergrift and Cst. Berthier attended G. R. Saunders Elementary School and presented an internet safety talk

## **Other Activities**

Foot/Bike Patrol - 7 hours

Traffic Enforcement - 135 hours

Community Relations -11 hours

Completed by: Sergeant Makayla Morrell

Stellarton Fire Department  
Monthly Report – March 2025

**CALLS:**

We had 8 calls during the month of March. 1 was mutual aid call, 2 were medical assists, 1 was a small grass fire behind the Holiday Inn, 1 was a garage fire and 3 were alarm calls. An average of 13 members attended the calls with the exception of Mutual Aid. The garage fire was significant enough that we required Mutual Aid for assistance. Also, due to the contents of the garage, foam was used to extinguish areas of the garage that water wasn't successful with.

**PRACTICES:**

Practices were held every Thursday evening. Our last practice had our members preparing for grass fires as well as going through the trucks to maximize our efficiency( basically reorganizing and removing any items that were not needed). An average of 13 members attended the training nights.

**EQUIPMENT CHECKS:**

Checks were completed weekly with 4-5 members performing the equipment check each week. The purpose of the clean-up/equipment checks is to ensure the Hall is clean but also to ensure that all equipment works properly and is ready to be used if necessary. Basically, all gear is started up and gas/batteries are checked. Also, any medical gear is checked and restocked as needed.

**March Council Report**  
**Marketing, Communications, Recreation**

***Volunteer of the Year***

The volunteer of the year submissions have all been received. There were thirteen individuals nominated for the Francis “Bud” MacKay Volunteer of the Year award and nominees were presented to the Committee of the Whole for a blind selection of the winner. All submitting organizations, and the nominees, have been invited to join us for our annual Volunteer Reception later this spring.

I have been working to ensure everything is organized and prepared for this event.

***Accessibility Plan | Equity & Inclusion Plan***

The reviewed and updated version of our Accessibility Plan has been approved and submitted to the province. We were one of the first four municipalities in the province to submit our revised plan.

We, along with the towns of Pictou, Trenton, Westville, and the Municipality of Pictou County, worked together to finalize our regional draft of our first Equity & Inclusion Plan. The Town of New Glasgow has been a valuable partner and resource for us throughout the process. The draft plan was submitted to the Committee of the Whole for review and recommendation to adopt.

***Newsletter***

The spring edition of the Stellar News has been prepared. This edition features information on: Burn restrictions, a speaker series at the Museum of Industry, important dates like Homecoming, spring clean up and leaf collection, National Police Week, as well as a letter from Mayor Stroud.

The newsletter has been included with the water bills, hard copies are available at Town Hall, it’s also available in a digital format on our website.

***GR Saunders Info Fair***

As part of GR Saunders two parent-teacher days this spring, they hosted an information fair for parents/guardians to participate in and learn more information about local services and programs for youth. I attended the morning session of this info session to share information about recreation services in Stellarton like the equipment loan program, community playbox, and plans for day camp.

***REMO***

REMO Pictou County continues to meet regularly to plan and prepare for any incidents that may arise in our towns or county. As part of the Public Information Officer (PIO) team, we have been working to plan information sharing for Emergency Preparedness Week (May 4 to 10).

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Draper  
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

**`Town of Stellarton  
Town Engineers Report  
March 2025 Water Utility Report**

**Water Distribution**

1. No water main breaks to report for the month.
2. Public Works were busy trouble shooting water meters throughout the Town. Several accounts were flagged with either signal or meter consumption issues. Staff installed 4 new meters for PQ Properties.
3. Leaking radiator on the Poplar pumphouse generator was replaced.

**WTP**

4. Annual Report was submitted on March 17, 2025 to Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change.
5. Average treated water Production for March 2025 (1,587,986 LPD) compared to March 2024 1,631,606 (LPD) was 2.7% lower.

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

# **Town Engineers Report**

## **March 2025**

### **Engineering & Public Works Report**

#### **Engineering/Projects**

1. The drawings and tender documents for the Rutherford Infrastructure Upgrades project were completed in March. The project is currently out for tender.
2. Kellys Consulting & Municipal Services were hired to install the remaining meters throughout the Town.

#### **Streets/Properties**

3. Public Works reinstalled the traffic structure at the Acadia/Foord. Consultants were required to program the traffic sequences.
4. Staff are making sure vehicle maintenance is getting done before and after snow events.
5. Public Works fixed or replaced damaged or faded stop signs. Also replaced faded School Zone signs on Jubilee Ave.
6. Public Works started street sweeping streets and gutters with our sidewalk machine attachment. The large street sweeper will be in to do the high volume/heavy debris areas in Town.
7. Staff were busy fixing/replacing boards on recreation bleachers.
8. The firehall foyer was painted over March.

#### **Safety**

9. Annual inspections of jacks, jack stands, and hoist was completed.

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