

**JANUARY 22, 2024**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

**PRESENT**

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

Regrets: Mayor D. MacGillivray

1. Chair S. Campbell called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of November 27, 2023 were approved with the addition of Coun. G. Pentz to those listed as present, on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Lawand. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Chair S. Campbell inquired about Councillor Knight sitting on the Sports Heritage Hall of Fame Committee, CAO S. Higdon confirmed that he will sit on that Committee.

**5. Correspondence**

- a. Habitat for Humanity Re: Steering Committee – CAO S. Higdon stated that the Mayor received letter from Ed Kennedy, Habitat for Humanity, looking for Council member to sit on Steering Committee. Coun. G. Pentz will look into joining this Committee. CAO S. Higdon will provide Coun. G. Pentz with more information.
- b. Communities in Bloom Re: Minutes from December 12, 2023 – CAO S. Higdon reported that she, Jamie and Blaine met with members of the Communities in Bloom today; topic of discussion was a possible employee and the remaining committee members; looking for an employee who can take care of required work. CAO S. Higdon is preparing a job description to be presented to Council for consideration. Coun. S. Lawand asked about including some duties to Public Works employee. CAO S. Higdon and Town Engineer B. Murray looked at options; need someone with necessary expertise. Discussion re Dalhousie Agricultural College programs; groundskeeper or landscaper; possible seasonal position; Union position; contractor; things to work out.

**6. CAO Report – Municipal Election 2024** – CAO S. Higdon re Election Year; provided Council with relevant information. Coun. G. Pentz re paper ballots; CAO S. Higdon replied that they are not proposing paper ballots only electronic. Coun. G. Pentz recommends having paper ballots because a lot of the older residents prefer this method of voting. CAO S. Higdon will bring the issue back to Returning Officer for consideration; Council will need to appoint Returning Officer. CAO S. Higdon will gather information and costs.

**7. Municipal Innovation Program Recommendation** – CAO S. Higdon reported that this is a provincial program; looking at a \$5,000 investment from the Town of Stellarton, Town of Westville, Town Pictou, and Town of Trenton; to come together; the province is going to put 80% towards this study. This should show any other areas that can be shared within the municipal units, without actually coming together. This could strengthen the smaller communities by working together. New Glasgow and the County are not involved. Discussion.

Coun. S. Lawand made motion to recommend to Council during budget deliberations, \$5,000 towards study, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz. **Motion Carried.**

Coun. S. Lawand re Family Day preparations. CAO S. Higdon replied that Paige has been talking to Gary Matheson.

Coun. S. Lawand re the Fund for Reforesting. CAO S. Higdon has an upcoming meeting with them on Wednesday to discuss amount of seedlings to purchase.

Coun. S. Lawand re Pictou County Transit route increase. CAO S. Higdon confirmed that Pictou County Transit has expanded to include Pictou Landing First Nations, Westville, Pictou and Trenton.

**8. Next Meeting Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

**9. Adjournment** on motion by Coun. S. Lawand.