

**TOWN OF STELLARTON  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
November 25, 2024**

**MEETING**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, November 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

**PRESENT**

Chair Deputy Mayor S. Eis, Councillor G. Pentz, Councillor S. Campbell and Councillor M. Fortune. Also present was Mayor D. Stroud, CAO S. Higdon and Planning & Development, R. Burek.

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

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented on motion Councillor G. Pentz seconded by Councillor S. Campbell. Motion carried.

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the October 28, 2024, meeting was approved as presented on motion Councillor G. Pentz, seconded by Councillor S. Campbell. Motion Carried.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

No business arising from the Minutes.

**5. Correspondence**

**a. Report from Returning Officer J. MacDonald**

CAO S. Higdon spoke on acting as an Auditor during the last municipal election, explaining what was involved. She reported there were a lot of questions on why there was no option for a paper ballot. S. Higdon said in her report, J. MacDonald is recommending having both options available for the 2028 election. S. Higdon said the provincial election had both options; it is a very safe process. She added that in 2028 this Council will have to approve the returning officer and how the vote will be. Councillor G. Pentz thinks it is a great idea. Mayor D. Stroud asked is there was any chance the electronic portion would require in person voting.

**b. Update from Healthy Pictou County**

S. Higdon said those that were at the Regional Orientation last week, Nicole LeBlanc, Project Navigator sends out HPC Reports monthly. Healthy Pictou County is partnering

with various municipalities etc., to promote and support their initiative to connect those who love PC with those new to the community.

### **c. Pictou County Roots for Youth – Request for Tax Exemption**

S Higdon reported the Pictou County Roots for Youth is requesting to be exempt from property taxes for a property they own on Poplar Street, a transitional housing shelter. S. Higdon told members that back in 2023, PC Roots for Youth requested tax relief for another property they own Stellarton on Stellar Street where they operate a homeless shelter for people under the age of 18. This request was granted by previous Council. S. Higdon explained that if Council decides to provide tax relief, it will go to Council in December for a first reading. The second and final reading would be held in January. S. Higdon said the tax exemption would not become valid until April 1, 2025 and that PC Roots for Youth would still be entitled to pay the 2024 property taxes if Council approves their request.

A general discussion took place. Councillor S. Eis felt this request was a big ask. She would like to see PC Roots for Youth make a presentation to Council to learn more about them, what their policies are, how they are funded, etc. She felt the organization is beneficial to the community. Councillor S. Campbell noted that the group used to be in the Town of New Glasgow before they moved to Stellarton.

S. Higdon will talk with the Executive Director of PC Roots for Youth, Kathryn Tanner, to see if she is available to attend the next Council. Mayor D. Stroud felt this was the first step.

R. Burke said during orientation week, if Council members have any questions in terms of the approval processes and how Roots for Youth or Community Homes are considered permitted uses and not discretionary uses in terms of permit approvals, there is a question and answer period and if Council has any questions they can ask at that time. R. Burek was thanked for attending tonight meeting and excused.

### **6. Schedule of 2025 Council/Committee of the Whole Meetings**

S. Higdon reviewed the 2025 meeting schedules with Council members. She asked for a motion to accept the Schedule of 2025 Council/Committee of the Whole meetings as presented. Motion approved by Councillor M. Fortune, seconded by Mayor D. Stroud. Motion Carried.

### **7. Committee Representatives 2024-2025**

Town of Stellarton Committees:

Police Commission: Mayor D. Stroud, Councillors S. Campbell, and G. Pentz

Mine Liaison: Mayor D. Stroud

Communities in Bloom: Councillor S. Eis

Staff Functions: Councillor S. Campbell

Heritage Committee: Councillor G. Pentz,

Stellarton Homecoming: Councillors S. Eis and G. Pentz

Accessibility Committee: Councillors S. Campbell and M. Fortune

Planning Advisory Committee: All Council

Audit Committee: All Council

Recreation/Active Living Committee: Councillor S. Eis  
Pictou County Shared Services Authority: Mayor D. Stroud  
Glen Haven Manor Facility: Mayor D. Stroud  
Riverview Committee: Councillor S. Eis  
Library Committee: Councillor S. Eis  
DEANS Liaison: Councillor M. Fortune  
G R Saunders School Liaison: Councillor S. Campbell  
Northumberland Regional, SAC: Councillor G. Pentz  
144 CEF: Councillor G. Pentz  
Pictou County Wellness Centre: Mayor D. Stroud  
Pictou County Sports Hall of Fame: Councillor M. Fortune  
Pictou County Partnership: Mayor D. Stroud  
Pictou County Transit Authority: Councillors S. Campbell and G. Pentz  
PC Mental Wellness: Councillor S. Eis

S. Higdon said members can report anything significant from your meetings at a Council meeting.

#### **8. Strategic Plan**

S. Higdon reported that it is a good idea for the current Council to have a four-year strategic plan. She was looking at January to do a strategic planning session where Council and senior management go off site and spend the day creating a strategic plan. S. Higdon said it is a great experience.

#### **9. Other Business**

Councillor S. Eis had a question on the Recreation/Active Living Committee asking why it was in-active. S. Higdon explained that P. Draper is our Marketing and Communications, she took on a reactive response to recreation. Councillor S. Eis asked if we could get someone to fill that roll again. S. Higdon this would be something to discuss as a Council during budget time.

#### **10. Next meeting date: January 27, 2025**

#### **11. Adjournment** motion by Councillor G. Pentz.