

**TOWN OF STELLARTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 3, 2024**

MEETING

A Committee of the Whole meeting of Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, June 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

PRESENT

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

1. **Call to Order** Chair S. Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved on motion Councillor S. Lawand and seconded by Councillor G. Pentz with the addition of one item: Request to borrow additional funding – Claremont Avenue project. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the April 22, 2024 meeting were approved as presented on motion Councillor G. Pentz seconded by Councillor S. Lawand. Motion Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Mayor D. MacGillivray asked for a report on the curb and gutter replacement on Oxford Street. Town engineer B. Murray stated they are not ripping up the curb but going to plane the asphalt and then pave it back in to make it work. B. Murray mentioned that the curb on Poplar Crescent had to be ripped out; wasn't the right grade. S. W. Weeks poured the curb again at their cost.

5. Correspondence

a. Municipal Affairs and Housing (Financial Measures Act)

CAO Susan Higdon reported on changes to the Financial Measures Act for the province. The changes are outlined in Council members meeting packages.

b. Terry Fox Foundation (Marathon of Hope)

Request from the Terry Fox Foundation to donate to the Marathon of Hope. This request was denied.

6. Tender Recommendations

a. 4X4 Truck Tender Recommendation

The Town of Stellarton tendered for two new half ton trucks. Two bids were submitted: Highland Ford \$109,400.00 and Connell Chrysler Dodge \$122,536.00 (prices exclude HST). The Town Engineer recommended the tender be awarded to Highland Ford.

Moved by Councillor G. Pentz and seconded by Councillor B. Knight to accept the recommended tender bid from Highland Ford for two new 4x4 trucks. Motion Carried.

b. Capital Paving Tender Recommendation

Three bids were submitted for Capital Paving: S.W. Weeks Construction \$219,296.95, Webster Bros Paving and Concrete Ltd. \$233,262.96, and Dexter Construction Company Ltd. (prices exclude HST). Town Engineer B. Murray recommended awarding the tender to the lowest bidder, S. W. Weeks Construction.

Moved by Councillor G. Pentz and seconded by Councillor S. Lawand that we accept the lowest bid for capital paving. Motion Carried.

7. Hurricane Fiona Update

a. Trees From Private Properties

It was reported that trees on two private properties were accidentally removed by the Town after Hurricane Fiona. The property owners would like to have the trees replaced.

Moved by Councillor B. Knight and seconded by Councillor S. Lawand that the Town pay for the replacement trees and have the property owners purchase the trees they want and invoice the Town. CAO S. Higdon reported that this will be communicated to the property owners. On the

question, Councillor S. Lawand said it is very important that we keep the communication lines open with residents. The property owners will be responsible for planting the trees. Motion Carried.

b. Restoration Plan

CAO S. Higdon reported that Clean Foundation is coming in the Fall to start planting approximately 400 trees. She reminded members that the Foundation made a presentation to Council back in January or February with their plan of where the trees would be planted, and Council approved their plan.

c. Poplar Street Path

CAO S Higdon reported that there is no plan in place for a path, but after the “restoration” trees are planted in 2025, Council will look at putting in a walking path. The path would follow the Nova Scotia Power line.

Mayor D. MacGillivray had a question re: area cleared on High Street after Hurricane Fiona. He would like to see that area cleaned up and grass seed down. Councillor G. Pentz asked the town engineer to get a price on what that would cost. Mayor D. MacGillivray also thanked public works for the cleanup work done in this area after the hurricane.

8. Royal Canadian Legion (discussion with Executive)

CAO S. Higdon reported that her and Mayor D. MacGillivray met with executive members of the Stellarton Legion. The Legion executive has two requests:

1. Capital Project- Renovation to the Legion

CAO S. Higdon reported that the Legion has asked Council if the town hall could issue income tax receipts on their behalf for donations towards this project.

Moved by G. Pentz and seconded by S. Lawand to allow office administration staff to issue income tax receipts on behalf of the Legion for this one capital project. Motion Carried.

