

## **MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Stellarton Memorial Rink Commission was held on Monday, May 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

## **PRESENT**

Chair Mayor J. Gennoe, Deputy Mayor J. MacLellan, Comms. D. Taylor, K. Francis, and D. Davidson. Also present Town Clerk J. Eaton, Recreation Director P. Corbin and Town Engineer B. Funke.

## **AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved on motion by Comm. K. Francis, and seconded by Comm. D. Taylor. **Motion Carried.**

### **FINANCE: BRENDA MACKAY –UPDATE ON FINANCIALS**

Financial Advisor B. MacKay gave a detailed review of the March 31, 2016 Pre-Audit Financials. The total deficit of the Rink for March 2015 was \$89,000; the total this year is \$67,000. B. MacKay said that when the Financial Statements are produced we will use a prior year's surplus to offset the \$67,000 leaving a total of \$24,000 anticipated to be required from General Operating for the current year.

Chair J. Gennoe thanked B. MacKay for her presentation.

#### Discussion

Comm. D. Taylor asked about the surplus from last year that B. MacKay referred to. B. MacKay said that it was an accumulated surplus which was building over many years and was sitting as an Opening Balance. She had never applied it against a current year. She is applying it now to clean up the deficit bringing us to a net 0 overall for the Rink.

Comm. D. Taylor said back when we were talking about revenue for the Rink, we had a sub-committee that was looking at possible sponsorship for the Zamboni and for the Rink boards etc. She asked where things stood with this. Comm. D. Davidson said it never came to light on what the committee was supposed to do. He said he and another committee member were checking into things but never sat down and finalized what they should have been doing. Comm. D. Taylor felt that this could be something the Recreation Director could look into to.

Comm. D. Taylor moved that we accept the Pre-Audited Financial Report dated March 31, 2016 as presented by Financial Advisor B. MacKay, seconded by Comm. Deputy Mayor J. MacLellan. **Motion Carried.**

### **TOWN ENGINEER: UPDATE MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS / BINGO OPERATIONS**

The Stellarton Memorial Rink shut down for the Summer on April 3, 2016. The Rink was then converted to a multi-purpose event facility with the Annual Spring Fling sponsored by the G. R. Saunders Elementary School on April 30, 2016. Bingo commenced in the Rink on May 3, 2016.

Some Bingo machines are getting older and may be unreliable this year. Staff will be on the lookout for suitable replacements should they become available. The Bingo crowds have increased, averaging a 170/night.

Public Works staff were successful in finding two brine leaks in the concrete floor and are making necessary repairs. Staff were able to use the leak detection equipment to

STELLARTON RINK COMMISSION  
MARCH 29, 2016

assist staff in finding the leaks. B. Funke said the Rink now circulates water in the floor to heat the building. With this heat we are able to eliminate the rented heaters unless weather is very cold. The patrons are happy with a warm building.

On a go-forward basis, the Rink can operate for another year, however there may be increased risks of mechanical breakdowns or leaks which will require repairs simply due to the age of the infrastructure. Thus far the Public Works staff have been successful in making repairs. Comm. D. Davidson felt that it would make more sense to purchase new equipment (pre-heater/condensor) if the funds were available, then to continue making repairs. Comm. D. Taylor said she would like to see this deferred to our Budget discussions.

Comm. K. Francis said with Bingo revenue up, is there a possibility of increasing the number of nights Bingo is held each week to increase that revenue even more. Town Engineer B. Funke said the Bingo Manager has indicated that new faces are coming in and the Bingo clientele are happy with the type of Bingo that is run now, so he thinks we should look at that carefully before we venture into anything else, but he is willing to discuss it. Comm. D. Taylor agreed. She thinks that when you have something that 's working, just go with that and monitor it and see what happens.

Comm. J. MacLellan made a motion to receive the Update Report on the Rink Operations and Bingo Operations from the Town Engineer, seconded by K. Francis.

**Motion Carried**

**RECREATION DIRECTOR: UPDATE ICE RENTALS & ICE SCHEDULING**

Recreation Director P. Corbin gave a verbal update on ice rentals and ice scheduling. Some of his report pertained to the Financial Advisor's report and some of it pertained to the Atlantic Conference for Recreation Facilities that he attended.

P. Corbin first spoke on the slightly less than projected Rink revenue which he said was strictly due to the early finish in March due to Easter. He said next year Easter falls in the middle of April so we should be fine to retain all the scheduling that we would normally have. He said this is one of those year's where all of sudden Easter is right in the middle of March and everyone wants to finish before March Break. The late start also hurt us. P. Corbin reported that we were looking good, picking up a lot of private rentals towards the end of the season that ended up being routine rentals with some corporate rentals coming in.

P. Corbin reported that the Atlantic Facility Conference took focus on a few things. Efficiency was one of them. He said it pertained to what the Town Engineer was saying regarding the leaks in the Rink floor. P. Corbin said when the leak was at its worst, there was a proposal brought in from a company, which was a powder that would go in the floor and fix the leaks. At the time it was \$8,000 to do, and at the time we didn't know anything about this product. P. Corbin reported that he actually got to see the product in action at the conference and it does more than just fix all your leaks, it actually makes your facility incredibly more efficient by flushing out all of the years of brine particles that are in there. It seals the leaks from the outside in making a very secure system and because we may fix one leak but we don't know if another leak is going to pop up a week later. This fixes leaks up to 800 gallons a day so the leak that we had during that time was in that range and this could have fixed it. He does have the information on that and that is a great option going forward if we run into a similar issue or if we want to be proactive and seal the system and flush it so it is more efficient.

STELLARTON RINK COMMISSION  
MARCH 29, 2016

Scheduling was another topic. He said there is a lot of talk about scheduling options available. P. Corbin reported that currently we are using Google calendar for Rink scheduling, which works really well. People are able to look at the online schedule to see what is going on and he is able to update it from his Iphone. He said they also focused on Advertising, talking about focusing on the type of business and specifically organizations that are interested in the people using the Rink. He said the NSCC, ST. FX, Subway, local injury law firms, etc. are the people we would target and they also talked about the way the payment works. It is an upfront fee for them to use it. They also suggested that you focus on the seasons. So you could potentially have different advertisements for when it's a Rink and different advertisements for when it's a Bingo hall.

The most important session he attended focused on Policy Development with all the Rinks from NB, PEI and NFLD as well as NS talking about all the different policies and issues that come up. The skater helmet policy came up. Currently we have signs up posted saying that 12 and under need to wear a helmet. This is not in good practice for the Town to do because we can't enforce it so it is really all or none. So either we take the sign down or we make it that everyone that goes out on the ice has head gear. Which seems to be the standard which people are going just due to injuries that are happening. That also includes staff. Some organizations are actually having their staff wear hockey helmets when they go to do ice maintenance just because of the danger of them falling. That is a large cost item that pays dividends in the end as far as the air quality in the building and things like that but those systems are very expensive. Right now our Zamboni is working great so it is not something to look at.

And lastly, alcohol consumption, to regulate it with a policy for selling licensing or another way to deter people from bringing their own liquor in would be to limit the amount of time they that they have in a dressing room. Some discussion took place. Comm. D. Taylor said she thinks this should definitely be a concern to the Town that if this is going on, perhaps for the September meeting the Recreation Director could do a report on how we can address this situation. Her other comment was having the staff wear helmets when they are doing flooding and repairs to the ice. She thinks that is something we've been remised previously and not addressing. So maybe again this is something that Recreation Director can bring a report back for the September meeting. P. Corbin said the topic will likely come up at Occupational Health and Safety before anything else. P. Corbin said it is a very difficult thing to enforce and it is an item that can be thoroughly looked at and not come up with solutions.

Comm. D. Taylor made a motion to accept the Recreation Director's Report, seconded by K. Francis. **Motion Carried.**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2016 at 5 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**CHAIRMAN**

**TOWN CLERK**