

**TOWN OF STELLARTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
January 26, 2026**

MEETING

A Committee of the Whole meeting of Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

PRESENT

Chair Deputy Mayor G. Pentz, Councillor S. Campbell, Councillor S. Eis, Councillor M. Fortune, and Mayor D. Stroud. Also, present CAO A. Grover.

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

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion by Mayor D. Stroud and seconded by Councillor S. Campbell to include two new donation requests (Pictou County Highland Dance Association and U13AAA Fundy Highland Stars) and postpone two presentations (Roland Burek and Paige Draper) to February. **Motion carried.**

3. Approval of Previous Minutes – December 22, 2025.

The minutes from the meeting held on December 22, 2025 were approved on motion by Councillor S. Eis seconded by Councillor M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Parking lot area – Chair G. Pentz followed up on a proposed parking area near one of ballfields on MacGregor Avenue to alleviate roadside crowding. Mayor Stroud confirmed he had not yet contact Pioneer Coal regarding this but intends to soon.

5. Correspondence

a. Pictou County 4-H Nova Scotia, Re: Thank you

A. Grover reported that a letter of thanks was received from Pictou County 4-H Nova Scotia acknowledging the Town's \$100 donation made earlier this year.

b. Nova Scotia Fire School, Re: Report to FSANS Board of Directors

A. Grover highlighted key point from Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan report from the NS Fire School:

- The NS Firefighters School has never been officially closed,
- A \$190,000 provincial grant established in 1996 to support mobile training program has not increased and was suspended in 2024.
- The School has an accumulated debt of approximately \$350,000, largely related to accrued vacation pay, salary obligations, and a liability to Revenue Canada, along with several minor overdue accounts,
- The caretaker Executive Committee has taken corrective steps, including adjusting the former Executive Director's retirement date, selling a leased vehicle, reviewing insurance policies, and removing unused buildings from coverage,
- A new management structure has been put in place, and
- Efforts are underway to attract new business and strengthen partnerships.

c. PARL, Re: Joint Municipal Letter to Premier Houston

A. Grover reported that a joint letter was issued from all eight municipal units representing the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) to Premier Tim Houston. The letter sent before Christmas requested additional funding to sustain current operational levels. This matter had previously discussed and approved at the November Committee of the Whole and Council meetings.

d. Pictou County Partnership, Re: Q3 Report

A. Grover reported that the Q3 report from Pictou County Partnership was received. Due to its length, a link to the full report was included in the Council email package for review.

6. Review of Deer Survey Results

A. Grover noted that the deer survey was very thorough and recommended that the results be shared with residents as a next step. She further suggested that Council consider introducing a feeding of wildlife bylaw and enhancing public education efforts on the issue.

A. Grover advised that the Town of New Glasgow distributes an informational pamphlet to residents regarding its urban deer population and guidance on how households can manage related concerns. She has contacted their CAO and was advised that, should Stellarton implement a feeding of wildlife bylaw, Stellarton could be included in the pamphlet for distributions to local residents.

Mayor D. Stroud requested that this matter be placed on a future agenda to allow Council to fully review options and develop a strategy. He also noted that discussions among the Mayors and Warden should focus on a collaborative approach to any actions taken.

Council agreed to share the survey results online and begin drafting a feeding of wildlife bylaw.

7. Request for Letter of Support: Critical Infrastructure Upgrade at Wm Sobey Complex

A. Grover reported that correspondence was shared from the Highland District Soccer Association regarding a provincial grant application to assist with replacing a failing heating system at the WM Sobey Indoor Sports Complex. The Association has requested letters of support from all six municipal units to strengthen its application.

Council S. Campbell inquired whether the Association had previously received support from the other municipal units. Chair G. Pentz expressed support for providing a letter, noting that no financial contribution was being requested. Councillor S. Campbell added that she thought the Complex had applied for a grant last year but was unsuccessful.

Council agreed to provide a letter of support. A. Grover will confirm whether letters of support were submitted by the other municipal units in the previous year.

8. Request for Sponsorship from Pictou County Highland Dance Association

A. Grover reported that the Pictou County Highland Dance Association will be hosting the Debbie Robson Memorial Highland Dance Competition this year and is seeking local sponsorship support.

Council agreed to provide a \$100 donation to the Association.

9. Request for Sponsorship from U13AAA Fundy Highland Stars

A. Grover reported that the U12AAA Fundy Highland Stars requested sponsorship from the Town.

Council agreed to provide a \$100 donation.

10. Council Committee Updates

For those interested, Mayor D. Stroud reported having a list Town of Stellarton committees and their assigned Council representatives. Upcoming meeting dates for committees on which the Mayor serves are as follows: Police Commission - January 29; Shared Services and Mayors and Warden - February 5; Glen Haven Manor- February 24; Pictou County Wellness Center - February 2 and Pictou County Partnership - February 25.

Councillor M. Fortune reported that the Pictou County Sports Hall of Fame Committee that he serves on has not met since his appointment and is not expected to meet until the new Heritage building is completed. A. Grover noted that an update on the new Heritage building will be provided at the Mayors and Warden meeting on February 5. Councillor M. Fortune also advised that the Deans Committee that he serves on has not yet met.

A. Grover offered to work with Council to help revive the Town's internal committees. Chair G. Pentz expressed interest in re-establishing the Heritage Committee. A. Grover indicated she will contact former committee members to determine their interest in continuing, review the

committee's terms of reference, and work toward reactivating the committee before issuing a call for volunteers.

Councillor S. Eis provided updates on committees she serves on:

- Communities in Bloom will meet on February 5. She purchased promotional items for children attending the December tree lighting ceremony with costs covered by the committee's budget.
- Homecoming Committee has not yet met this year.
- Riverview Home Committee, she reported that she serves as secretary on the Executive, sits on the Nomination Committee, and has recently joined the Riverview Home Volunteer Association, attending a few meetings.
- The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board meets bi-monthly, with the next meeting scheduled for March 12. She advised that a Revenue Committee has been formed, with representatives from Stellarton, Trenton and Antigonish, to support fundraising efforts. As a charitable organization, the library relies on grants and fundraising, as there is no consistent provincial funding formula in Nova Scotia.
- No updates were available for Pictou County Mental Wellness or Recreation Active Living, and there has been no recent correspondence regarding either.

A. Grover noted that recreation remains a priority within the Town's strategic plan.

11. Round Table

Councillor M. Fortune raised concerns regarding safety at a crosswalk located at the bottom of Claremont Avenue, on Foord Street. He noted that there is no nearby streetlight, result in poor visibility. He advised that several residents have approached him to request improved safety measures, such as the installation of flashing lights to better alert motorists to the presence of the crosswalk.

12. Next meeting date: February 23, 2026

13. Adjournment Councillor S. Eis