

DECEMBER 12, 2016
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Stellarton Town Council II was held on Monday, December 12, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Couns. S. Lawand, B. Knight, S. Campbell and G. Pentz.
Also present Town Clerk J. Eaton.

AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, as amended to include 12) Request from Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health, 13) Weather Forecast Proposal, and 14) Habitat for Humanity, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

DECLARATION: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Coun. S. Campbell has conflict of interest with item 4; family member.
Coun. S. Lawand has conflict of interest with item 4 as well; person represents his Chief.

MINUTES

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to approve minutes from November 14, 2016, seconded by S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

HOUSEKEEPING: APPOINTMENT RENEWALS

Couns. S. Campbell and S. Lawand left Council Chambers.

Town Clerk J. Eaton informed Council of the formality process; the two positions are appointments not employees; recommends 5 year terms.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to renew the appointment of Dwight Campbell as Stellarton Fire Chief, and Mike O'Sullivan as the Deputy Fire Chief, both for 5 year terms, seconded by B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

RATIFY: CONTRACT EXTENSION – 1 YEAR: SUNRISE BROKERAGE & SALES LTD.

Town Clerk J. Eaton reported that this was discussed at the November 17 In Camera meeting; fell under the criteria of the Municipal Government Act; consensus was to renew the contract for one year. Coun. S. Lawand moved to ratify the agreement, contract extension with Sunrise Brokerage & Sales Ltd. for one year, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

RATIFY: ALBION BUSINESS PARK LAND PRICING:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re any discussion or history on issue.

Town Clerk J. Eaton provided comments; contacted the area manager of Property Valuation regarding market value of commercial properties; they are using the \$4.74 per square foot based on the previous sales.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to ratify the Albion Business Park Land pricing at \$4.74 per square foot for lands adjacent to the Trans Canada Highway, and \$3.74 per square foot for other available serviced lands, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

PRESENTATIONS:

None

REPORTS FROM ELECTED

Mayor D. MacGillivray reported:

November 17, 2016 toured the new Emergency Room at the Aberdeen Hospital.

November 23, 2016 attended the Grand Opening of the Golden Penny, new location.

November 25, 2016 attended the Tree Lighting at the Town Square.

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November 27, 2016 went to the East Link Pictou County Christmas Fund show and made donation on behalf of the Town of Stellarton.

November 30, December 1, 2, 2016 attended the UNSM conference in Halifax.

December 6, 2016 met with representative from Heritage Gas for updates.

December 7, 2016 attended an in-house Council Orientation, met with Department Heads; very informative.

December 8, 2016 attended Police Commission Meeting.

December 12, 2016 attended the Pictou County Shared Services meeting.

Other work included preparing draft letter to four new businesses in Town, for Council's review.

Coun. B. Knight reported:

Met with Recreation Director; in process of establishing a Recreation Committee.

Attended the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Town Square.

Attended the UNSM Conference in Halifax.

Attended Police Commission meeting

Planning the Seniors' Christmas activities for the two seniors' complexes.

Attended the Council Orientation, very informative.

Coun. S. Lawand:

DEANS – Exhibition in the Museum of Industry highlighting Clairtone in Nova Scotia; 2017 DEANS Gala Awards will take place April 16.

Communities in Bloom – assisted with the Christmas Tree Lighting; no meeting in December.

Glen Haven Manor – attended Board meeting; new members; role of committee is policy making role.

Library – attended meeting; orientation; Newcomers Welcome Centre project, package; discussions continuing re heat pump; Landscape Technologist position is now advertised; New Pictou Library project is on hold.

Pictou County Business Development Committee meeting scheduled for December 14; reviewing prior studies about business development in Pictou County.

Homecoming – no meetings as of yet.

Police Commission meeting minutes will be on website soon.

Coun. S. Campbell reported on the following:

Attended Riverview Home Corporation Board meeting on November 24.

Attended the Christmas Tree lighting.

Attended the UNSM Conference in Halifax.

Attended the in-house Councillor orientation on December 7.

Coun. G. Pentz reported on the following:

Pictou County Sports Hall of Fame – attended first meeting; getting oriented; very interesting facility.

Attended Christmas meeting for the Pictou Air Force Engineers.

Attended the in-house orientation on December 7.

MAYOR D. MACGILLIVRAY: STRATEGIC PLAN REVISIT

Mayor D. MacGillivray re last Strategic Plan was in 2006; recommends doing one every 5 years; very beneficial for Town planning; Resources available from the province; suggests inviting provincial Municipal Affairs in January. Town Clerk J. Eaton will provide Council with the 2006 Strategic Plan document.

