

**FEBRUARY 28, 2022**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

**PRESENT**

Chair Deputy Mayor G. Pentz, Mayor D. MacGillivray, Coun. B. Knight, and Coun. S. Campbell. Also present was CAO Susan Higdon Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Paige Clarke and Active Living Coordinator Noah Delorey.

1. Deputy Mayor G. Pentz called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as amended to include under Correspondence, a request from Mariposa Figure Skating; and 8. Update on Volunteer of the Year, on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of January 24, 2022 were approved on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network** Scott Ferguson, CEO of Pictou County REN, provided update to Council on the REN Plan, approved on February 16, 2022 by Board of Directors. Presentation highlights:

- Development of Programs; Business Plans
- Covid-focused during the past couple of years
- Immigration-focused; a lot of funding comes from the Dept. of Immigration
- Worked with and supported several companies; focus groups
- Strategic plans
- Co-pac; Employment opportunities for students
- Labour-ability program
- E-commerce; website development

Questions/Comments:

Coun. B. Knight re advertising for employees locally prior to going outside of Country; and is there a percentage of government wage funding? Mr. Ferguson replied that the Federal Government pays for the program and explained how and where workers are recruited.

Mr. Ferguson continued:

- Business and workforce development in terms of immigration to fill gaps

- Communication; partnerships
- Support from all levels of government in a regional manner for efficiency
- Long term planning; looking for funding for the next five years
- Municipal contributions and funding breakdown - \$166,000 in total for Pictou County (approximately \$15,000 over five years for Stellarton)
- Organization growth; business development team
- Business continuity and digital / tech start-ups
- Business expansion and retention
- Launching a “Digital Readiness Index”
- Working with local community; data collecting
- Entrepreneur programs; help navigate what is available
- Pictou County Promoter Score
- Pictou County Branding
- Stellarton opportunities

Questions/Comments:

Coun. B. Knight re skilled workers in Pictou County; educational institutions in area. Council thanked Scott for presentation.

CAO S. Higdon reported that Council has to make the decision if they want to be removed from REN, they need to give a years notice (March 2023); or can make recommendation to stay in the REN for the next five years.

Coun. B. Knight made recommendation for Stellarton to stay in the REN for the next five years, seconded by Mayor D. MacGillivray. **Motion Carried.**

## 5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a. **Canada Post, Re: Mailbox on Acadia Avenue** – CAO S. Higdon reported that Canada Post replied back and will be taking care of the mailbox; which has already been removed.
- b. **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Pictou County Bantam Memorial Tournament** – CAO S. Higdon stated that Council had approved a donation to them in January, however their tournament has been cancelled; for Council’s information.

## 6. Correspondence

- a. **Email from DEANS Re:** Letter of Support for 55 + Games – CAO S. Higdon re this request was approved by Council via email, wanted it to be recorded; Town submitted a letter of Support.
- b. **Mariposa Figure Skating** – CAO S. Higdon received request from Mariposa Figure Skating Club; they are hosting a competition April 10 and asked if the Town will purchase an ad. Coun. B. Knight made motion for the Town to put in a half page ad for \$100, seconded by Mayor D. MacGillivray. **Motion Carried.**

**7. Heritage ACOA Grant Update** – Paige Clarke updated Council on the Heritage Grant and plans; recommendations from the Heritage Committee re neighborhoods; signage for the Parks or Community Centre. Coun. B. Knight re other naming options i.e. the Hafey family.

Discussion commenced re signage and locations.

Coun. B. Knight made motion to approve neighbourhood signage, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**8. Volunteer of the Year** – Noah Delorey, Active Living Coordinator, updated Council re the deadline for nomination submission, February 25; however since the reception is in September, he recommends extending the deadline; to date there are only four applications received. Council agreed to extend application deadline; Noah will inform organizations to give them more time to nominate a volunteer. CAO S. Higdon stated that the Provincial application deadline would be a factor. CAO S. Higdon recommended that Council make the decision on the Volunteer of the Year recipient.

Noah provided some information on Homecoming planning; the Saturday night dance location – the indoor soccer facility is not an option; looking at other options i.e. the Wellness Centre or an outdoor location. Council agreed that an outdoor venue would be best. Paige commented that they put together a couple of floor plans for the back parking lot, including the fire department bay area; the fire department will look into these suggestions as well to see if it would be feasible.

**9. Update on Water Meter Process** – CAO S. Higdon provided Council with an update on the water meter process; Town staff is starting to collect phone numbers and emails from residents; Town Engineer is working on the Request for Proposals to install the water meters; the successful company will be contacting residents to make appointments for installation; water meters will be installed but they will not be used for billing until initial readings are reviewed for this year; flat rates will be billed in the interim; this will give people the opportunity to see if their consumption reading is too high indicating a possible water leak, or leaking toilet; residents can make necessary repairs to fix any issues. Any questions can be directed to Town Engineer or staff.

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

**11. Adjournment** on motion by Coun. B. Knight.