

**FEBRUARY 26, 2024**  
**STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

**PRESENT**

Mayor D. MacGillivray, Coun. S. Campbell, Coun. G. Pentz, Coun. B. Knight and Coun. S. Lawand. Also present was CAO Susan Higdon and Town Engineer B. Murray.

1. Mayor D. MacGillivray called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved as amended to include under Correspondence 5.a. New Glasgow Farmers Market and move item 7. Town Hall 2030 before item 6; and add 8. Housing Accelerator Fund, on motion by Coun. B. Knight, seconded by Coun. G. Pentz.

**Motion Carried.**

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of January 22, 2024 were approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Correspondence**

**a. New Glasgow Farmers Market** – CAO S. Higdon re representatives from the New Glasgow Farmers Market met with the Mayors and Warden on February 12; they asked each municipality to write a letter of support for their campaign “Raise the Barn”, to build a new dome. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to write letter of support, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**6. Town Hall 2030** – CAO S. Higdon presented options for Council’s consideration:

1. New Build Police - \$5 million; New Build Administration - \$3.2
2. Renovate Town Hall / Police - \$4.7 million
3. Move Police to RCMP detachment (Costs to retrofit unknown at this time)
4. Renovate Town Hall for Admin only – \$3.2 m

Town Engineer B. Murray and Police Chief M. Hobeck provided information. Blaine recommended Building Condition Assessment of RCMP Detachment. Discussion commenced re options. The recommendation is to move Police to RCMP and renovate Town Hall for Admin only. The unknown important factor at this time is the acquisition of the RCMP building. The process for RCMP building is for first refusal to go to the Federal Government, second to the Province, and third to the Municipality. Both MP Sean Fraser and MLA Pat Dunn have noted they have no need for the buildings, meaning in all likelihood it will be turned over to the Town – timing is unknown. We have been told the new RCMP build will begin in the spring. Once their new build begins, CAO S. Higdon will start the process of acquiring the old detachment. Renovations of the Town Hall will not begin until timelines are known. The above recommendation was approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. B. Knight. **Motion Carried.**

**7. Snow Plow Purchase Year 2023-2024** – CAO S. Higdon corrected that this item is for a Sidewalk Plow. She reported that the Town Engineer B. Murray, Superintendent

J. MacDonald and two Public Works employees went to Halifax to look at new sidewalk plow. B. Murray commented on the current equipment and provided information on the proposed new plow costing approximately \$162,000. Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve purchase of new sidewalk plow, seconded by Coun. B. Knight.

On the Question:

Coun. S. Campbell re budget year and availability of the plow. B. Murray stated that we can acquire the new plow this week. CAO S. Higdon added that Town can borrow the money for emergency purchase. **Motion Carried.**

**8. Housing Accelerator Fund** – Coun. B. Knight comments regarding funding for other municipalities in Pictou County for housing; does Stellarton have any land for such projects. CAO S. Higdon replied that the Town does not have any land available; she looked at applying for the Housing Accelerator Fund based on the Housing Needs Assessment done by the Province; it showed that Stellarton was not in a housing crisis. Coun. B. Knight asked if there were any residential building lots available in Town. CAO S. Higdon stated that Town Planner R. Burek has done a report in the past of what Town-land we have. Coun. G. Pentz re mine reclamation lands as a possibility. Coun. B. Knight recommends having a plan for future development. Coun. S. Lawand asked about the mine reclamation lands; is it feasible to build there; is the land safe? Discussion regarding timelines for land settlement.

**9. Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

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