

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 14, 2024
Approved Minutes

DATE: February 14, 2024
TIME: 4:30 p.m. – 6:53 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers

ATTENDANCE: Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant; Councillors Jill Chandler; Gordie Cox; Ron Dowling; Jody Jackson; Jeff MacDonald; Jeremy Crosby, CAO; Dale McKeigan, Acting Director of Planning, Development, and Heritage; Kim O’Connell; Director of Finance and Technology; Jeannie Gallant, Director of Infrastructure; Wendy Watts, Community and Business Engagement Manager; and Mary McAskill, Recording Clerk

REGRETS: Nil

CHAIR: Mayor Steve Ogden

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Ogden called the Regular Monthly Council Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance and those viewing via social media.

Mayor Ogden took a moment to acknowledge the land upon which we gather is the unceded territory of the Mi’Kmaq people, and we pay our respects to the Indigenous Mi’Kmaq people of this territory past, present, and future.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Jody Jackson and seconded by Councillor Gordie Cox that the agenda be approved as circulated.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Gordie Cox and seconded by Councillor Jody Jackson that the regular monthly meeting minutes of January 10, 2024, and the special meeting minutes of January 22, 2024, be approved as circulated.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Nil

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Mayor Ogden reviewed his report as follows:

- Chaired the regular monthly meeting of Council, special meeting of Council, and the Committee of the Whole meeting
- Enjoyed attending the Ignition Awards Ceremony and seeing Stratford entrepreneur Robert Hughes awarded an Ignition Award Grant to further his innovative governance approach
- Participated, along with Council and the management team, in a meeting to plan the 2024/25 town budget
- Attended a 'World Religion Day' event at Beaconsfield
- Chaired the regular meeting of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Accountability Committee and helped chair the Planning, Development, and Heritage Committee meeting
- Participated in a Shape Stratford all day planning session to develop strategies and approaches to create more housing in Stratford; also attended a meeting of the Shape Stratford Intermunicipal Committee and an even 'Public Open House'
- Participated in a flag raising event to mark to kickoff of 'Black History Month' to recognize the difficult history and the great achievements of the Black Community
- Met with residents of Clearview Estates to discuss improvements to the community park
- Participated in a meeting of the Federation of PEI Municipalities (FPEIM) Finance Committee and a meeting of the Executive Board
- Attended a homelessness workshop to discuss approaches and best practices to prevent homelessness
- I was very honoured to attend the Island Gymnastics competition and to present the medals to the winners
- Along with CAO Crosby and Deputy CAO Pierce, met with the Island Gymnastics Academy to discuss future plans
- Attended meetings of the Safety Services Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Heritage Committee
- Along with several Councillors, Deputy Mayor Gallant and staff – attended the Greater Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce Awards event
- Attended the PEI Road Builders Awards Event
- Participated in a virtual meeting of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Finance, Infrastructure, and Transportation Committees
- Attended a final meeting with PACE Atlantic to officially wind-up the Switch Program
- Spoke and visited with several residents to discuss various issues; and
- Attended internal meetings and looked after the day to day affairs of the Town.

8. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO) REPORT

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. The CAO reviewed the highlights of his report as follows:

