

# **VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS**

## **Regular Meeting** **December 15, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of New Minas Village Commission was held in the Conference Room at the Village Office on Monday, December 15, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

### **In Attendance**

Chair Ted Nicholson  
Vice-Chair Marvin Messom  
Commissioner Sherry Swanburg  
Commissioner Wayne Merrill  
Commissioner Dave Chaulk  
Heidi Foshay-Kimball, Legal Advisor  
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer

### **Call To Order**

Chair Nicholson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m..

### **Approval of Minutes**

**It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Merrill, that the Minutes of November 17, 2003 Regular Session, November 17, 2003 Special Session, November 26, 2003 Special Session Joint Village Commission/Water Commission, and November 27, 2003 Special Session be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED**

### **Ratification of Telephone Poll: Motion November 17, 2003 Special Session**

**It was moved by Commissioner Merrill, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that telephone poll conducted to approve Motion from Special Session on November 17, 2003, be ratified. MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval of Agenda December 15, 2003**

The Agenda was approved with the following changes:

- Item 7c under New Business be moved to 4a to accommodate Mr. Connors' presence.
- 7a under New Business to become "Honorarium Request – Fire Department"

**Land Trade - Connors Diesel Limited**

It was recommended in a report by the Clerk Treasurer that the land trade with Connors Diesel Limited continue.

Commissioner Swanburg requested that the Engineer provide the Commission with a recommendation, and the item was tabled for the next meeting.

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

Personal Use of Vehicles

**It was moved by Commissioner Merrill, seconded by Commissioner Messom that the recommendations in the Clerk Treasurer's report be accepted and a Policy be developed for approval at the January session. MOTION CARRIED 1 Nay Vote – Commissioner Swanburg**

**Committee Reports**

Recreation Committee – Commissioner Chaulk

Commissioner Chaulk gave the report from the Recreation Committee meeting.

- The Recreation Committee recommended that Flower Baskets and Christmas Decorations expenses be removed from the Recreation Budget
- Village should pay for the Recreation Director's membership to RNS
- Recommended that citizen members once again receive meeting pay, effective April 1, 2003.

**It was moved by Commissioner Chaulk, seconded by Commissioner Messom that Commissioner Swanburg be appointed as Vice-Chair to the Recreation Committee. MOTION CARRIED.**

**It was moved by Commissioner Chaulk, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the Report of the Recreation Committee be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

Water and Sewer Committee Report – Vice-Chair Messom

- Water Billing estimation will likely take place again in June, 2004. Some bugs have to be worked out to make the process run more efficiently than the 2003 estimated billing
- Aldershot Sewer expansion will not cost the

Commission any money

- o Woodvale Tank undergoing necessary repairs to solve problems with constriction of water flow and confined space. Approximate cost \$20,000.

**It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Merrill that the Woodvale Water Tank undergo necessary repairs as reported by the Superintendent of Public Works and the Commission's Engineer.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commission Merrill that the Report from the Water and Sewer Committee be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED.**

Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Swanburg advised no meeting had taken place.

**Honorarium – Fire Department**

**It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Merrill, that the Honorarium for the Fire Department in the amount of \$8,500 be approved as budgeted.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Laurie Ward Request**

**It was moved by Commissioner Merrill, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that, after reviewing the report with regard to the request for compensation from Mr. Laurie Ward for water pooling on his property, the Commission's decision of September 15, 2003 to not carry out any work on his property will remain the same.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Appointment of Administrative Assistant**

**It was moved by Commissioner Merrill, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that the recommendation of the Clerk Treasurer to hire Lynn Spenser as Administrative Assistant for the Village of New Minas, be approved per the report.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval of Payment of Invoice – Welton Construction Limited (Contamination Cleanup)**

**It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Merrill that the Invoice from Welton Construction Limited for the contamination cleanup at the Civic Centre in the amount of \$23,460.35 be approved for payment.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Commissioner Messom and Supt of Public Works Peter Pothier advised that we are now in Phase II of the cleanup and the process will be on-going for some time as far as monitoring. Investigation will be carried out to determine if funding through the “green” program is available.

**Approval of Christmas Bonuses**

**It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that Christmas Bonuses in accordance with the list provided by the Clerk Treasurer be paid. MOTION CARRIED – 2 nay votes Commissioner Chaulk and Commissioner Merrill**

**Christmas Decorations**

Commissioner Swanburg advised she has received negative comments about the Village’s Christmas decorations, particularly in comparison with other communities. It was decided that new Christmas decorations will be considered in the 2004/2005 budgeting process, and that it be considered to cut back in the geographical area.

**Discussion – Policy on Urgent Situation Action**

Discussion took place on the Commission’s stand on urgent situation action (including press notification), and the need for a policy. Commissioner Swanburg offered some information, and the Clerk Treasurer will advertise on the List Serve for any municipal policies currently in place.

**Update – Computer Programs**

The Clerk Treasurer presented a report on the computer needs of the Village. She advised that during the investigation to purchase a payroll program for the Commission, it was identified that the Village’s accounting programs had not been upgraded for 20 years. The only budget for 2003/2004 is for payroll programs.

**It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Chaulk, to approve Option 1 of the recommendations from the Clerk Treasurer for the purchase of a computer payroll program. MOTION CARRIED**

**Wellness Centre – Approval of Consultant**

**It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Merrill that Richard G. Ramsay Management Consultants be awarded the contract for the feasibility study of the Wellness Centre, based on the recommendation of the Wellness Centre Committee, provided funding can be secured. MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Merrill, seconded by Commissioner Messom, that Richard G. Ramsay Management Consultants be requested to provide funding application to Kings CED and ACOA for the Wellness Centre, provided the consultant contract is funded, as above.**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Purchase Sewer Capacity  
 – Scotian Gold portion**

Discussion on the background of the sewer capacity agreement between Kings County, Scotian Gold, Village of New Minas and other parties took place. It was the feeling of the members present that the Village does wish to be included in the capacity purchase; however, the Village Commission has some issues with having paid for sewer capacity which was not actually available, over the past number of years. Heidi Foshay-Kimball will be provided with information in this regard from Mr. Doug Seamone, and will request compensation for this expense prior to signing an agreement for any future capacity purchase.

**Meeting Venue**

Discussion took place on the problems encountered with using the Civic Centre auditorium for Commission meetings when an audience is expected. Staff will investigate the Civic Centre Auditorium calendar to determine if the second Tuesday of each month would be easier to book. If this is not possible, the Fire Hall conference room would be available the second Tuesday of each month. Staff will determine this and advise the Commissioners well in advance of the January meeting.

**Correspondence: Letter  
from Dean Hatt**

A letter from Mr. Dean Hatt was distributed for perusal. Mr. Hatt who commended Superintendent of Public Works Peter Pothier for his most efficient response and follow up to a problem with a sewer line connected to his property.

**Mr. Dan Watters,  
District 11 Councillor**

Mr. Watters ran over some of the Kings County items which are of concern to the Village:

- Billing System used by Kings County
- Availability of 5% Open Space Fund monies. He recommended that Mr. Ramsay be urged to apply for funding of the Wellness Centre
- He advised Kings County will be requesting – 0- in taxes for 2004/2005
- He expressed a desire to see an improvement in the aesthetics of the Village in certain areas

**It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Merrill that Terry Silver be appointed as Deputy-Chair of the Sewer Commission. MOTION CARRIED**

**Adjournment**

**On motion of Commissioner Messom, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m..**

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Ted Nicholson, Chair

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Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer