

**TOWN OF STELLARTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
March 31, 2026**

MEETING

A Special Committee of the Whole meeting of Stellarton Town Council was held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

PRESENT

Chair Deputy Mayor G. Pentz, Councillor S. Campbell, Councillor S. Eis, Councillor M. Fortune, and Mayor D. Stroud. Also, present CAO A. Grover, Financial Advisor, Bonnie Coulter.

1. **Call to Order** Chair G. Pentz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved on motion Councillor S. Eis, seconded by Councillor S. Campbell.
Motion Carried.

A round of introductions was held. The CAO introduced the Town's new Financial Advisor, Bonnie Coulter. Members of Council introduced themselves followed by introductions of Consultants Gerry Isenor with G.A. Isenor Consulting Ltd. and Blaine Rooney with Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Ltd.

3. Review of Application NS Regulatory and Appeals Board – Presentation by Consultants – G.A. Isenor Consulting Ltd and Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Ltd.

- Presentation: Consultants provided Council with an overview of the proposed water rate study for the Town of Stellarton which will be submitted to the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board for approval. The study discussed rates and schedules to be approved by the NS Regulatory and Appeals Board. Council approval is required before submission to the Board.
- Implementation timeline: Consultants are hopeful the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board will set hearing dates for summer 2026 to ensure rates will be in place for Fall 2026.
- Mock Billing: Residents will receive a mock bill prior to the first actual bill and will be based on prior quarter consumption and approved rates.
- Strong emphasis on proactive communication to prepare residents, prior to mock billing.
- System Improvements: ability to track water usage, water loss and leaks.
- Staff is actively monitoring system performance.

- Benefits of Meter Installation: improved infrastructure longevity, better data for system management and consumption tracking and opportunities to reduce water loss.

Next Steps: Resolution to be brought forward for Council approval. Once the rate study is approved, application will be submitted to the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board.

The consultants were thanked for their presentation.

4. Adjournment, Councillor S. Campbell.