- Chaired the biweekly department head meeting to discuss town projects and initiatives
- Conducted interviews for the environmental sustainability coordinator position
- Attended the Shape Stratford working group meeting
- Attended a meeting with the primary secretary to the Premier to discuss several town projects and initiatives
- Attended a meeting with the Deputy CAO to discuss community campus partnerships
- Attended a meeting in Cornwall to discuss the E-Watch program and transit
- Attended a meeting with Council to discuss and review the community campus plan
- Attended a meeting with representatives from Aspin Kemp to discuss a possible partnership on renewable energy projects in the town, in particular the community campus
- Attended a meeting with KPMG regarding job classifications under the organizational review
- Attended the monthly Town Council meeting
- Attended and participated in the budget discussions regarding casual wages
- Attended a presentation put on by the Federation of PEI Municipalities (FPEIM) regarding the Rural Municipality of Alberta municipal insurance program
- Attended the Shape Stratford planning session
- Attended that Capital Area Transit Committee meeting to discuss the draft 10 year strategic plan
- Attended the monthly Safety Services Committee meeting
- Chaired the bi-weekly department head meeting to discuss town projects, initiatives, and the budget
- Attended a meeting with the department heads to discuss and review the town operating budget
- Attended a meeting with KPMG for the weekly update on the organizational review
- Conducted additional interviews for the environmental sustainability coordinator position
- Attended a meeting with planning staff to discuss the Housing Accelerator Fund
- Attended a meeting with our project manager, the Deputy CAO, and the director of infrastructure, to discuss the site grading plan for the proposed multi-purpose complex on the community campus land
- Attended a follow-up meeting for the town operating budget
- Attended a meeting with MLA Jill Burridge to discuss town projects and potential funding opportunities for the community campus
- Attended the special council meeting regarding the resolution for Just Joe's Automotive
- Chaired the monthly staff meeting
- Attended a meeting with department heads to discuss the town's capital budget
- Attended the by-monthly Intergovernmental Affairs and Accountability meeting

- Attended a meeting with MLA Jenn Redmond to discuss the community campus development and what potential sources of funding may be available
- Attended a meeting with staff to discuss the PACE Atlantic proposed resident survey regarding the Stratford Switch Program
- Attended a meeting with the director of finance and Stantec to discuss town projects and initiatives
- Attended the monthly CADC board of directors meeting
- Participated in an interview at CBC regarding the new transit strategic plan and the growth of the system
- Attended a meeting with representatives from the Public Schools Branch regarding the renewal of the lease for their office space
- Attended a meeting with representatives from CMHC and the province to discuss Shape Stratford and our HAF fund application; and
- Attended the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 7, 2024, that was a continuation of the meeting held in January.

In addition, I continued with multiple meetings and discussions regarding the organizational review. I actively engaged with staff through carefully organized meetings, ensuring comprehensive agendas, and relevant materials were prepared for the various committee meetings. Additionally, I assessed infrastructure projects and their respective deadlines, deliberated upon various planning-related matters, and effectively managed various HR related files. I also responded to emails and letters from residents, stakeholders, government officials, and other entities.

9. SAFETY SERVICES

a) Report

The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Councillor Jackson noted that we have heard from the fire company that a large number of the calls they receive are related to dirty sensors on the alarm equipment. The number of callouts is a concern and the fire company is keeping track to see if the number of false alarms can be reduced. If things continue to tread in the wrong direction, we may need to enhance our communications to remind people to do their best to reduce the number of false alarms.

Councillor Jackson noted that there was a fire alarm in an apartment building and the residents didn't follow the best procedures, and there was no access to the apartment in a timely fashion. The fire company had some recommendations and Councillor Jackson asked Wendy to help, in conjunction with the fire company, to get some information to the public, and especially residents in apartment buildings regarding procedures during a fire alarm.

b) Street Light

No Report

c) RCMP

The report for the month of January was included in the agenda package. Councillor Jackson stated that Corporal Weatherbie updated the committee on the check stops in key areas where there is speeding. He noted that there was concern regarding speeding on Keppoch Road near Tea Hill and the province plans to look into it in the spring/summer, to see if there is actually a speeding issue in the area.

Councillor Jackson stated that we were informed that Queen's District now has a sexual assault investigator, and although we certainly don't want to see anything happen, it is great to have a dedicated person to work on these files.

Councillor Jackson noted that the E-Watch cameras are progressing with a few areas already set up and a few more will be set up in the coming weeks. He gave credit to Deputy Mayor Gallant for his persistence on making sure that we moved forward with the E-Watch cameras.

It was noted that there are still thefts from motor vehicles and this has been consistent in the greater Charlottetown area, and again we remind residents to lock their vehicles.