Coun. S. Lawand fully supports new Strategic Plan.

COUN. S. LAWAND:

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Coun. S. Lawand presented and read a proposed Mission Statement (attached), a living document he prepared; Mission Statement; looking for feedback/comments from Council; Planning Director added some suggestions.

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Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept the Planning Advisory Committee report and proceed with document, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

FAMILY DAY - FEBRUARY

Coun. S. Lawand re having an event for the residents on Family Day; i.e. coasting party; any suggestions from Council.

Coun. B. Knight asked who would plan / coordinate event.

Coun. S. Lawand replied that he was already in contact with the Recreation Director; will bring some suggestions back to Council.

Mayor D. MacGillivray supported idea and suggested promoting Stellarton's assets.

Coun. S. Campbell suggested a skating party to consider.

KIOSK INFORMATION – EXIT 24

Coun. S. Lawand provided background on Kiosk; panels to be installed; map of the Town showcasing highlights, such as the Museum of Industry, rink, indoor soccer complex, etc., pictures, history; needs to be finished; any input from new Council. Recreation Director to go ahead with pictures and content for Kiosk.

PROPERTY SIGNAGE: TRACK & FIELD, AUBURN AVENUE

Coun. S. Lawand recommends having a better sign for this facility; Coun. S. Campbell reported that a better sign is there now; non issue.

FIRE HYDRANTS – DECORATIVE PAINTING

Coun. S. Lawand re fire hydrants and painting; recommends seeing artwork refreshed on them; looking for Council's approval to hire summer students/artists for this project. Town Clerk J. Eaton commented to include in upcoming budget; could contact schools for art students; time to advertise.

Coun. S. Lawand motioned to repaint the fire hydrants on Foord Street and other selected areas in Town, amount to be determined in the budget deliberations, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

TOWN CLERK: CHARLIE STEWART, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Town Clerk J. Eaton read letter dated December 7, 2016, from Charlie Stewart, informing Council of his retirement from the Town of Stellarton, effective December 31, 2016.

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept letter of retirement from Charlie Stewart, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.** Positive comments about Charlie shared.

Town Clerk J. Eaton advised Council that employees who retire are acknowledged at the Annual Christmas Dinner.

Coun. S. Lawand asked if a vacant position will be advertised; what is the process.

Town Clerk J. Eaton recommends deferring issue until Wednesday, to include Town Engineer; furthermore another employee has retired this year.

MAYOR D. MACGILLIVRAY

PICTOU COUNTY CENTRE FOR SEXUAL HEALTH

Mayor D. MacGillivray read letter received from the Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health requesting a rainbow crosswalk, or similar construct become permanent visual symbol of that commitment, to promote diversity, inclusivity, and the freedom to be who you are; suggestions include rainbow crosswalk in front of 279 Foord Street (which is the Sexual Health Centre); painting a portion of the sidewalk in front of the newly constructed Town Square; painting existing or new sidewalk at Allan Park; painting road entrance to the Museum of Industry; painting a fire hydrant; or painting a portion of the sidewalk in front of the centotaph.

Discussion/Comments:

Coun. B. Knight reported that this issue was brought up at the Police Commission meeting, stating areas that are off limits; safety reasons; not on crosswalks; recommended painting a hydrant.

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Coun. B. Knight made motion to paint one or more of the hydrants in the rainbow colours, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

WEATHER FORECAST SYSTEM

Coun. B. Knight commented on snow plow operators' practices; Police Department will notify on-call operator; delays can occur depending on how busy they are; recommends using a Weather Forecast System service for a one year period (for the winter months).

Discussion/Comments:

Coun. S. Lawand commented on the cost of \$400 per winter month; expensive; was brought up at previous Council; not convinced that service would be beneficial.

Item deferred until December 14 meeting; speak with Town Engineer.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Mayor D. MacGillivray re an article about Habitat for Humanity; building houses; project now in Springhill; described model; family home (with children); low income; would like to look into it further.

Discussion/Comments:

Coun. S. Lawand read message from resident re financial hardships.

Town Clerk J. Eaton informed Council on a "Property Tax Exemption" form that's been in place for many years; if total household income is less than \$20,000; reduces September or final tax bill by \$150; part of the budget process.

Council agreed; Mayor will get more information for review.

NEXT MEETING:

January 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

OPEN FORUM

Brian Atkinson comments:

- Family Day; good idea
- Kiosk; good idea for map; track sign
- Fire Hydrants; repainting; tourist attraction; unique

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK