

MARCH 14, 2016
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Stellarton Town Council II was held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 5:00 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 Craig Clarke.

AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on motion by Coun. J. MacLellan with the addition of the CA-R-MA Presentation, seconded by Coun. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

The minutes of January 18, February 4 and February 8, 2016 approved on motion by Coun. J. MacLellan, seconded by Coun. K. Francis. **Motion Carried.**
Coun. D. Taylor and Coun. J. MacLellan commented on updating minutes on the Town's website.

BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **Citizen Vacancy – Stellarton Memorial Rink Commission:** Mayor J. Gennoe reported that this vacancy was advertised three times (costing over \$1800) with no response. Coun. D. Taylor made motion to defer filling the citizen vacancy for the Stellarton Memorial Rink Commission until the end of August, seconded by Coun. K. Francis. **Motion Carried.** Mayor J. Gennoe voted nay.
Coun. S. Lawand voiced his disappointment that no one came forward.

PRESENTATION: CA-R-MA

Cat Rescue Maritimes, Helen Baudoux MacLaughlin, Chairperson of the Local Chapter of CA-R-MA; provided information of the organization; it's main purpose is to humanely reduce numbers and suffering in feral cat population and to assist individuals and communities struggling with cat colonies. Totally run by volunteers; information can be found on their website at www.carma.org. A short video was played.
Discussion / questions and answers.
Funding considerations will be addressed during Annual Grants.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED

Mayor J. Gennoe:

144 CEF Flight Engineers – upcoming meeting.

Pictou County Shared Services Authority – nothing new to report.

Pictou Wellness Centre – no meeting.

MOU – Utility and Review Board hearings; other information sessions held.

Coun. S. Lawand:

Coun. S. Lawand referred to questions he had put forth to the MOU Steering Committee; awaiting answers. Coun. D. Taylor offered response during her reports.

Pictou County Sports Hall of Fame – will be meeting tomorrow; request for a donation \$6500. Town Clerk J. Eaton reported that no previous donations were included in the

**MARCH 14, 2016
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA
CONTINUED**

Annual Grants. Coun. S. Lawand suggested tabling this request until more research / information is gathered.

Soccer Complex Committee meeting coming up on March 24.

Communities in Bloom – Committee agreed to purchase 12 additional flower pots; they are asking the Town for shipping costs and potting (each year subsequent). The cost is \$235.05 for shipping. There is a \$100 potting for every pot every year. Coun. S. Lawand made motion for the Town to pay the one-time shipping cost of \$235.05 (plus tax), and the recurring fee for planting the pots on a yearly basis (\$100 per pot times 12 pots); totaling \$1,200; motion seconded by Coun. J. MacLellan. **Motion Carried.** Coun. D. Taylor questioned new roof for the gazebo. Coun. S. Lawand will be contacting Town Engineer re this project. Coun. D. Taylor stated that the funding has already been included in capital budget. Town Clerk J. Eaton will check back in minutes as well as capital budgets from previous years; she will send Council information via email.

Economic Development – attended meeting with Coun. K. Francis. Subcommittees created to work on upcoming projects.

Coun. J. MacLellan reported on the following:

Library – budget discussions; “Need to Read” campaign ongoing; digital magazine service; program with the Riverview Home, an iPad project; will apply for a grant to continue this program.

Coun. K. Francis reported on the following:

Homecoming – July 20 to 24; events; entertainment booked; budgeting @ \$33,000; asking for advances from the Town; \$10,000 plus \$250.

Coun. K. Francis motioned for the Town to allocate \$10,000 for Homecoming 2016, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

Coun. K. Francis motioned that \$250 be allocated for the Concert in the Park, charged to Mayor and Council expense, seconded by Coun. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

School Advisory Council, Northumberland Regional High School – attended meetings; commented that Vice Principal Bob Boardway is retiring; Town Council extends best wishes to Mr. Boardway on his retirement; May 19, school is hosting the Lieutenant Governor’s Award.

Municipal Alcohol Project – met on March 10; inter-generational information; received provincial funding; developing a communication strategy.

Glen Haven Manor – provided Council with year-end review.

Economic Development – Coun. Francis will sit on the sub-committee for Communications.

Coun. D. Taylor reported on the following:

G. R. Saunders School Liaison – School Advisory Council; GR Saunders enrollment is up; school will be hosting the MORE proclamation signing on April 20th; Letter requesting support of their enhancement plans.

Riverview Home – meeting scheduled for this week; Library iPad program; new policies developed.