Corporal Weatherbie gave an update on the speeding and check stops. He noted that there were 70 plus tickets issued and 76 warnings. He noted that one of the biggest things he saw in January was impaired driving. The map was displayed on the overhead and it showed where tickets were issued and where warnings were issued.

Councillor Chandler asked if there were future plans to continue with the traffic check stops, and Corporal Weatherbie replied that it is part of their yearly plan and they will continue to put their focus on traffic.

Councillor Cox asked Corporal Weatherbie if there might ever be a provincial campaign for road safety, and Councillor Weatherbie replied that we can talk with media relations officer Corporal Gavin Moore, as well as the mainstream media. He added that he has been in touch with Wendy Watts to do a local campaign.

Councillor Dowling stated that he appreciates the work that our Stratford detachment does and added that the reality is that the police can't be everywhere at all times. It is absolutely the responsibility of all citizens to report crimes that they see occurring whether it is impaired driving, or an anonymous tip through Crime Stoppers.

d) Humane Society Report

The report for the month of January was included in the agenda package.

e) Transit

The report for the month of January was included in the agenda package. The ridership for January was 289 and Councillor Jackson stated that it is our best January to date.

f) Cross Roads Fire Department

The report for the month of January was included in the agenda package. There were 17 calls for the month – six were fire alarms (but no fire) one MBA; three fires; one medical first response; and some CO2 alarms.

g) Resolution SS002-2024 Transit ICIP Fund Application Amendment

Moved by Councillor Jody Jackson

Seconded by Councillor Gordie Cox

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford is a party to an agreement with the City of Charlottetown, Town of Cornwall, and T3 Transit to operate a seamless transit service in the three municipalities, and

WHEREAS Transit ridership has increased significantly since 2021 due to population increase and the lifting of Covid restrictions. This increased pressure on the system requires alterations to the existing fleet of buses that service the three communities, and

WHEREAS Stratford along with its T3 partners in transit were approved for funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) for the purchase of three new diesel buses and seven new electric buses that have yet to be ordered, and

WHEREAS cost and delivery times for electric buses have increased since the project's approval under the ICIP program. In order to have sufficient buses for operational requirements and contain overall costs, an amendment to the project is necessary.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Stratford supports the amendment of the application to six new diesel, and three new electric buses.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Safety Services Committee.

Councillor MacDonald stated that this is an initiative we are taking on with our T-3 partners and he wanted to understand what it would mean if we approve this resolution. The CAO replied that the other two communities have already passed resolutions; however, we were a bit slower getting it to our committee and that is why we are bringing it forward now. The CAO noted that there was a lot of discussion on whether or not we wanted to move forward on this because we are trying to electrify the system. However, there have been some issues with the electric buses and the delivery times for electric buses are quite

a bit longer, and the costs have escalated quite a bit. With the growth in the system, we need to do something now with the aging fleet to keep them going, and the diesel buses are delivered quite a bit faster. The CAO added that we are still going to plan for electrification but it may take a little longer. Councillor MacDonald asked if this resolution is approved what would the fleet be comprised of in terms of electric versus diesel overall. The CAO replied that we will be receiving three new electric buses and we are still moving ahead with the partnership to get a facility for the electric buses with charging facilities and a place to house the buses. The three new electric buses and the diesel buses are to hold us over until we are able to get the rest of the electric buses.

Councillor MacDonald asked if there was a climate impact study done and the CAO replied that there was no study done. Councillor Jackson stated that we were fortunate enough to have on our committee some people who have direct knowledge and have used the electric buses. He noted that we all appreciate where we are trying to get to, but we are not quite there yet. The system has grown so well that we owe it to our residents to make sure we don't lose any 'steam.' Councillor Jackson noted that the Town of Stratford has been very fortunate in achieving its' climate goals. The CAO noted that we have actually purchased used buses in the past to carry us over. These new buses will be a lot more fuel efficient and reliable than the other buses.

Councillor Chandler asked the CAO if he knew the current total number of diesel buses versus electric buses and the CAO replied that there are no electric buses yet, but we will have three new ones eventually. Councillor Chandler referred to the resolution where it states *increased costs and delivery* and asked if it was already known that three electric buses can be sourced. The CAO replied that we believe they can be sourced.

Councillor Chandler stated that she does have some concerns. She agreed with the idea and the goal of electrification. She noted that people have been vocal about their own experiences with the electric buses and their reliability and their range during the winter season. She added that she does have some apprehension that if we are trying to grow our fleet and grow it quickly in order to grow our ridership, we still may be bringing in unknown variables. The CAO felt that technology is improving all the time and he felt that we do need to move towards it. The federal government is indicating that by 2030 they won't be manufacturing internal combustion engines any longer. We will need to move in the direction of electric buses, but we will just move a little slower than

we had originally hoped. However, we still need to keep the service reliable and on time.

Councillor Chandler asked what the timeline was for delivery of the buses and the CAO replied that he doesn't have a timeline on the electric buses, but he believed that the diesel buses could be sourced within months.

Deputy Mayor Gallant asked if this resolution would look at ward 3 and the CAO replied that this resolution will benefit all partners, but the strategic plan has recommended looking at an on-demand system for ward 3. Councillor Jackson felt that conditions are now more optimal and we may have better results with an on-demand system for ward 3.

Question: **CARRIED**

10. RECREATION, CULTURE AND EVENTS

Councillor Chandler gave an overview of her report as follows:

Committees – the Recreation, Culture, and Events Committee met on Thursday, January 25, 2024. The committee reviewed the draft recreation operational and capital budgets, ballfield naming opportunities, winter projects, community campus, and the waterfront park.

Stratford Youth Centre and Council – Youth centre registration is now closed for the season. Final registration total is 77 members (grades 5 to 12). Winter youth centre programs started at the beginning of February.

The youth centre will be entering three teams in 'Bowl for Kid's Sake' on March 2, 2024, and the youth centre leadership club will host a community flea market during Winterfest from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 17, 2024. The youth will be selling items at their own tables and all money raised will go towards their leadership trip in the summer.

The youth centre will be hosting its 'Annual Walkathon' on March 8 and 9, 2024. Youth will walk in teams for 24 straight hours.

Arts and Culture – Programs are operating at the Town Centre and the Gertrude Cotton Centre.

Events – The youth centre will once again be hosting two days of indoor Funfair at Winterfest in conjunction with the Town of Stratford on February 18 and 19, 2024.

The schedule of events is available on the Town's website, social media, and the Stratford Youth Centre website and social media. A Winterfest flyer was delivered to 1200 students at

the two Stratford schools on February 8, 2024. New for 2024, the Town will be partnering with Fox Meadow and Lone Oak to provide additional activities for all ages.

Programs – Winter 2024 programs are well underway with several pickleball offerings, including a new Tuesday evening program for those who are not enrolled in any daytime group.

The Town is working with the PEI 55+ Games Committee on hosting the 2024 Winter Games within the community. Planning is underway with events taking place from September 26, 2024 through March 1, 2025 in various Stratford and area locations.

Outdoor Recreation – The outdoor rinks located at Pondsides Park and Bunbury Park have been operational since early January. The ice surfaces have enjoyed daily use with the exception of a few stormy days.

The Town continues to groom trails at Cotton Park and Fullerton's Creek Conservation Park throughout the winter season. Cotton Park experienced a delay in re-opening after the storm, but infrastructure staff was able to make headway into the tremendous amounts of snow and re-open the popular trails.

Deputy Mayor Gallant noted that it was nice to see Fox Meadow and Lone Oaks participate in Winterfest this year. He added that it was great to see the Lion's Club pancake breakfast come back as well.

Councillor Dowling stated that our trail system is growing year after year and he commended staff on how fast they were able to clear the snow from the trails.

