

JANUARY 24, 2022
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA

MEETING

A meeting of the Stellarton Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT

Chair Deputy Mayor G. Pentz, Mayor D. MacGillivray, Coun. B. Knight, and Coun. S. Campbell. Also present was CAO Susan Higdon.

1. Deputy Mayor G. Pentz called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Fire Fighter Charles MacLaren who recently passed away.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as amended to include under correspondence, 5.c. Coldest Night of the Year from Roots for Youth, and 9. Mailbox on Acadia Avenue, on motion by Mayor D. MacGillivray, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of November 22, 2021 were approved on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Correspondence

a. 37th Annual Pictou County Bantam Memorial Tournament Re: Request for donation – CAO S. Higdon stated that Council received a request from the 37th Annual Pictou County Bantam Memorial Tournament; in 2019, Council approved \$100 donation. Coun. S. Lawand made motion to donate \$100 to the PC Bantam Memorial Tournament, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

b. Parkinson Canada Re: Request for donation from National – CAO S. Higdon reported that Council did not donate to them in the past. Mayor D. MacGillivray recommended limiting donations to local organizations. Council agreed.

c. Roots for Youth Re: Coldest Night of the Year – CAO S. Higdon confirmed that this is an annual sponsorship opportunity that is done by Roots for Youth Homeless Shelter; in 2020 Council donated \$100 to them, in 2019 Council donated \$500. Coun. S. Campbell made motion to donate \$200 to the Coldest Night of the Year event, seconded by Mayor D. MacGillivray. **Motion Carried.**

6. Tennis Court (Budget consideration 2022-2023) – Active Community Living Coordinator Noah Delorey provided details re the condition of the Tennis Courts on Poplar Street; he recommends doing an asphalt resurfacing of the tennis courts; quote received from Weeks Construction \$40,300.00 plus tax. Noah commented that there is a Recreation Facility Development Fund grant, deadline February 14, 2022, which could pay for one-third of the total capital cost, making the Town's share approximately \$27,283.00. Chair G. Pentz voiced concerns and recommended doing of list of priorities for recreation facilities. Coun. S. Lawand asked CAO re available monies. CAO S. Higdon replied that this would normally be discussed at budget deliberations for 2022-2023, but because of the application deadline of February 14, that's why it's

before Council now; this would be a pre-approval item for next year's budget under the Capital. Council decided not to move forward with the resurfacing of the tennis because of the high cost. They will revisit this during the following year's budget.

7. REMO – Comfort Centre Policy – CAO S. Higdon reported she was speaking with John Davison, REMO Coordinator for Pictou County, as well as the other CAO's in the County, working on a Comfort Centre Policy that is standardized for all of Pictou County; if Council accepts this draft policy, it would supersede the one that is currently in place in Stellarton. She commented on the issues with the Town's current policy i.e. number of hours of power outages; potential dangers to be on the road; and calling dispatch; this new draft would have the decision to open be determined by the organization, which is the Stellarton Fire Department or the CAO. This is for Council's consideration; it's making sure that people go out only when it's safe to do so.

Questions:

Coun. S. Lawand re number of hours. CAO S. Higdon stated that this is for prolonged power outages and explained how things would work; people should be prepared for 72 hours but the Comfort Centre can be opened before that.

Coun. S. Lawand stated that this issue was brought up and approved a few years ago; this new draft is too vague and restrictive; would there be any advantages with the new Policy? CAO S. Higdon replied that it would be standard across the County.

Coun. S. Lawand wanted more clarity. CAO S. Higdon reviewed some of the Policy for details and who would make the decision to open.

Discussion commenced.

CAO S. Higdon commented that this is only a Draft and will be edited; she but wanted to introduce it to Council for their awareness; Final Draft will be presented to Council when complete.

8. Homecoming 2022 – CAO S. Hidgon asked Council for their ideas about the 2022 Homecoming; Community Committee with support from the Town; looking for any direction from the Council representatives on the Homecoming Committee, Coun. B. Knight and Coun. Pentz. Coun. B. Knight recommends going ahead with the festival, and cancel any events if needed because of the pandemic. He also recommends having a meeting with Council reps and relevant staff to start planning. Noah will arrange a meeting with the base Committee.

9. Mailbox on Acadia Avenue – Mayor D. MacGillivray spoke with resident regarding a mailbox across from his residence. Mayor D. MacGillivray made motion to write letter to Canada Post to resolve any determined issue, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

CAO S. Higdon reported an update on the following:

- Jeff MacDonald has been hired as new employee with the Public Works Department
- Custodian update; Town Engineer B. Murray had been looking into a solution for a back-up custodian; a new contractor will now be responsible for cleaning the Town Barn and the Community Centre, as well be back-up for the Town Hall and Library.
- CUPE Union contract negotiations will be starting in February
- Blayre Turnbull Olympian; banners will be put up throughout the Town as well as red and white lights in the Town Square; there will be TV set up at the Town Office; will try to erect Canada Flags from Acadia to Bridge; and maybe showcase a game in the Allan Park.
- Volunteer Reception for 2022; Noah will be working on this

10. Next Meeting Date: February 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment on motion by Coun. S. Lawand.