2. Paving Parking Lot

Mayor D. MacGillivray reported that the Legion is in the process of getting quotes on repairing their parking lot. In the meantime, the Legion is asking if the town’s patching crew could patch some bad areas of the parking lot. For liability reasons, this request was denied.

CAO S. Higdon will contact the Legion’s executive to inform them of Councils decision.

9. Bus Stop Shelters

CAO S. Higdon recommended removal of two bus stop shelters: one on the corner of Acadia Avenue and Food Street and other one located in Lourdes, across from the Catholic Church. Councillor G. Pentz reported that bus stop in Lourdes is used by students waiting for the school bus. CAO S. Higdon reported the bus stop by Sobeys on Food Street is littered with graffiti. Council will look at something to put there in place of the shelter.

Moved by Councillor. G. Pentz seconded by Councillor. B. Knight to remove the bus shelter located at the corner of Acadia Avenue and Food Street and leave the one located in Lourdes. Motion Carried.

10. Pennsylvania Avenue Sidewalk

Chair S. Campbell stated that during budget deliberations, Council members discussed and approved the removal of the sidewalk on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue. Mayor D. MacGillivray asked Council to consider keeping a section of the sidewalk located by the seniors’ apartment building at the bottom of Pennsylvania Ave. as it is in perfectly good condition and used by the seniors. Town Engineer B. Murray was okay with this recommendation.

Motion by Councillor G. Pentz seconded by Councillor B. Knight to leave the section of sidewalk on the bottom south end of Pennsylvania Ave. by the seniors’ apartment building. Motion Carried.

11. Claremont Avenue (additional funding request)

Town Engineer B. Murray requested an additional \$75,000.00 to put in two catch basins on Claremont Avenue. Councillor S. Lawand asked if this was in the original scope of the project. The town engineer B. Murray responded that we are adding to the storm system. Councillor B. Knight felt this will help alleviate some of the water problems we have there. Councillor G. Pentz felt the addition was essential with the climatic change in weather and the amount of rain we have

been having. Councillor S. Lawand asked if this would help in the future with flash flooding. Town Engineer B. Murray responded yes.

Motion by B. Knight seconded by S. Lawand to increase the borrowing for Claremont Avenue project by \$75,00.00. Motion Carried.

12. **Police Station**

CAO S. Higdon reported relocation of the Police Station to the RCMP building on Foord Street is delayed possibly three to five years. Three potential locations were investigated but deemed not appropriate. Councillor B. Knight brought up the idea of having the police stationed in Westville temporarily and wait for the availability of the RCMP building.

Chair S. Campbell is not 100% in favor of having the Police Station temporarily moved to the town of Westville. Her concern was how the residents would feel about the move. Chief M. Hobeck said what is important is keeping the police presence on the streets in town. CAO. S. Higdon said the operation would be in Westville, but the department would still have a satellite office in the town hall.

Councillor G. Pentz and Mayor D. MacGillivray felt we are better off to temporarily go to Westville's building and wait for the RCMP building availability. Mayor D. MacGillivray said if we move some of the police operation to Westville, we can start renovations on the town hall building right away.

Chief M. Hobeck said if Council decides to have us stationed in Westville temporarily and wait for the RCMP building, he hasn't spoken with the RCMP yet, but we may not be able to move there but we may be able to use their interview rooms and some of their facilities to help us with the things we can't do here in the interim. Members thought this was a good idea.

Mayor D. MacGillivray thinks the citizens will be fine if we communicate properly where this is a temporary measure. Councillor S. Lawand thinks the citizens will appreciate us utilizing regional assets. He too suggested the need to have a communication plan in place. He said if we have a communication plan in place of how we came to this decision, how we want to preserve the integrity of the town hall building, and are plans for the future, our citizens will understand.

Chair S. Campbell asked what happens down the road if we do not get the RCMP building. It was the general feeling that Council would deal with that at the time when or it became an issue.

Moved by G. Pentz seconded by Councillor. B. Knight to investigate the option to temporarily move the police station to Westville (do we say with Westville Police or Westville Town Bldg.) until the RCMP location is available. Motion Carried.

12. **Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

13. **Adjournment** motion by Councillor G. Pentz.