

**TOWN OF STELLARTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025**

MEETING

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, September 29, 2025 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall

PRESENT

Chair Deputy Mayor S. Eis, Councillor M. Fortune, Mayor D. Stroud, and CAO, A. Grover.

Regrets: Councillor G. Pentz and Councillor S. Campbell.

1. **Call to Order** by Deputy Mayor S. Eis.

2. **Approval of Amended Agenda**

Additions to the Agenda: under Correspondence, c. Wind Energy West Project, under 13 Truck Tender from Town Engineer; and under 14 Complaints/Concerns regarding traffic in Town.

It was moved by Mayor Stroud and seconded by Councillor M. Fortune to accept the agenda as amended.

Motion Carried.

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Committee of the Whole Minutes - June 23, 2025

One correction: Item #4a., second line - "she advocates for fireworks in general" should be revised to: "she advocates for education regarding fireworks in general".

The Minutes from June 23, 2025 were adopted as amended.

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Railway Tracks Bridge Avenue – CAO A. Grover will follow up with town engineer for an update.

5. **Presentation – Roland Burek, Planner/Development Officer**

R. Burek was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He will be present for October's meeting to update members on recently approved planning documents.

6. **Correspondence**

a. **Pictou County Roots for Youth**

Announcement from YMCA. Pictou County Roots for Youth has now transitioned to the YMCA. All staff, assets, programs, and services will be integrated into YMCA.

b. **Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests**

In the Spring of 2026, Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests program lead by Clean Foundation, is seeking to undertake a project at 199 MacGregor Avenue, Stellarton. The project aims to plant 173,625 trees over 62 hectares, utilizing a variety of species suitable for reclaimed mine sites. This is a province-wide tree planting initiative. The land is owned by the province and the project is being completed in partnership with Natural Resources and Pioneer Coal. CAO A. Grover noted that the committee package contained a map of the designated tree planning area. She sent the map to the town engineer, who raised concerns and will be working with Clean Foundation as the project progresses.

Regarding the reclamation of land, the CAO will review previous correspondence to understand the details of the reclamation project and verify the boundaries of the land.

c. **Premier of NS Announcement**

The CAO reported that Premier of NS has announced that the government recognizes Wind West and the Eastern Energy Partnership as a project of national interest, which could produce up to 27 percent of Canada's energy needs and generate \$75 billion in new investments.

7. **Council Committee Updates**

Mayor D. Stroud reported:

- The Stellarton Source Water Protection Committee has resumed its meetings. They met recently and are planning another meeting for the coming winter.
- The Glen Haven Manor Committee is proposing a new facility, the specific location has not yet been revealed. Last year's flood at their current building halted governance meetings early in the year.
- Police Commission - a comprehensive review of policing is currently underway to evaluate the current state of policing in Nova Scotia and to propose various models for enhancing policing

services in the province. The CAO hopes there will be more information available to the municipalities by late winter or early spring.

Deputy Mayor, S. Eis reported:

- The Pictou Antigonish Regional Library has moved into their new (temporary) location – the Aberdeen Business Center (back entrance) while their former location, the New Glasgow Library, is undergoing renovations.
- The Riverview Home Corporation is trying to meet the Human Rights Remedy Plan by November 2027. – the Remedy Plan in Nova Scotia includes transitioning residents from large institutions to community-based support homes.

8.. Deer Survey & Feeding of Wildlife Bylaw

Members were given an example of New Glasgow's Feeding of Wild Animals Bylaw along with copy of a deer survey the Town of New Glasgow conducted two years ago. The CAO noted that we participated in a regional meeting this past spring where all municipal units in Pictou County were involved in discussions about how to move forward collectively to control the deer population. The first recommendation from DNR was to engage with residents to get their thoughts and feelings, and that step was putting out a survey. The CAO said by obtaining feedback and involving the community, we can better comprehend how residents perceive deer-related issues, which may indicate the need to implement a feeding wild animal bylaw in the community. Members agreed to getting the survey out there to the public.

Direction from Council: staff to move forward to distribute an amended Town of New Glasgow sample deer survey customized to the Town of Stellarton and look into distribution options available so the survey is accessible to everyone.

9. Memorial Bench & Tree Planting Request

A request for a memorial bench and tree planting was submitted by Jackie Pratt. The proposed location is Stellarton Dog Park. The fee for the memorial bench commemoration is \$1500.00. The CAO will look into how many memorial benches we have in the town.

It was moved by Mayor Stroud, seconded by Councillor M. Fortune a recommendation to Council to approve the purchase of a memorial bench and tree at Stellarton Dog Park by Jackie Pratt, with work to be carried out by the Public Works department. **Motion Carried.**

10. Nova Scotia Building Officials' Association Request

The NSBOA Zone 1 is seeking co-sponsors to help fund an NSBOA seminar on October 14, 2025 to educate contractors on significant updates to the Building Code.

