

JUNE 21, 2017
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

SPECIAL COUNCIL II MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Stellarton Town Council II was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 7:30 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. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

PRESENTATION: 2016-2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Heather Murphy, from MacDonald Murphy, gave detailed report on the consolidated financial statements for 2016-2017. Copies available in the Town Office.

Mayor D. MacGillivray provided comments; Town is in good cash position; strong operating results; paying down long term debt; investing in capital asset base; Town's revenue flow is funding its expenditures.

Coun. S. Lawand comments; good news; goal is sustainability.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept the 2016-2017 Financial Statements, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

RESOLUTION

Coun. S. Lawand motioned a Resolution, short-term loan from the Capital Reserve Fund is approved to fund the sewer portion of the Acadia Avenue Project until funding is ultimately received from Municipal Finance Corporation. Once the MFC financing is in place, the funding will be repaid. Interest will be the same as that for the MFC financing received. The amount to March 31, 2017 is \$132,400.00. Motion seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

Discussion: Mayor D. MacGillivray comments: short term loan / bridge funding from the Capital Reserve until we receive money from the Municipal Finance Corporation.

Motion Carried.

2017-2018 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Town Accountant Brenda MacKay presented the General Operating Budget 2017-2018 highlighting:

- Total Residential Tax \$180 million; Commercial is \$82 million
- Current tax rate of \$1.82 per \$100 residential, and \$4.15 per \$100 commercial
- \$3.3 million in residential tax; and \$3.4 million for commercial. Total \$6.7 million
- Budget comparisons with 2016-2017
- Taxes, Income, Grants in Lieu; all consistent year-over-year
- Expenditures
- General government; professional fees increase
- Police expenses increase
- Fire expenditures
- Public Works Wages; Cross over training times; new Town Engineer; students
- Public Works vehicle operations decrease
- Environmental services decrease
- Recreation consistent
- Fiscal services
- Total expenditures \$7.8 million equal to the total revenue of \$7.8 million

Comments:

Mayor D. MacGillivray – Council expenses; looking at live-streaming Council meetings; \$5,000 put aside for that; Council Expenses will be posted on the website in the fall.

General Government items; etc.

Coun. S. Lawand – Water and Sewer projects; street paving, priority list; sidewalks; etc.

Coun. S. Lawand motioned to approve the 2017-2018 General Operating Budget, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

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CONTINUED**

RESOLUTION: 2017-2018 TAX RATES, OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

Town Clerk J. Eaton read the following Resolution (signed copy attached):

The assessment for 2017-2018 is confirmed at 82,016,100 for commercial and 180,603,500 for residential; with the tax rates remaining at \$1.82 per 100 for residential and \$4.15 per 100 for commercial. The interest on overdue taxes will be charged at the rate of prime + 5% (calculated monthly).

This on motion Councillors S. Lawand and S. Campbell.

Operating budget for 2017-2018 is approved at \$7,819,875.00

Capital Budget for 2017-2018 will be approved at \$2,280,078.00

Dated this 21st day of June 2017.

2017-2018 STELLARTON MEMORIAL RINK OPERATING BUDGET

Town Accountant Brenda MacKay presented the Operating Budget for the Stellarton Memorial Rink 2017-2018, highlighting:

- Budget on par with the prior year
- Canteen, and Bingo on par with prior year
- No significant changes
- Operating Expenditures; wages; general maintenance, etc.
- Equipment
- General and Admin consistent
- Projected deficit of \$145,000.00; transfer from the General Operating Fund of \$145,000 to cover deficit; for a net budget of zero

Comments:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re deficit; plan on making rink more sustainable.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve the Stellarton Memorial Rink Operating Budget for 2017-2018, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

2017-2018 WATER UTILITY OPERATING BUDGET

Town Accountant Brenda MacKay presented the Water Utility Operating Budget for 2017-2018, highlighting:

- Metered Revenue, consistent
- Flat Rate Revenue, consistent
- Fire Protection as determined by the URB
- Operating expenditures
- Transmission and Distribution
- Admin and General, consistent year over year
- Depreciation, calculation based on the assets base
- Taxes, no changes
- Overall total expenditures of \$1.4 million
- Interest and Debt charges
- The net is a deficit of \$53,600; noted as a transfer from surplus

Comments:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re long term planning; secure and safe water supply.

Coun. S. Lawand re have a good plant; continuing working on the water pipes; water quality .

Coun. S. Lawand motioned to approve the 2017-2018 Water Utility Operating Budget, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

2017-2018 CAPITAL BUDGETS: GENERAL, RINK, WATER

Town Accountant Brenda MacKay presented the 2017-2018 Capital Budgets, highlighting:

- General Fund; items listed; totally \$2,280,078.00
- Albion Business Park; trail extension; \$15,000.00
- Stellarton Memorial Rink; projects listed; totally \$55,500.00
- Water Capital; projects listed; totaling \$3,259,197.00

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CONTINUED**

Comments:

Mayor D. MacGillivray re investing in infrastructure; reinvesting in rink to improve users' experience; maintaining and improving water utility.

Coun. S. Lawand re new truck; plowing operations has improved; strategic plan work; dog park planned; improvements to the Valley Woods Park; contributing to the Trenton Park which benefits all of Pictou County; first year to use funds from Albion Business Park reserve, to put back into the Town; positive outlook on the future of Stellarton.

Coun. B. Knight re paving projects; assessed Town's streets; Valley Woods Park.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the 2017-2018 Capital Budgets; General, Rink and Water, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

WATER UTILITY: THREE YEAR OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

Town Account Brenda MacKay presented the Water Utility Three Year Operating and Capital Budgets, highlighting:

- NSUARB requires three year plans for the Water Utility; both Operating and Capital
- Projections are not a commitment; they are a projected plan and will be adjusted as we approach each year
- Operating budget; small deficit; interest decreasing
- Depreciation
- Capital items; waterline replacements as assessed; upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant

Comments:

Coun. G. Pentz re not in favour of residential water meters.

Coun. G. Pentz motioned to approve the Water Utility Three Year Operating and Capital Budgets, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

COUN. B. KNIGHT: RATIFY HIRING HYDRANT PAINTERS

Coun. B. Knight reported that advertisements and interviews were held for two positions to do hydrant painting. Interviewing Committee, Town Foreman Ed Stewart, Town Clerk Joyce Eaton and Coun. B. Knight; recommends hiring Jane Ford and James MacDonald, both of Stellarton. Starting date will be July 4, 2017 to August 25, 2017.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to hire Jane Ford and James MacDonald, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK