

MARCH 13, 2017
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Stellarton Town Council II was held on Monday, March 13, 2017 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 as amended to include #12. Bowl for Kids Sake, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

DECLARATION: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mayor D. MacGillivray declared that he has a Conflict of Interest with numbers 5 and 6; CHAD Transit – Employee of CHAD.

MINUTES

Coun. B. Knight motioned to approve minutes from February 21, 2017, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Ratify – Public Works Department hiring:

Darren Sangster – effective date March 7, 2017

Bill Chace – effective date March 20, 2017

Town Clerk J. Eaton reported that approval was given by Town Council to advertise for the two vacancies in Public Works; 88 applications were received; the applications were short-listed by Town Clerk and Town Engineer; 6 applicants from the Town of Stellarton and 7 applicants from within Pictou County being interviewed; the interviews took place February 15; the Interviewing Committee was made up of the Town Engineer, Town Clerk, Deputy Mayor S. Lawand, and Coun. B. Knight; questions were prepared by the Town Engineer, a total of 10 questions were asked; scoring process; highest scores being considered and recommended for hiring. Mr. Bill Chace from Westville, and Mr. Darren Sangster from Stellarton were recommended; references were checked by Town Engineer. Section 1.02 of the CUPE Contract will apply regarding the probationary period of six months. In the event the above candidates decline, it is being recommended that the next highest scores be offered the employment; both accepted employment with the Town of Stellarton. This recommendation needs the motion of Council.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

Recreation Director: Soccer Complex – proposed Tennis Program – Request has been withdrawn; taken off Agenda.

Mayor D. MacGillivray stepped down from meeting; Deputy Mayor S. Lawand took over as Chair.

PRESENTATIONS:

CHAD Transit – Pictou County Transit Business Plan

Faus Johnson and Jamie Stewart, Consultant, made presentation to Council highlighting:

- New Logo
- Business plan commissioned by CHAD Transit, including Feasibility Study
- Background information; door to door service
- Biggest bus service in Nova Scotia; high municipal support
- Operate at a surplus
- Target market identified; 6 mini busses and 1 minivan
- Made over 33,000 trips last year; over 260,000 kms

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- Number of requests higher than service can provide
- Fixed route may take pressure off
- Community feedback; people want bus services
- Steps to get bus service; Feasibility Study completed, Business Plan completed and submitted to the Province for approval, and final step a Pilot Project – to run from September to March 2018
- Survey results show a want for public transit
- Business aspect
- Health care providers recommends transit
- Expense of transportation for those who don't have cars
- The restructure will not jeopardize the current service
- Benefits to community
- Use existing resources; reduce costs
- One bus; connects all five Towns and parts of the County; 7a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays only for now
- Proposed routes and stops; number of routes
- Flagging options
- Fare rates
- 18 passenger bus; different colour than CHAD bus
- Operating budget
- Funding request from Stellarton; Operational is \$8,458; Capital is \$3,904 (Total \$12,361) for the 7 month Pilot Project
- Support from all municipal Councils is necessary for project to proceed

Questions/Comments:

Coun. B. Knight re Town's subsidy; ticket sales; questioned policy for children; New Glasgow proportional funding; seniors' complexes; survey results; fixed routes; funding; budget concerns.

Deputy Mayor S. Lawand re financial requests from municipalities; operating budget amounts; future increases in costs, including hidden costs.

Coun. G. Pentz re former Pictou County Transit; service was not utilized enough to warrant transit; one year trial.

Coun. G. Pentz made a motion to table issue until budget deliberations.

Deputy Mayor S. Lawand, no motion needed, will discuss issue during budget deliberations, will give answer before June 30, 2017.

Mayor D. MacGillivray resumed the Chair.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED

Mayor D. MacGillivray reported on the following:

- Pictou County Shared Services – no meeting
- Pictou County Wellness Centre met today
- Police Commission meeting on March 2

Coun. B. Knight reported on the following:

- Council meeting on February 21
- Met with Recreation February 22, re Volunteer of the Year
- February 24, attended workshop in Halifax UNSM; re Transparency and Budgeting
- March 1 attended meeting with Council re hiring criteria for Town Engineer
- March 2 attended Police Commission meeting
- March 3 attended meeting to short list candidates for Police Officer position
- March 6 Council I meeting
- March 9 and 13 participated in interviews for Police position

Coun. S. Lawand reported on the following:

- Glen Haven Manor – no meeting
- Pictou County Economic Development Committee – no meeting

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- Community in Bloom, requested red and white flowers for planters
- Attended Police Commission meeting
- DEANS, planning for next year, will make presentation to Council; will be attending their Awards Gala on April 6
- Homecoming meeting tomorrow
- Planning Advisory Committee, no meeting date

Coun. S. Campbell reported on the following:

- February 23 attended meeting of the Governance and Nominating Committee for Riverview Home Corporation; a plan for policy review will begin in May
- February 24 visited mining areas off Foster Avenue
- March 9 met with resident on St. Bernard Street with Town Engineer
- Still working on Town Employee Service Award Policy

Coun. G. Pentz reported on the following:

- Sports Hall of Fame meeting on February 22
- Flight Engineers meeting was cancelled due to weather
- UNSM workshop in Halifax re Openness and Accountability

FINANCIAL REQUEST: BUILDING CODE SEMINAR - \$150 APRIL 11, 2017

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve \$150 for the Building Code Seminar on April 11, 2017, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

FINANCIAL REQUEST – CARMA \$5,000.00

Cat Rescue Maritimes Chapter made request for \$5,000. Discussion re possible presentation; Town Clerk J. Eaton will contact CARMA to arrange presentation to Council.

PICTOU ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY: PROVINCIAL LIBRARIAN POSITION

Town Clerk J. Eaton provided this as information only. Coun. S. Lawand provided comments, and made motion to send letter of support for the Librarian position, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

COUN. S. LAWAND: DEDICATION OF BENCHES IN TOWN SQUARE

Coun. S. Lawand re the beautiful benches in the Town Square; would like to dedicate a couple of benches honoring Stan Dudka and Catherine Campbell; Coun. Lawand read some background on both individuals.

Coun. B. Knight comments and supports idea.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to dedicate two benches in the Town Square to Stan Dudka and Catherine Campbell, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE

Mayor D. MacGillivray reported that an invitation was received from Big Brothers Big Sisters to the Stellarton Town Council to participate in the Bowl for Kids Sake on April 8; unable to put in a team; Council agreed to donate \$20 each to the cause.

NEXT MEETING:

April 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Town Clerk J. Eaton commented on the Plaque Dedication that took place last week; looking for Council approval to approach the family to have an 8 x 10 photo of Cpl. Keven Megeney by the plaque. Council agreed.

OPEN FORUM

Brian Atkinson comments:

- Transit proposal; survey questions
- Pictou County jobs; will affect taxi drivers

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Carol Jackson comments:

- CHAD transit presentation stated that it is profitable
- Stellarton's contribution should be reduced
- Mayor D. MacGillivray clarified; it's not profit; it's called "contributed capital" where monies go back into buying busses

John Baker comments:

- Re proposed transit; business plan
- Questioned the accuracy of the demand
- Survey; the way it was conducted
- Who benefits
- CHAD very valuable to community
- Pilot project – seven months only; show the actual demand if it exists
- Great opportunity

Frank Jackson comments:

- Re Dedication of the Benches in Town Square
- Suggested a "wall of fame"; more visible, more people can be acknowledged

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

MAYOR

TOWN CLERK