

JUNE 13, 2016
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Stellarton Town Council II was held on Monday, June 13, 2016 at 5:20 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Mayor J. Gennoe, Couns. K. Francis, J. MacLellan, S. Lawand and D. Taylor.
Also present Town Clerk J. Eaton and Town Solicitor C. Clarke.

AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on motion by Coun. D. Taylor, seconded by Coun. K. Francis. **Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

Coun. J. MacLellan motioned to approve the minutes from March 14 and April 11, 2016, Council II meetings, seconded by Coun. K. Francis. **Motion Carried.**

PRESENTATIONS

KEVIN MACDONALD / HEATHER MURPHY – 2015-2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Heather Murphy presented Council with the Town of Stellarton Consolidated Financial Statements as at March 31, 2016 (attached). Highlights include: Page 1. The Audit Report, reading verbatim, "In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly and all material respects the financial position of the Town of Stellarton as at March 31, 2016. As a result of its operations and its cash flow for the year then ended, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for local governments as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board."

Page 2. The Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

Page 3. The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

Page 4. Indicates how the change in the net financial liabilities has occurred to a stronger position by \$270,000.00

Page 5. The Consolidated Statement of Cash Flow

The remaining schedules from pages 6 through to page 15 are the specific funds that are held by the Town, which include the General Fund, the Water Fund, and the Rink Fund, and the Reserved Funds.

Pages 16 through to 22, are the notes to the financial statement which indicate how the numbers have been accounted for within the consolidated and relevant schedules.

Pages 20 through to 22, indicates some other relevant information to the Town's operations both current year and prior year comparatives.

Pages 23 to 29, are the schedules that provide more detail as to the numbers that are presented on page 3 of the consolidated reports.

Page 30 provides a detail of the capital assets that were acquired during fiscal period ending March 31, 2016, and how those were funded.

Coun. S. Lawand moved to accept the Town of Stellarton's consolidated financial statements ending March 31, 2016, seconded by Coun. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

Mayor J. Gennoe asked for three motions: requesting Council to move and approve the following for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016:

Coun. K. Francis moved to approve the Capital Assets for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016, seconded by Coun. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

Coun. J. MacLellan moved to transfer \$456,777 from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund, seconded by Coun. K. Francis. **Motion Carried.**

Coun. D. Taylor moved the transfer of \$96,000 from the General Operating Fund
Seconded by Coun. J. MacLellan. **Motion Carried.**

Mayor J. Gennoe read: "Consolidated Financial Statements for year ended March 31, 2016. As per the consolidated statement of financial activities for the March 31, 2016 year, the Town of Stellarton has a net surplus from all of its funds on a consolidated basis of \$259,000. This compares to \$224,000 for the prior year. This annual surplus is

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net of approximately \$1.5 million of amortization for its capital assets and also includes \$308,000 of grants for capital assets purchases. Overall total revenue is higher than the prior year by \$345,000.00 primarily related to taxes and expenses are higher by \$310,000.00. The consolidated statement of financial position shows an overall \$270,000 improvement in the Town's net financial liability position from the prior year net financial liability total of \$2.4 million to a net financial liability total of \$2.1 million in the current year. Overall, consolidated cash is reduced from \$8.8 million to \$7.7 million. This includes a net reduction in general capital reserves of \$500,000. The repayment of long-term debt of \$640,000 which decreases total long-term debt by \$9.9 million. Total capital assets on a consolidated basis are \$29.7 million, with total new assets purchases in year of \$1.6 million."

HERITAGE GAS

Heritage Gas Representatives Derek Estabrook, John Hawkins and Jevin MacLellan, gave presentation (attached) regarding the activities of Heritage Gas here in Stellarton and across Pictou County. They are a full regulation class natural gas distribution franchise in Nova Scotia; supply both homes and businesses; showed the distribution lines throughout the province. They expanded into Pictou County in 2014, resulting in several local benefits; construction jobs; now 2 full time employees based in Stellarton. They will continue to expand the pipeline as customer demand grows. Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel, emitting less greenhouse gases; it is less expensive than oil; also contributes to the municipal tax revenue. Safety information addressed; public awareness campaigns; contractors; training; damage prevention programs, "Call Before You Dig"; held emergency response exercises with local emergency measures organizations and fire departments; received safety awards.

Coun. K. Francis asked what the process is for residents to become natural gas users/customers; as well as adequate signage for safety reasons.

Coun. D. Taylor re projected customers within Stellarton.

Coun. S. Lawand re future development; disaster plan for Stellarton.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED

Mayor J. Gennoe:

PC Wellness Centre – no meeting.

144 CEF Flight Engineers – a new commanding office coming; still looking for tradesmen.

Pictou County Shared Services Authority – meeting on July 25.

MOU – Meeting June 20, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

Coun. S. Lawand:

Communities in Bloom – meeting tomorrow, summer students working on Miners Monument; still waiting on the roof for gazebo in Allan Park; budget.

DEANS – Discover Pictou County Night at the Museum of Industry on June 1; Recreation Director participated; Homecoming pamphlets distributed. The template for the KIOSK emailed to Council for their consideration.

Coun. J. MacLellan re KIOSK information, photos, write-ups, etc.

Coun. S. Lawand commented that Town would have to provide material/content to DEANS to put in the KIOSK; will get more feedback from Recreation Director; email will be forwarded to Recreation Director.

Coun. J. MacLellan reported:

Davis Day – June 11, well attended; thanked all who participated.

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Library – attended Annual General Meeting; requested a 1% increase in funding from the municipalities to continue with current services and programs.

Coun. K. Francis reported:

Coun. K. Francis attended meeting in Antigonish in regards to twinning the highway between Sutherland's River and Antigonish; very productive; circulated petitions for people to sign and show support.

School Advisory Council, Northumberland Regional High School – no meeting.

Economic Development – no meeting or report

Municipal Alcohol Project – no meeting or report.

Glen Haven Manor – no meeting or report.

Homecoming – July 20 to 24; brochure finalized and going to press; Homecoming posters were displayed at the Discover Pictou County Night at the Museum of Industry; popular band will be performing before the fireworks.

Coun. D. Taylor reported:

G. R. Saunders School Liaison – School Advisory Council will be meeting the last Monday of the month, wrap up meeting before the summer break.

Riverview Board Home – meeting last Wednesday of month.

MOU Committee – wrap up meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2016 in the Pictou Council Chambers at 9:30 a.m. Everyone invited to attend.

FINANCIAL REQUESTS – STELLARTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Homecoming Firefighter Competition \$1,500 – Coun. S. Lawand made a motion to donate \$1,500 from the Town of Stellarton to be given as prize money and to help offset the costs for hosting this event, seconded Coun. K. Francis.

Question:

Coun. D. Taylor asked why these financial requests weren't coming from the Homecoming budget as per previous years. Coun. S. Lawand commented on the constraints of funding in the Homecoming budget; wanted to come out of the Town's budget. Coun. D. Taylor recommended upping the Homecoming budget to cover increased costs.

Motion Carried.

Coun. K. Francis reported that the Homecoming Pancake Breakfast contribution of \$500 will come out of the Homecoming Budget.

MULTICULTURAL FUSION FESTIVAL – SEPTEMBER 10, 2016 ALLAN PARK

Discussion on location of the Festival; success in past years; offers the NSCC as rain location; Couns. MacLellan and Taylor recommend that the Town be a Silver Sponsor. Coun. J. MacLellan made motion that the Town provide \$250 to the Multicultural Fusion Festival, seconded by Coun. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

OCTOBER MUNICIPAL ELECTION – ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR ADVANCE POLLS

Mayor J. Gennoe re Electronic Voting for Advance Polls and the List of Electors from Election Nova Scotia. Town Clerk J. Eaton commented that this is for clarity for the Returning Officer in order to start the process; she recommends to do this by Council motion; voting would be electronic for the Advance Polls, but paper ballot for the October 15 election/voting day.

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Coun. D. Taylor made motion to move to electronic voting for the Advance Polls for the October 2016 municipal elections, with paper ballots on day of the election, and the use of the Election Nova Scotia list, seconded by Coun. J. MacLellan.

Question:

Coun. S. Lawand re using the same Returning Officer. Town Clerk J. Eaton replied that the Town of Stellarton agreed to buy the services from the County of Pictou, meaning the Returning Officer would be the same person from the Plebiscite.

Coun. S. Lawand re how long the Advance Poll will be. Town Clerk J. Eaton unknown at this point; but the Election Act has two Advance Polls – the previous Saturday from the Election Day and the previous Tuesday are the mandatory days; and with electronic voting it could be open for a longer period of time; to be determined by the Returning Officer.

Coun. S. Lawand re other people who don't use internet, cellphones, etc. who are not available to vote on election day. Town Clerk J. Eaton stated that Proxy votes could take place. Coun. S. Lawand would rather paper ballots at Advance Polls as an option. Town Clerk J. Eaton could take concern / request back; it would be more costly; and a time factor with vote counting.

Coun. D. Taylor asked Town Clerk how the electronic voting went with the recent plebiscite. Town Clerk J. Eaton replied she was an auditor on behalf of the Town of Stellarton, and she recommends the electronic voting; secure and efficient.

Motion Carried. Coun. S. Lawand voted nay.

UNSM CORRESPONDENCE – BILL 177

Coun. S. Lawand forwarded this to Council; the Province has introduced a Bill creating a bylaw to phase increases in commercial assessment in urban area as a means to encourage business development; would like to know what the other units are doing; bring to Mayors & Warden meeting; try to understand it more and to start the conversation; work together with the other units.

Coun. J. MacLellan agreed, all should be educated on this issue; UNSM may hold workshops of how the tool can be used properly.

COUN. D. TAYLOR RE PROPOSED CHANGES TO LIQUOR CONTROL ACT

Coun. D. Taylor stated that the Province is looking for responses from the municipalities; these important issues should become part of Council's Agendas and have the discussion; to provide responses regardless of Town' position.

Coun. J. MacLellan commented that Stellarton responded to one of the proposed changes but not to the "wet and dry areas".

Coun. S. Lawand would like to take minimal involvement on issue.

Coun. K. Francis has upcoming meeting with the Municipal Alcohol Project.

Coun. D. Taylor recommends providing a response.

NEXT MEETING:

July 11, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. both Council I and Council II together, as agreed to at a previous meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Elmer MacKay comments / questions:

- Asked what fashion the Town proposes to interface with the other relevant municipal units in eventually providing a complete accounting for the costs of this partial amalgamation campaign?
- Inserts in the water and tax bills promoting one side over the other; any precedents

Mayor J. Gennoe suggested having questions in writing so that answers can be prepared.

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John Fisher comments:

- Stellarton's accessibility to Heritage Gas; provide a map of all the gas lines throughout the Town in case of emergency, leaks, etc.

Mayor J. Gennoe replied that the Town Public Works Department has this information.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK