

FEBRUARY 22, 2021
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

Regrets: Coun. G. Pentz.

1. Deputy Mayor S. Lawand called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as amended to include 6. Big Brothers Big Sisters Lane Sponsor Request, 7. Water Membrane Pre-approval, 8. Citizen Alert App and 5.a. Correspondence from Minister Furey to Emily Lutz, President of NSFM, on motion by Coun. S. Campbell, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of January 25, 2021 were approved on motion by Mayor D. MacGillivray, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no Business arising from the Minutes.

5. Correspondence

a. Minister Furey to Emily Lutz President of NSFM – Town Clerk S. Clerk read letter received on February 19, 2021, from the Attorney General Justice Minister Furey to Deputy Mayor Emily Lutz, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities re potential legislation regarding police articles; and the process for the public to forfeit any police articles and uniforms; time-sensitive; looking for feedback, questions or concerns from municipality. S. Higdon reported that letter was circulated to Police Commission and Council; one comment was received from Don Taylor addressing the surplus equipment from larger departments, such as HRM, and being given to departments with smaller budgets. Town Clerk S. Higdon read comments from the CAO from Halifax re this issue and new measures put in place.

Coun. B. Knight comments re equipment needs and costs; purchasing vehicles at lease end; turnover equipment.

Chair Deputy Mayor S. Lawand re deadline and not enough time to provide feedback; also questioned how municipalities are to be in charge and responsible to determine if residents have police articles; increased work for police department; cost concerns and the schematics of any new legislation.

Mayor D. MacGillivray re tight timeline.

6. Builders Awards & Heritage Room

Coun. B. Knight provided update on the Heritage Room, located above library; commented on the citizens who contributed to the building of the Town; suggested having an award to recognize Builders; Committee and Bylaw would need to be established. Chair Deputy Mayor S. Lawand re Terms of Reference for Council's review. Coun. B. Knight commented that project would take some time, but wanted to get it off the ground; then will forward it to the Heritage Committee for approval.

Coun. B. Knight reported that memorabilia from the former Stellarton High School has been taken to the Heritage Room; other material being gathered for display/storage. Mayor D. MacGillivray re dedicated space for heritage items.

7. Big Brothers Big Sisters Lane Sponsor Request

Town Clerk S. Higdon received request from Big Brothers Big Sisters for a Lane Sponsorship of \$100 for the Bowl for Kids event for Council's consideration; S. Higdon stated that there is \$210 remaining in the Annual Grants budget. Mayor D. MacGillivray made motion to approve \$100 to Big Brothers Big Sisters Lane Sponsorship, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

8. Water Membrane Pre-approval

Town Clerk S. Higdon re Town Engineer B. Murray is looking for Council's pre-approval to order the third membrane; two were approved in the Water Capital Budget last year; need 30% down payment to order; cost is approximately \$168,000.00 to be included in upcoming budget. Mayor D. MacGillivray re the importance of having the extra membrane. Coun. B. Knight made motion to pre-approve ordering of a third membrane, seconded Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

9. Citizen Alert App

Paige Clarke updated Council about her research into different Apps and Alert Systems for residents to have better access to notices i.e. water breaks, water conservation contingency stages, etc.; provided an overview of two options:

1. CitizenAlert App is for mobile device and browser
Requires internet connection; can access with data
Fully customizable; brandable; interchangeable template
Important Alerts; other categories and notifications
2. SimplyCast alert is fully accessible for someone without a mobile device or internet
Users can opt in via email address, cellphone, or a landline
Good for Emergency Alerts

Cost factors: the App is approximately \$4,000 per year; the Alert system has a licensing fee that is covered by the province however there is a cost per message per person. P. Clarke recommends the App which allows two-way communication between the Town and residents.

Deputy Mayor S. Lawand thanked Paige and asked about a presentation.

Town Clerk S. Higdon commented that demonstrations can be done during budget deliberations.

Town Clerk S. Higdon informed Council that there is a Tax Sale scheduled for March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall; participants must pre-register; will be in the local newspapers this week.

10. Open Forum

No one spoke at the Open Forum.

11. Next Meeting Date: March 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment on motion by Mayor D. MacGillivray.