

**MARCH 27, 2023**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, March 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

**PRESENT**

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

1. Coun. B. Knight called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as amended to include 7. Fire Protection Policy Draft and 8. A Public Participation and Engagement Policy Draft on motion by Coun. S. Lawand, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of February 27, 2023 were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**5. Presentation – Asset Management Capital Planning – Ian Tenhaaf**

Matt Delorme introduced himself and his company AIM Network; gave presentation – Town of Stellarton Asset Management Program (attached) highlights:

- Funded by Federal Government
- Managing Assets; Planning
- Asset Management Policy Guides; Principles; Decisions; Accountability
- Service delivery to customers
- Long-term sustainability
- Fiscal responsibility and decision making
- Continuous improvement
- Stellarton's infrastructure report; average condition rates; performing better than other municipalities
- Climate change impact; funding opportunities
- 20-year projections and anticipated spending/funding
- Level of service assessments; identifying gaps
- Investment in infrastructure
- Water supply and sustainability options
- Risk assessments and reviews
- Short-term capital program over the next 5 years and estimated costs

Council thanked Matt for presentation.

CAO S. Higdon asked Town Engineer B. Murray to update Council on the tree-clearing operations in the High Street / Poplar Street areas.

B. Murray showed photos of work areas and provided updated on tree clearing.

**6. Correspondence**

- a. **DEANS** Re: Tourism Marketing Levy – CAO S. Higdon stated that the province has allowed hotels and Airbnb's to charge a levy/tax; municipalities can then impose a bylaw permitting this charge. These

monies will be administered through the Town and paid to DEANS for marketing. CAO S. Higdon re this is a county-wide levy; other municipalities have similar levy. The Town's responsibility is to adopt a bylaw and service agreement; collect levy and remit funds to DEANS; and liaise with DEANS staff to ensure successful collection process.

**7. Fire Protection Policy Draft**

CAO S. Higdon circulated draft; as per the budget discussions, if Council decided to charge a Fire Protection Rate, you are required to implement a Policy. Mayor D. MacGillivray comments re not in favour of Fire Protection Rate; feels an overall tax increase may be more fair. CAO S. Higdon re preliminary look at tax increase equivalent to what the Fire Protection Rate would be is \$1.91 for residential and \$4.37 for commercial. Discussion commenced. Council does not want to go with the Fire Protection Rate; they will consider other options during budget deliberations.

**8. A Public Participation and Engagement Policy Draft**

COA S. Higdon circulated the Public Participation and Engagement Policy Draft to Council as a 7-day notice and will be brought to next Council meeting in April.

**9. Age Friendly Plan**

CAO S. Higdon re Council to adopt Age Friendly Plan; cost would be \$5,000.00 which is in current budget. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to adopt Age Friendly Plan, seconded by Mayor D. MacGillivray. Coun. S. Campbell and Coun. S. Lawand voted nay. Item tabled for more discussions.

**10. Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

**11. Adjournment** on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.