



TOWN OF STELLARTON

Council

June 9, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2025 Regular Council

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Reports from Staff: April

- 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

5. Correspondence

- a. Nova Scotia Emergency Management Re: Update on our path forward with GSAR

6. Committee of the Whole Report

7. Open Forum

8. Next Council Meeting: Monday, July 14, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

9. Adjourn

MAY 12, 2025

STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor Darren Stroud, Couns. Sandra Eis, Mark Fortune, Susan Campbell and Garry Pentz. Also present was CAO Susan Higdon, Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan, Marketing and Communications Paige Draper and Town Engineer Blaine Murray

1. AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on motion by Coun. M. Fortune, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 14, 2025 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Deer Update – Mayor D. Stroud re issue of deer population in Town was brought up at the Mayors and Warden meeting; a representative from Natural Resources was present and provided information; all municipal units agreed to work together; New Glasgow has been sharing their procedures; a meeting of the Regional Urban Deer Management Committee, consisting of the Mayors and CAO's, will take place this Thursday; will provide future updates.

4. Reports from Staff: April (Attached and available online)

a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service

CAO S. Higdon reviewed report to Council; 212 Calls in April; Events include Sgt. Sutherland attended GR Saunders for Big Brothers Big Sisters; Cst. Vandergrift attended GR Saunder and gave a Text and Cyber Safety Talk to the students; Chief Hobeck attended the Atlantic Police Academy graduation for our new constable, Cst. Berthier who received an award for Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement in Leadership and Fitness; and Chief Hobeck presented at Pathways to Safety: Enhancing Support for Survivors of Sexualized and Gender Based Violence Forum. They had 13 hours of Foot Patrol; 149 hours of Traffic Enforcement; and 18 hours of Community Relations.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department

Chief O'Sullivan reported that the Stellarton Fire Department had 10 calls in April; practices were held every Thursday evening with an average of 11 members attending; Equipment checks were completed weekly with individual crews.

Coun. S. Eis motioned to accept Fire Department's report for April 2025, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications

P. Draper asked if there were any questions on her April Report.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell.

Mayor D. Stroud commented on the new neighborhood signage and ACOA funding. CAO S. Higdon stated that future funding is yet to be determined.

Motion Carried.

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

Town Engineer Blaine Murray presented reports to Council; commenting re new Engineering Technologist Holly Miller; the Rutherford Project start up meeting. On the Water Report, carbon system was prepared and flushed. . Coun. G. Pentz commented on employee safety training. B. Murray confirmed that staff received First Aid, Scissor and Man-Lift training and confined space.

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

5. Correspondence

a. Municipal Affairs Re: Fire Records Management System – CAO S. Higdon read correspondence from Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding the Fire Records Management System; providing update on important investment in provincial management of records related to fire services and how the new system will support municipalities and fire departments across the province.

b. Riverview Home Corporation Re: Report – Coun. S. Eis updated Council re Riverview Home Corp., moving forward with their procurement and planning of building specialized homes for current residents in Riverton.

c. Pictou County Prostate Cancer Support Association Re: Thank you for donation; CAO S. Higdon commented that this is a "Thank you" from the 42nd Annual Donald Keddy Memorial Hockey tournament and the Pictou County Prostate Cancer Support Association; included in the Town's annual grant program.

d. Municipal Affairs Re: Reprofiling of the Beautification and Streetscaping Program (BSP) and the Community Works Program (CWP) – CAO S. Higdon received correspondence from the Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, informing Council that they are reprofiling the Beautification and Streetscaping and the Community Works Program, which were two separate funding opportunities, but now its put towards the Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) for the 2025-26 program year; increasing the PCAP budget from \$690,000 to \$1.69 million; huge benefit for the municipalities for do infrastructure work under this program.

6. Committee of the Whole Report

The following recommendation is for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 28, 2025:

Recommendation # 1

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the tender received from S.W Weeks Construction for the Rutherford Infrastructure Project in the amount of \$1,569,895.00 plus HST as it was the lowest tender received.

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 \$64,000.00 plus HST as it was the lowest tender received.

Recommendation # 3

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the donation of \$100.00 to the Northumberland Regional High School Yearbook Committee for an ad in the 2025 yearbook.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

7. Open Forum

Mayor D. Stroud acknowledged MLA Danny MacGillivray's presence in the gallery. Mayor D. Stroud commented on CAO Susan Higdon's seven years with the Town; she has submitted her resignation and she will be greatly missed.

CAO S. Higdon said that it's been an honor to serve the citizens of Stellarton.

Coun. G. Pentz also commented that it was the best move the Town made when hiring Susan Higdon, and her tremendous work she contributed to the Town.

Mayor D. Stroud reiterated her commitment to the Town; the replacement process has begun.