It was moved by Councillor M. Fortune, seconded by Mayor Stroud a recommendation to Council to approve a donation of \$200 to the Nova Scotia Building Officials' Association to fund a seminar on October 14, 2025 to educate contractors in our area on building officials in their communities and significant updates to the Building Code. **Motion Carried.**

11. Claremont Avenue - Parking

Deputy Mayor S. Eis reported that a resident on Claremont Avenue has requested that Council consider a proposal for a one-side parking bylaw for the street. The high volume of parked cars, especially those positioned directly opposite other vehicles, significantly narrows the street, often reducing it to a single lane. This situation poses challenges and risks for two-way traffic, as well as for delivery and emergency vehicles. The CAO will reach out to the complainant by email, a. assuring them that this matter was discussed at a Committee of the Whole meeting and that the issue will be further addressed by the Police Chief at a Police Commission meeting, and b. details areas of concern on Claremont Avenue for clarity on the issue.

12. Tribute to Veterans

Public Works was given the go ahead to paint a tribute to veterans on the sidewalk leading to the cenotaph. The original suggestion was to paint a crosswalk. The CAO reported that according to our town engineer, we cannot place this tribute on a crosswalk as a crosswalk must remain very clear in accordance with the motor vehicle act. The CAO believes that the steps leading up to the cenotaph are the most suitable location. The CAO also contacted the legion to inquire if they had any objections; their only concern was to avoid having a painted poppy, as they did not want anyone biking or stepping on a poppy.

13. Truck Tender from Town Engineer

The CAO reported that two bids were submitted for a new half ton truck: one from Highland Ford, slightly exceeding \$60,000.00 and another from Bruce Leasing Ltd, which was under at \$55,238.50, meeting the specifications for the new half ton truck. In a memo from the town engineer Blaine Murray, \$60,000 for the current fiscal year was allocated for a new half ton truck. The town engineer recommends awarding the tender to Bruce Leasing Ltd for \$55,238.50.

It was moved by Mayor Stroud, second by Councillor M. Fortune, a recommendation to Council to approve the tender received from Bruce Leasing Ltd. for the purchase of a new half ton truck in the amount of \$55,238.50.00 plus HST as it was the lowest tender received. **Motion Carried.**

14. Traffic Concerns

Deputy Mayor S. Eis reported on two traffic concerns:

Speeding at the top of Weir Avenue from High Street. The CAO mentioned that she has discussed this matter with Chief M. Hobeck who recommends having residents report these issues by calling the non-emergency line directly. The CAO explained that the police have a protocol known as the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Plan (STEP). The CAO believes it is crucial to inform residents that they need to report any issues as they arise to ensure proper tracking. The CAO suggested including the non-emergency number in the town's newsletter and on social media platforms to ensure it reaches the community. Further discussion on this item will take place at the next Police Commission meeting.

Aspen Street – no sidewalk in the Valley Woods area, the streets are narrow, and traffic tends to speed on the sharp turn in the area, posing a risk as many children walk to the bus stop. Deputy Mayor Eis noted that sidewalks in this area has been previously addressed. She requested details on how this issue was handled in the past. The CAO believes a discussion is necessary, but it will also involve budget considerations and require the involvement of the town engineer. This will allow for adequate preparation before budget discussions.

15. Round Table

- Deputy Mayor S. Eis is seeking information on: a. the open green space behind the pond in Valley Woods and b. a status update on two other lots: the empty fenced-in lot situated at the intersection of Foord Street and Bridge Avenue and the adjacent lot along Bridge Avenue, where the former Department of Mines building stood before its demolition. The CAO will research these lots.
- Deputy Mayor S. Eis had some commercial zoning inquiries re: Foord Street. The CAO suggested having Roland Burek, Planning & Development, address these inquiries at the October meeting as he will be in attendance to discuss the newly approve planning documents. The CAO will also share what incentives as the become available for business owners through Pictou County Partnership and IGNITE Atlantic.
- Mayor D. Stroud reported a resident proposed the idea of converting the old tennis court in the Asphalt into a pickleball court. Mayor D. Stroud expressed his enthusiasm for seeing the courts operational again, whether as a tennis court or a pickleball court. The CAO mentioned that she could reach out to The Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, as well as local MLA Danny MacGillivray, to discuss potential funding. Mayor D. Stroud expressed the importance of gathering feedback from residents on how they would prefer the space to be utilized. The CAO will speak with Paige Draper from Communications and Marketing to discuss potential ideas.
- Mayor D. Stroud would like to have a public information session hosted by the town to discuss highlights of the past year.

16. Next Meeting Date: October 27, 2025

17. Adjournment