Councillor Chandler noted that over the weekend the North River Hockey Association hosted the Sweetheart Tournament which is a female hockey tournament that brings teams in from all across the Maritimes. We had many female hockey players who were residents of Stratford and surrounding areas and they achieved great success in the tournament.

With the Professional Women's Hockey League, we see the investment in sports and our female players now have things to aspire to in professional hockey.

11. FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

a) Councillor Dowling gave an overview of his report as follows:

- The utility bills are due February 14, 2024
- First letters are currently being prepared for overdue utility accounts

- Attended the Switch Program wrap-up meeting
- Attended the organizational review meetings
- Attended development cost options with Stantec
- Met with representatives from the Public School Board regarding their lease renewal
- Worked on budget information for meetings with Council
- Met with Council on February 7, 2024, to review the Town's operating budget
- The ICIP government claim has been submitted for payment
- Working with financial coordinator Taewoo Kim to update the long term forecast spreadsheet
- Staff is working on financial data for the community campus buildout
- Attended CPA training webinar; and
- Staff is busy with day to day tasks.

b) Financial Statements

Included in the agenda package for Council to review.

12. PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE

- a) Councillor MacDonald stated that the planning board meeting was rescheduled due to the weather conditions, so the minutes are not yet available.

Councillor MacDonald noted that the committee discussed the resolution that is coming up in the agenda for Council's consideration. The committee also discussed the re-vamp of the naming policy.

- b) Permit Summary was included in the agenda package for Council to review.

- c) **Resolution PH002-2024 – BB003-24 – Natasha Connaughton 86 Strawberry Lane (PID 1116771) – Special Permit Use – Bed and Breakfast Operation with more than 3 Bedrooms – Public Meeting**

Moved by Councillor Jeff MacDonald

Seconded by Councillor Jody Jackson

WHEREAS An application has been received from Natasha Connaughton, to operate a Bed and Breakfast Operation at 86 Strawberry Lane (PID 1116771). Under the Definition for a Bed and Breakfast, where an operation involves more than 3 separate rooms, then it falls under the Special Permit Use process. The current single detached dwelling contains 4 bedrooms. The applicants proposes to offer the whole dwelling for accommodation purposes to the public; and

WHEREAS pursuant to section 11.1.4(b)(iv) in the Zoning and Development Bylaw #45, Council shall ensure that property owners within 61 m (200 ft.) of the subject property are notified in writing and asked to provide their comments; and ensure that a public meeting be held to allow residents to provide their input before making a decision.

BE IT RESOLVED that Council shall hold a public meeting on **Monday, February 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** in order to provide an opportunity for the applicant to present this proposed Bed and Breakfast Operation to residents and obtain their input regarding this Special Permit Use.

Discussion: This resolution does not bear the recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Heritage Committee.

Councillor MacDonald noted that the original application was to operate a traditional bed and breakfast. However, in the correspondence from Ms. Connaughton (agenda item 12 c) she indicated that she would be renting out all of the bedrooms of the dwelling. Councillor MacDonald noted that because she would be renting out all the bedrooms of the house, it would not be a home occupied dwelling, so it falls outside of the scope of the definition of a bed and breakfast.

Councillor MacDonald noted that we recognize that there are a number of short term rentals in Stratford and some are operating valid rentals and some are not. We currently do not have a short term rental bylaw in place, which is an issue in the Town.

The planning director stated that when there are up to three units it is considered an as of right use bed and breakfast and staff has the authority to approve it. When there are four or five units it requires a special permit use which goes before Council for a public meeting to be held. The key issue is that the applicant wants to rent out the entire dwelling unit – that is the main factor. However, you need to reside in that house in order to have a bed and breakfast.

Councillor Cox asked if the applicant could do one or two bedrooms and Councillor MacDonald replied that they can do up to three bedrooms, but they must also reside in the dwelling as it is part of the criteria for a bed and breakfast.

Councillor Chandler felt that maybe we could work with the applicant and let her know she has other options. Councillor MacDonald stated that she could rework her application and come back with three bedrooms or less. Councillor Chandler added that it puts into perspective the need for a bylaw for short term rentals. Councillor MacDonald agreed that there is a need for the bylaw and we do have some resources to devote to both the bylaw for short term rentals and a bylaw for food trucks.

Councillor MacDonald referred back to Councillor Cox's comment noting that there is a penalty for violating the Planning and Development Bylaw and it is monetary in nature.

Councillor Cox also wanted to go on record to say that there are consequences if people don't follow the rules.

Councillor Jackson stated that he would like to see a short term rentals bylaw put in place as fast as possible.

Question: **DENIED**

13. INFRASTRUCTURE

- a) Report - The Report was included in the package for Council to review. Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant reviewed the report as follows:

Several infrastructure projects are underway and at different stages - the Corish forcemain extension project is out for tender now, the community campus solar array project will be tendered this month, and the restoration of Kelly's Pond shortly thereafter. Staff remain involved with the consultants to keep the design projects on schedule.

Most construction projects underway have halted for the winter such as the Bunbury and Corish sewage lift station upgrades, the community campus road and site servicing, and the waterfront gathering and event space project. However, work continues on the water reservoir on Georgetown Road with the goal to be commissioning by the end of March.

The infrastructure staff has been busy with the following:

- Preparing operating and capital budgets for 2024
- Source funding for project opportunities
- Planning upgrades under the Reception Centre Resiliency Funding received
- Preparing tenders for solar projects at the Stratford Emergency Services Centre and the maintenance building on Hollis Avenue

- Completed the hiring process for the infrastructure technician position and we have two new employees starting this month
- Ongoing maintenance at Town owned properties, buildings, and trails. Sanding and snow removal contracts are also underway
- All three rinks are operational and maintenance continues on a daily basis
- Maintenance and upkeep of vehicles and equipment is ongoing
- Bylaw complaints and investigations are ongoing
- The LED lighting retrofit tender was issued for the replacement of fixtures at the Town Centre
- Surplus equipment has been advertised for sale
- Off cycle meter readings completed to ensure no meter issues
- Ongoing inspection and maintenance of water and sewer systems; and
- Managing ongoing customer and resident inquiries and concerns.

14. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

a) Resolution CW003-2024 – Code of Conduct Bylaw, Bylaw #54 – 1st Reading

Moved by Deputy Mayor Steve Gallant

Seconded by Councillor Jeff MacDonald

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act (MGA) provides municipalities with additional authority and autonomy, together with additional accountability via a requirement that actions be enabled by bylaws; and

WHEREAS a bylaw is required to set minimum expectations for the behaviour of members of Council in carrying out their functions and decision making that benefits the Town of Stratford; and

WHEREAS the Code of Conduct Bylaw #46 is outdated and needs to be replaced.

BE IT RESOLVED that the attached Code of Conduct Bylaw, Bylaw #54, be hereby read and approved a first time.

Discussion: This resolution bears the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole.

Question: **CARRIED**

Councillor MacDonald stated that he would find it helpful to have a review of the Procedural Bylaw just to ensure that we are doing everything we are supposed to be doing, and Councillor Jackson agreed that it would be beneficial to review the bylaw.

15. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Report was included in the agenda package for Council to review.

Councillor Cox noted that there is an upcoming webinar being hosted by the Aim Network that the Town is working with on our climate adaptation plan. He noted that this is not specific to Stratford, but rather for residents whose municipality has been involved in this project and it will provide an overall education opportunity as well as an opportunity to speak to some of the challenges. Councillor Cox noted that there is a link to the webinar on the Town's website and it is open for registration. The webinar will be held Wednesday, February 21 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Councillor Cox noted that the last Sustainability Committee meeting was held on February 7, 2024, and there was a presentation by Matt McIver from forestry. Mr. McIver created a very detailed document on Stratford's forest management plan and he presented it to the committee.