MOU Committee highlighting:

- Utility Review Board hearings held; good information shared;
- combination of electronic voting and paper ballot
- water meters
- taxation policy, tax bill formats, area rates
- public education, service levels
- Letter of Intent documents; financials; capital items
- Town's financial position; debt-load
- Equalization payments
- Information sessions; onepictoucounty website

Coun. S. Lawand question; What is Stellarton's share of the 27 million funding?

Coun. S. Lawand comment re debt-load; business park is paying for itself; only half full.

Coun. D. Taylor commented on the 27 million; equation payment guaranteed over the next 5 years.

Coun. S. Lawand feels that a lot is based on assumptions; MOU lacks transparency; tax increase in year six if amalgamation happens.

Lengthy discussion.

COMMUNITY SERVICES: EASTERN MAINLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY – COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION – VACANCY

Mayor J. Gennoe reported that Brian Knight has served his term; Council can recommend someone to the Board to fill this vacancy. Coun. J. MacLellan suggested advertising to be open and transparent. Coun. K. Francis re volunteerism and vacancies. Coun. S. Lawand recommended advertising on our website and facebook, not in the papers, as well word of mouth. Coun. D. Taylor agrees to advertise on our own websites, but also paid advertisements as well.

Coun. S. Lawand made a motion to advertise this vacancy for a small ad in the Newspaper, as well as the Town's website, seconded by Coun. J. MacLellan. **Motion Carried.**

HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – LOAN GUARANTEE

Town Solicitor C. Clarke, updated Council re the ongoing improvements at the hospital; the Shared Services Authority is borrowing \$6.8 million; each separate municipal units provide a loan guarantee for a portion of that; Stellarton's share is \$663,000.

Signatures are required from Council and Clerk. All agreed.

FINANCIAL REQUESTS:

PICTOU COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME SOCIETY DONALD KEDDY HOCKEY TOURNAMENT (PICTOU COUNTY PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT ASSOCIATION)

PICTOU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CARMICHAEL – SEWART HOUSE)

Coun. D. Taylor suggested deferring these requests to the Budget discussions next month - Annual Grants. Coun. J. MacLellan asked to include CARMA as well.

G.R. SAUNDERS – GRANT PROPOSAL – REQUEST SUPPORT – LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Coun. D. Taylor referred to map included in Council's package showing planned project for the school. She also stated that School Advisory Council had applied to Dept. of Environment to have dust monitor relocated closer to the school; waiting to hear back. School is looking for a letter of support in their grant application for project funding.

Coun. D. Taylor made a motion that the Town of Stellarton send to the School Advisory Council a letter of support for their grant application to the Aberdeen Health Foundation, seconded by Coun. K. Francis. **Motion Carried.**

Coun. K. Francis added that the letter should be submitted in a timely fashion.

**MARCH 14, 2016
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA
CONTINUED**

COUN. S. LAWAND: MOU REPORT, BRIAN WHITE

Discussion re Brian White's report. Coun. J. MacLellan question why included on Agenda; the MOU Steering Committee provided URB with several reports/information. Coun. S. Lawand found the Brian White report very informative and detailed; answered a lot of his questions; wanted everyone to have document.

Coun. D. Taylor stated that all reports submitted will be put on the URB website.

LETTER FROM TOWN ENGINEER RE NEW GARAGE ROOF

Town Clerk J. Eaton read Engineer's report on the Town Garage; referred to December minutes where motion was made to do preliminary repairs/seal on roof; with new metal roofing to come out of next year's budget, estimate cost \$29,900. Town Clerk J. Eaton stated that costs are \$27,575 to install the new roof; need motion for this project for company to purchase supplies.

Coun. K. Francis made a motion for \$27,575 for the installation of a new roof on the Town garage, funds coming from the 2016/17 budget, seconded Coun. J. MacLellan.

Motion Carried.

OPEN FORUM

Brian Atkinson comments:

- Job issues; MOU creating jobs – how
- Coal mines no longer
- New Industrial Park – potential
- Provincial taxes
- Housing market; deed transfer tax; negative
- Water meters
- New Council's honorariums
- Control own spending

John Baker comments:

- Financial viability charts; 53% growth
- MOU; financial statements; net assets/liabilities
- Good future for Town of Stellarton; net liabilities @ \$500 per person
- County in good shape; net assets
- New Glasgow @ \$1,100 per person net liabilities
- Letter of Intent; not a guarantee
- Equalization payments; \$30 million
- URB Hearings; letters of comment on the URB website

Frank Jackson read comments:

- Disappointed with Council; three Councillors
- Town in good financial position under Mayor Gennoe
- Business Park
- Tax Rates / User Fees / format
- HRM rates increased / people not happy
- Lack of information provided to public

NEXT MEETING:

April 11, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK