

**TOWN OF STELLARTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JULY 22, 2024**

MEETING

A Committee of the Whole meeting of Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, July 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

PRESENT

Chair Deputy Mayor S. Campbell, Mayor D. MacGillivray, Councillor G. Pentz, Councillor S. Lawand, and Councillor B. Knight. Also present was CAO S. Higdon and Marketing & Communications, P. Draper.

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 as amended on motion Councillor S. Lawand and seconded by Councillor G. Pentz with the addition of four items: 7a Hudson Street Drug Issue; Correspondence: (e) CCBF Funding and (f) Healthy Pictou County; 7d Ratification re: Lawn Tractor for Capital Purchase; and 7b South MacKay Street - cutback brush and High Street - cleanup. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the June 24, 2024, meeting was approved as presented on motion Councillor B. Knight seconded by Councillor S. Lawand. Motion Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising from the Minutes.

5. Correspondence

a. Municipal Affairs and Housing

CAO S. Higdon spoke on correspondence from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Lohr. The letter discussed the coordination of the Emergency Alert System - Protocol. S. Higdon reported that CAOs across the province meet virtually every three months and the police chiefs meet as well; they are the only two bodies within the municipality that have the authority to issue an alert.

b. NRHS Re: Awards recipients

S. Higdon reported that the Olton Trophy Award went to Em Murphy and Mo Tolba and the Aubrey Dorrington award to Lucy Copan.

c. Lucy Copan re: Thank you

Recipient of the Aubrey Dorrington award sent a thank you letter. This was appreciated.

d. Municipal Affairs & Housing Re: Housing Invoice

S. Higdon reported receiving correspondence from Hardy Stuckless, Director of Municipal Affairs and Housing. S. Higdon said with the housing deficit always unknown, the good news this year is we put \$75,000.00 in the budget and bill from the province came in at \$36,000.00. S. Higdon reported this is going to be the town's last bill because municipalities will no longer be responsible to pay the province for corrections and public housing.

e. Municipal Affairs & Housing - CCBF Funding

S. Higdon reported on correspondence from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing John Lohr re: Canada Community-Building Fund. S. Higdon reported that, across Canada, to support core infrastructure projects, the federal government renewed the CCBF for another ten years.

f. Healthy Pictou County

S. Higdon reported Healthy Pictou County is introducing a "New to the Crew": Connecting newcomers and the community in Pictou County initiative to connect those who love Pictou County with those new to the community.

6. Recreation Update

P. Draper, Marketing and Communications reported on the Pictou County Equipment Loan Program (under the Municipality of the County of Pictou umbrella), to promote an active lifestyle. Paige reported that recreational equipment is currently available for loan by the various municipal units throughout the Pictou County. The program is under the umbrella of the Municipality of the County of Pictou's website; the site offers an inventory listing of recreational equipment that is currently available for loan by the various municipal units throughout the county. She reported that the Town of Stellarton has pieces of equipment to loan out: three E-bikes and various games. The equipment can be rented out free of charge by filing out a sign-out form. P. Draper said that once everything is in place re: insurance/waiver for e-bikes etc., residents will be informed about the program and available equipment. Paige said that once summer is over all the equipment available will be organized and be easily accessible.

P. Draper added that she did look at what was in the budget for adult equipment. She spoke on having a permanent volleyball/badminton net installed in the Pleasant Street Park – saying the cost is well within what is left in budget. Councillor S. Lawand asked if the nets could be adjusted. Paige said it is her understanding that the nets can be adjusted.

S. Higdon said, P. Draper was looking for the okay from Council to put these items in the loan program and the net in the park. Councillor G. Pentz said so are we going to go ahead with this. Everyone agreed.

Councillor B. Knight would like to see more equipment in the Pleasant Street Park next year, equipment for all ages. Councillor S. Lawand agreed adding that he would like to see a few trees planted in the park for shade and basketball court lines put in (even if the lines are not to regulation). It was the general feeling that a lot of people use the park and the basketball court. P. Draper said she could purchase basketballs that could go in the loan program along with the badminton/volleyball equipment.

At the end of P. Draper's report, she added that because of the request to look at more adult gaming and having some wiggle room, staff ordered two fire engine DigiRiders and one seesaw. The Pleasant Street Park already has the base for the DigiRider, adding that in theory, we should be able to add the top for a fraction of the cost to install.

Paige was thanked for her report.

7. a. Hudson Street – Complaints from Residents

Councillor G. Pentz reported that residents in the area are about ready to take their concerns to Council: drug activity all hours of the night; residents unable to sleep because of all the activity. Councillor B. Knight said that he will talk with the Police Chief on this matter and report back.

b. South MacKay Street – Trimming of Bushes

Mayor D. MacGillivray would like to see the bushes on South MacKay Street trimmed back as they impair line of sight at corner. S. Higdon will look into this.

c. High Street – Clean up after Hurricane Fiona

Mayor D. MacGillivray inquired as to the status re: cleanup of debris from Fiona. S. Higdon will reach out to the Public Works department and report back. She felt it was likely circumstances where public works staff did not get around to it yet.

d. Commercial Lawn Tractor

S. Higdon reported an emergency situation regarding the breakdown of a commercial lawn tractor. Council was asked to approve the purchase of a new tractor.

Councillor B. Knight made a motion, seconded by Councillor G. Pentz a recommendation to Council to purchase a commercial lawn tractor, not to exceed \$32,000.00. Motion Carried.

S. Higdon said this will be purchased out of reserves.

8. Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment motion by Councillor G. Pentz.