Councillor Cox asked the community and business engagement manager Wendy Watts to update everyone on the podcasts that Adam Ramsay will be hosting for the Town. Wendy noted that the podcast will launch on Friday, February 16, 2024. She noted that this has been in the works for a couple of months and it will be a bi-weekly update – similar to a mini Town Talk Newsletter. We will hit on the highlights of what is going on in the Town and it will be another opportunity for us to reach residents.

The climate action plan – In 2022, the Clean Foundation received funding from the Pei Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) to advance municipalities solutions on climate change by assisting them to draft Climate Action Plans. In collaboration with the Federation of PEI Municipalities (FPEIM), the Clean Foundation has worked with the Town of Stratford to research and compile a new Climate Action Plan, replacing a decades old version that was no longer useful. The committee was excited to recommend this final Climate Action Plan.

Councillor Cox noted that there are still some trees available for purchase at a cost of \$50 for a mature 5 to 7 year old tree.

It was noted that the Canada Greener Homes Grant is no longer accepting new applications. Homeowners who have already completed their online registration and have an application number are encouraged to proceed in a timely manner with their retrofits. They will continue to be eligible for funding and support through the Canada Greener Homes portal.

Councillor Cox noted that the federal government is revamping and will be coming out with a new program and we will see more about the program over the next few months.

Councillor Cox stated that he has received some emails from residents and read aloud one of the emails whereby the resident was asking if the Town had any additional grants or incentives for residents to help with the cost of renovations such as a heat pump and/or solar panels. Councillor Cox noted that there are some rebates depending on companies. There are still some rebates especially when it comes to solar panels. He noted that if people want to contact him directly he could send them some links to programs that they may be able to utilize.

It was noted that the Julian Boyle, President of PACE Atlantic came over from Halifax for a Switch Program wrap-up meeting on February 8, 2024.

16. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- a) The report was included in the agenda package for Council to review. Mayor Ogden noted that the committee meets bi-monthly and the last meeting was held on January 25, 2024, and a number of issues were discussed. He noted that the Planning Act changes made by the provincial government have resulted from intergovernmental contact between the Federation of PEI Municipalities (FPEIM) and the Town, and a letter was written on behalf of municipalities to the Minister of Housing. As a result, changes have been made to the Planning Act which is encouraging to see.

Mayor Ogden noted that the committee discussed the status of the Housing Accelerator Fund application and we are hopeful that we will receive word soon on the results of our application.

The committee also discussed the revenue sharing that has been on-going through FPEIM and the provincial government. Mayor Ogden noted that there will be a future meeting with our provincial representatives. It is important that we have some indication from the province if there will be an increase in revenue for the towns and cities as there has not been an increase in three years.

There was a discussion regarding a meeting with Minister Lawrence MacAulay where a number of Town issues were discussed. There was also a meeting with Minister Burrige regarding a number of Town issues.

Mayor Ogden noted that the committee also received an update on the organizational review.

17. HUMAN RESOURCES

- a) No Report

18. INQUIRIES BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

- a) No inquiries were made.

19. OTHER COMMITTEES

a) Stratford Senior's Complex

Deputy Mayor Gallant gave an update on the Stratford Senior's Complex as follows:

- Renovations are completed in Unit 13 and it is ready to be rented
- Unit 10 has been rented – the new tenant will be moving in this month
- Capital work is planned for 2024 and will be reviewed at the Seniors Committee meeting this week
- After last week's major storm, the snow around the building was extremely high. A contractor was on site on February 12, 2024, to take snow away from the building
- Carol Ferguson has been appointed the senior's liaison representative for the Seniors Committee
- Year-end working paper file is currently being prepared; and
- There are currently 24 people on the waiting list.

20. APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Nil

21. PROCLAMATIONS

Nil

22. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Chandler took a moment to acknowledged that this week is 'School Staff Appreciation Week.'

23. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Mayor Steve Ogden

Jeremy Crosby, CAO