MLA Danny MacGillivray commented that he was also on the hiring committee when Susan was hired; an excellent decision; she was a definite asset to the Town of Stellarton.

8. Next Council Meeting: Monday, June 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

MAYOR

CAO



STELLARTON POLICE SERVICE

Report for May 2025

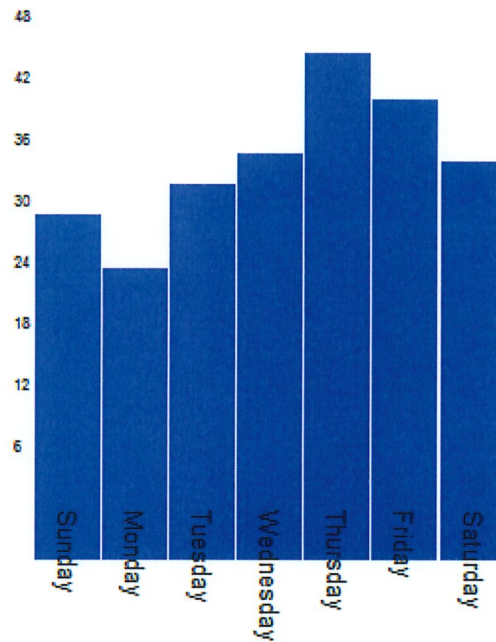
Calls for Service : 232 (2024 calls :203)

Calls	Type
4	911 Act-Other Activities
3	Animal
3	Assaults
5	Assists to the General Public
11	Assist other Police Agency
3	Assist to other agency
2	Breach of Peace
1	B & E
6	Checkpoint
2	Correction and Conditional release
1	Coroners Act
2	Criminal Harassment
3	Causing a disturbance
3	Driving while disqualified
1	Firearms act
10	False Alarms
1	Family Relations Act
2	Fire prevention
1	Forest Protection Act

	Fail to comply with conditions
13	Information Files
5	Item Lost/Found
2	Liquor Control Act
8	Mental Health Act
3	Mischief
31	Motor Vehicle Act Violations
11	Municipal Bylaw
5	Flight from Police non pursuit
3	Offender Management
3	Impaired operation
2	Pointing a firearm
1	Missing person
16	Thefts
5	S.T.E.P.
32	Suspicious Persons/person/vehicle
2	Traffic Collision non-fatal
10	Trespass Act
3	Unwanted person
1	threats
5	Wellbeing Check

Breakdown by day of the week:

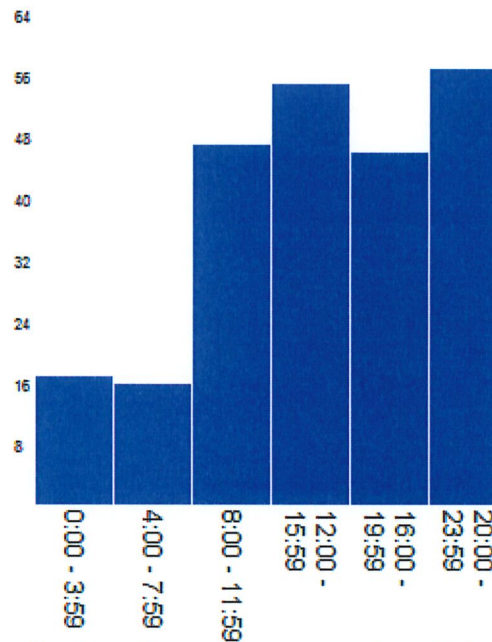
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Number of occurrences</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Sunday	28	12.1%
Monday	23	9.9%
Tuesday	31	13.4%
Wednesday	34	14.7%
Thursday	44	19.0%
Friday	39	16.8%
Saturday	33	14.2%
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0.0%
Total	232	100%



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	16	6.9%
4:00 - 7:59	15	6.5%
8:00 - 11:59	46	19.8%
12:00 - 15:59	54	23.3%
16:00 - 19:59	45	19.4%
20:00 - 23:59	56	24.1%
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0.0%
Total	232	100%



Number of occurrences per time of day

Charges

Criminal Code - 10

Motor Vehicle Act - 9

Warnings - 102

Events

- Sgt Sutherland attended GR Saunders for Big brother Big sisters
- Cst Smith attended the wellness center for Police week
- SPS Youth troop attended the Atlantic Police Academy
- Officers attended GR Saunders spring fling
- Cst Vandergrift and Cst Berthier attended GR Saunders for Wellness day
- Officers provided the entire GR Saunders school with a tour of the station and Police vehicles
- Cst Berthier met with the Roots for Youth Executive director regarding neighbourhood complaints. Residents seem to be pleased at the proactive approach

Other Activities

Foot/Bike Patrol - 30 hrs

Traffic Enforcement - 190 hrs

Community Relations -24 hrs



Stellaraton Fire Department
Monthly Report – May 2025

CALLS:

During the month of May, we responded to 14 calls: 1 was for a motor vehicle accident, 3 were grass fires, 1 was for bark mulch on fire, 1 was mutual aid and the other 8 were alarm calls. An average of 12 fire fighters responded to each call. We had an unusually busy day on the 28th with 4 calls coming in before 7:30am. Overall, calls were all minor with the exception the mutual aid grass fire. It covered a large area and had the potential to be very bad. On average, 15 members attended each call with the exception of mutual aid.

PRACTICES:

Practices were held every Thursday. On average 12 members attended.

Clean-up/Equipment checks:

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

May Council Report

Marketing, Communications, Recreation

Equity & Inclusion Plan

One of the commitments outlined in our regional plan is to provide training to staff and council surrounding equity and anti-racism work. Over the month, I have been collaborating with our neighbouring municipalities to host an in-person training workshop later this year. I have met with consultants who offer training of this nature and will continue to work with these individuals to develop a training opportunity that will best meet the needs of our region. As details of a training workshop take shape, I will provide additional updates.

Davis Day

William Davis Miners' Memorial Day is an annual service that we host at our miners' monument on June 11. I have been working to coordinate the details of this event, send invitations to dignitaries and ensure all aspects of this service are in order for the upcoming day. 2025 marks the 100-year anniversary of Davis Day. As a town with deep mining roots, it's important for us to keep this tradition alive. All members of the public are invited to attend at 11am on Wednesday, June 11.

Flag Raisings & Light Up Town Hall

Throughout the month of May, we had multiple flag raisings that took place. With the assistance of our Police Service, the Town Square displayed the flags for:

1. Gaelic Nova Scotia Month – A time to celebrate and create awareness of the history, culture, language, contributions, and achievements of Gaels across the province.
2. Fibromyalgia Awareness Day – A day to recognize the complex condition, and show support to those living with fibromyalgia.
3. VON Week – Celebrates the achievements and impacts that VON has in the community, and recognizes the people who help VON to do what they do; VON staff, volunteers, donors, community partners, and other supporters.
4. Access Awareness Week – Is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize disability advocates and leaders in Nova Scotia, while also understand and learning about the ongoing barriers faced by people with disabilities.

Johnny Miles

The annual Johnny Miles Running Event is approaching on June 15. As this event takes place through the towns of New Glasgow and Stellarton, I attended a logistics planning meeting alongside our Police Service and Public Works Superintendent. We discussed the nature of the event, any changes to the routes or timelines of the running event, and the requirements for road closures and personnel needed to execute this event.

Details about road closures will be publicized to all via social media, the TOWNApp, and via our community bulletin boards as the event gets closer.

Summer Day Camp

Registration for the YMCA Summer Day Camp taking place at G.R. Saunders Elementary is open. There are eight weeks of camp between July 2 and August 22 that families can register for. All additional camp details and registration is available through the YMCA online here: <https://t.ly/CraiK>

This information has been pinned to our Facebook page for ease of access to residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Draper
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Town Engineers Report

May 2025

Engineering & Public Works Report

Engineering/Projects

1. The Rutherford Infrastructure Upgrades project has been pushed back until the second week of June due to manhole production issues.
2. The Town is required to fill out several application forms from Cape Breton and Central Railway to get approval for the South Foord Street Sanitary project. The sanitary sewer is located on the rail right of way. This will delay the project.

Streets/Properties

3. The Town of Pictou Street sweeper was in to clean the remaining streets in the Town.
4. The asphalt patching has begun throughout the Town.
5. The wet and cold weather has put public works behind in some seasonal activities such as traffic line painting. That work began near the last week of the month.
6. Crews still have plow damage around Town. Bulk topsoil was hard to get due to the wet weather. Once more is received we will finish those tasks.
7. Public works rolled, aerated, limed and fertilized all the sports fields.

Blaine Murray, P.Eng.,
Town Engineer

Town of Stellarton

Town Engineers Report

May 2025 Water Utility Report

Water Distribution

1. No water main breaks to report for the month.
2. Spring flushing of the water distribution system was done in May. Flushing helps remove sediment, and mineral deposits that can build up inside water mains over time which can affect water quality and potentially cause discolored or cloudy water.
3. CBCL has been engaged to model our water distribution system flows. This is an exercise that involves computer modeling and fieldwork to calibrate the system. This will be required for the UARB water rate study.

WTP

4. Average treated water Production for May 2025 (1,681,419 LPD) compared to May 2024 (1,573,279 LPD) was 6.4% higher. Note: We did not flush hydrants in May 2024.
5. The addition of Carbon began on May 1st.

Blaine Murray, P. Eng.
Town Engineer