

MEETING

The regular meeting of the Stellarton Memorial Rink Commission was held on Monday, January 30, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Chair Mayor D. MacGillivray, Deputy Mayor S. Lawand, Comms. S. Campbell, G. Pentz, B. Knight, S. Mayich 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. S. Mayich and seconded by Comm. D. Davidson. **Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

For the record, Town Clerk J. Eaton stated that there are only two Commission members who can approve the minutes (only two current members were present at the September meeting).

Comm. S. Mayich moved the Approval of the September 19, 2016 Minutes as received, seconded by Comm. D. Davidson. **Motion Carried.**

TOWN ENGINEER: REPORT AND UPDATE

B. Funke presented the Town Engineer's Report for the month of January 2017. A copy of the report is attached to form part of the Minutes. A list of major repairs is included in the report for consideration. Town Engineer B. Funke said he would be happy to budget any of those items in the upcoming year.

Comm. S. Mayich asked if Rink employees have an agenda to follow when they arrive to work. B. Funke explained that staff has a routine agenda they follow every day that has been established over the years. B. Funke added that staff would like to concentrate more on the cleaning and things of that nature, but there is limited time with the two staff that are there.

Comm. D. Davidson had a question on replacing flooring. B. Funke said a section of the flooring was replaced this past winter in the stands. Heavily travelled areas are repaired. He noted that the protective flooring in the dressing rooms and the foyer area is getting dated.

Comm. S. Mayich mentioned that there is a weak spot on the floor entering the ice (to the right when you walk in the rink). B. Funke will inspect the area.

Comm. K. Knight would like the Engineer to put together a list of priorities that need to be looked at and a cost associated with those items; to be prepared to apply for grants for those items should grants become available. B. Funke said once the Commission develops a priority list of how much money they want to put into repairs, it can then be determined whether extra funding is needed. Comm. D. MacGillivray felt this would be covered under the capital budget process.

Comm. S. Campbell reported receiving complaints from the area of runoff from the Rink going onto private property. Public Works staff is looking to fix the problem as soon as they can.

Comm. G. Pentz moved the acceptance of the Stellarton Memorial Rink Report from Town Engineer as presented seconded by Comm. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

RECREATION DIRECTOR: REPORT AND UPDATE

Update on Ice Scheduling

Recreation Director P. Corbin reported that October had a delayed start. Additional hours were added for Minor Hockey. The Female Subway Cup brought a number of visitors into the Rink. November showed a typical month; Men's Hockey/Minor Hockey at their usual numbers. The Grammar School was renting the ice until the Work to Rule began. December showed a sharp increase in Minor Hockey. Thorburn had a fire in their plant which caused their rink to be shut down for a prolonged period of time between December and January resulting in additional Minor Hockey ice times in Stellarton. There is an increase in non-profit and private rentals. The NSCC is booked in for the rest of the year with a Monday skate for their school. The Autism Association is booked in until the end of the year. There is an increase in sporadic birthday party rentals. Michelin has Sunday morning skates for their employees.

P.C.W.C. Meeting

Recreation Director, P. Corbin reported on items discussed at the last Rink Managers meeting at the Wellness Centre. One of those items was a uniform ice rental increase of \$10 that Rink Managers were asked to bring back to their Commission or governing body of the Rink for discussion. P. Corbin said the rates that are currently set across the board by all rinks in the County is significantly lower than the rest of the province. Pictou County has some of the lowest rates in the province. With the suggested increase, school rates would go to \$110; non-profit \$156 for Minor Hockey; and \$168 for private, which still puts Stellarton below the provincial average (to P. Corbin's understanding).

A lengthy discussion ensued. Comm. G. Pentz felt an analysis should be done (do we need the increase and can citizens afford the increase). Comm. D. Davidson asked if there was consensus around the table at the Rink Managers meeting that every rink was going to increase their rates. P. Corbin reported members would have to go back to their Commission or governing body to request the increase. P. Corbin reported that all rinks are close to the same rental rate; the Wellness Centre not included. The Towns of Pictou, Westville and Trenton increased their rates last year and have already begun discussing that they need to increase their rates again.

Comm. D. Davidson did not see the reason for the increase if all rates were not going to be the same.

Comm. D. MacGillivray said the rate increase is driven because all rinks in Pictou County are facing serious financial restraints, increasing the rates at the same time is keeping us all at the same level; different rates but all close in the same ballpark.

Comm. B. Knight said if you look at the different rinks, the basic thing Stellarton has going for us is our current rate. Comm. B. Knight asked what our savings would be with an increase. Finance Advisor, B. MacKay reported that the highest percent increase is going to be %10. Our lowest rate is \$100/hr. If you look at the current budget of \$75,000.00, the increase would be \$7,500.00.

Comm. D. MacGillivray would like to get the facts before making a decision on what is best for the Town of Stellarton. P. Corbin stated that currently there is no request for

the Commission to raise the rates; the Commission can wait to see if the other towns increase their rates. The increase would be for next season.

For the next meeting, Comm. D. MacGillivray asked the Recreation Director to take back a list of the current ice rental rates across Pictou County.

Comm. D. Davidson asked if there was any discussion on helmet wearing at the Managers meeting. P. Corbin reported that this topic was not discussed. He added that Stellarton is currently the only town in Pictou County that has a 100% helmet policy. Ten helmets are available for loan out. A lot of positive feedback has been received.

FINANCIAL REPORT – UPDATE ON FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial Advisor, B. MacKay gave an update on the Financial Position of the Rink as of December 2016. The report was reviewed in detail. Overall to date, we are at \$67,000.00 of expenditures over revenue.

COMM. B. KNIGHT: CANTEEN

Comm. B. Knight would like to see the Rink canteen open more often. He stated that the Lions Club expressed an interest in manning the canteen. Comm. B. Knight felt having the canteen open would encourage people to attend the Rink. He also noted that there are two pop machines in the Rink that have “Out of Order” signs on them.

Comments:

Comm. D. Davidson asked how often The Lions Club would want to operate the Rink canteen and during what time period. He felt it would have to be a time when the Rink is at most in use. Comm. B. Knight would like the Recreation Director to sit down with the Lions Club and look at the Rink schedule to see if the schedule would call for this service. Comm. D. MacGillivray has no objection to looking into this idea further, but he did object to them opening the canteen during Bingo season as this is revenue for the Town. Town Clerk J. Eaton will check with the Town’s insurance company about the venture.

In relation to the pop machines, Comm. S. Campbell asked if someone could contact Pepsi and have the machines fixed. Comm. B. Knight said the machines have not worked in years. Comm. D. MacGillivray asked if staff could give clarification as to why the machines have been sitting there unused. Recreation Director P. Corbin explained that there was a contract with Pepsi that was over many years ago. P. Corbin said the old machines do not recognize new money. He also mentioned that Pepsi has no record of the Town of Stellarton having Pepsi machines. He has tried to get Pepsi to remove the pop machines, with no success.

Comm. D. Davidson suggested contacting Coke to see if they will put a pop machine in. Comm. D. MacGillivray felt this might be a good idea. He also asked Recreation Director P. Corbin to follow up on having the machines removed.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m on motion G. Pentz seconded by S. Mayich.