

JUNE 22, 2020
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chair Deputy Mayor S. Campbell, Mayor D. MacGillivray, Coun. B. Knight, Coun. S. Lawand, and Coun. G. Pentz. Also present was the Town Clerk S. Higdon.

AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as amended to include 7. Rundell Street Infrastructure Upgrades, and 5.f. NRHS Safe Grad 2020 Parenting Group, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of May 25, 2020 were approved on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Mayor D. MacGillivray. **Motion Carried.**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. NSFM Re: \$14 Billion “Safe Restart Agreement” – Town Clerk S. Higdon re Federal transfers will be made available to provinces and territories through a “Safe Restart Program”; read letter for the record. Town Clerk S. Higdon added that she and the Mayor have been meeting every Wednesday since April 1, with all the CAO’s, Clerks, Mayors and Wardens in the province; items worked on included the “Lost Revenue Survey”.
- b. Active Pictou County Re: Monthly Report for Council’s information; highlighting “Play Boxes” – metal box placed in park/playgrounds which will contain things like frisbees, basketball, etc.
- c. Pictou County Volunteer Ground Search & Rescue Re: Thank you for the Town’s donation to their organization.
- d. MLA Elizabeth Smith–McCrossin Re: David Ritchie, MLA for Truro, Bible Hill, Millbrook, Salmon River will be assuming the Critic role for Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- e. NS Communities Culture & Heritage Re: Amendments to Heritage Property Act – Town Clerk S. Higdon re amendments to the Heritage Property Act, looking for feedback from municipalities. Coun. G. Pentz recommended forwarding this to the Planning and Advisory Committee for review and bring back to Council.
- f. NRHS Safe Grad 2020 Parenting Group – requesting support for Safe Grad Event on June 29 for the Grads. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to donate \$250 to the Safe Grad Event, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

RINK DEMOLITION TENDER RECOMMENDATION

Town Clerk S. Higdon reported that two bids were submitted for the above project; Verhagen Demolition Ltd. for \$123,050.00; two weeks completion time. Dexter Construction Company Ltd. for \$194,005.00; eight weeks completion time. Town Engineer B. Murray recommends accepting Verhagen Demolition tender. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to recommend to Council the lowest bid from Verhagen Demolition Ltd., seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

Coun. B. Knight asked Town Engineer about the rink roof; relatively new; can it be reclaimed. Town Engineer B. Murray will look into it and report back.

RUNDELL STREET PROJECT

Town Clerk S. Higdon re the Rundell Street Upgrades; three bids were submitted;

S. W. Weeks Construction for \$746,872.10

Dexter Construction Company for \$1,362,267.00

C. F. Construction for \$788,405.50

Tender forms were checked and verified. The Town Engineer recommends awarding the tender to the low bidder S. W. Weeks Construction. Coun. G. motioned to accept and recommend the lowest tender from S. W. Weeks Construction, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

On the question: Mayor D. MacGillivray asked if S. W. Weeks did the work on Jubilee Avenue; Town Engineer B. Murray confirmed that they did. Mayor D. MacGillivray commented on the good work they did on Jubilee.

Coun. S. Lawand asked if this was part of the project where the Town was going to apply for government funding. Town Engineer B. Murray commented that the Town applied for funding but has not received a response yet. Town Clerk S. Higdon added that the Town budgeted for this in the event that they didn't receive approval for funding.

Coun. G. Pentz re Park Street. Town Engineer B. Murray commented that Park Street infrastructure will be looked at as well.

Motion Carried.

Town Engineer B. Murray reported that Weeks would like to begin as soon as possible; however Council's next meeting is July for final approval.

SEASONAL WATER TESTING

Coun. S. Lawand received call from resident regarding poor water quality this time of year; what can be done to resolve issue. Town Engineer B. Murray provided comments on the river; fish running; not completely sure what the problem is; could be from nitrites from fertilizer run-off from farm land within our water shed; another possibility is geosmin, a byproduct from algae, not harmful to drink but creates a smell and taste issue. He has been in talks with CBCL regarding having a pilot project, with Dalhousie University, to test river waters. B. Murray stated that river water will be tested to determine what the cause is and then figure out how to resolve it.

WATER CONSERVATION

Town Clerk S. Higdon re Water Conservation Bylaw; three different stages for outside water usage; depending on water levels in river; the Town is already at the lowest level for stage 3 (1.3 cubic meters per second); Town Engineer sent letter to the NS Environment for information on movement; otherwise the Town will be on restrictions all summer; not ideal; will need to get the desired levels; may have to enforce the bylaw. S. Higdon reported that there will be a "Water Information Phone Number" where people call to see what restrictions are at; information will be going out to every household through Canada Post on the details of the program, and what the different stages mean. Waiting for more information from NS Environment; will report back to Council. B. Murray reiterated that he submitted letter to NS Environment to request collecting data and reviewing it, then adjust numbers in the fall.

Coun. S. Lawand recommends to start phase one of the bylaw; gets residents familiar with bylaw, as well as conversation benefits. Coun. S. Lawand asked Town Engineer about alternative water sources. Town Engineer B. Murray stated that studies would have to be initiated; would need funding. Coun. S. Lawand strongly recommends including study in next year's budget.

Coun. G. Pentz does not recommend enforcing phase one until the NS Environment provides relevant data to Town Engineer.

B. Murray agrees to wait for accurate data.

Coun. S. Lawand feels that the information they have now justifies water conservation and demonstrates us as responsible users.

B. Murray stated that having the Bylaw in place does serve its purpose; to ensure enough water is available to serve the residents and supply the reservoirs.

The final decision will be up to the Town Engineer.

Coun. B. Knight acknowledged the Mayors of Stellarton and New Glasgow re the Albion & Samson Trail Scavenger Hunt.

Town Clerk S. Higdon re the two towns working together on providing some services recreation-wise with regards to tennis lessons; a scavenger hunt; and educating the public on the fixed transit route between Stellarton and New Glasgow.

Mayor D. MacGillivray stated that the transit program is waiting to hear on federal funding.

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT on motion Coun. G. Pentz.