

VILLAGE COMMISSION OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR MEETING
December 13, 2004
7:00 p.m..

The Village Commission of New Minas met on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Centre.

In Attendance

Chair Dave Chaulk
Vice-Chair Linda Lockhart
Commissioner Marvin Messom
Commissioner Sherry Swanburg
Commissioner Ted Nicholson
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

Mr. Eric Smith, Councillor District 11
Mr. Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works
Mr. Gerard Hamilton, Water Systems Operator
Mr. Blair Coldwell, resident
Mr. Bill Milligan, Sidewalk Clearing Contractor
Mr. Les Barrett, resident

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order

Approval Of
Minutes:

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that the minutes of the Regular Commission meeting held November 8, 2004 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held November 8, 2004 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held November 30, 2004 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that the Agenda for the December 13, 2004 Commission meeting be approved with the following additions: Under “New Business”, add “(d) Staff – Commissioner Messom”, and “(e) Honoraria – Committee Members – Vice-Chair Lockhart”. **MOTION CARRIED**

Business Arising from the Minutes

**(a) Petty Traders’
Bylaw - Update**

The Clerk advised that, pursuant to direction from the November 2004 Commission meeting, the Commissioners were to advise her of any permitted uses they would like to have included in the Land Use Bylaw, and Kings County staff would draft an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw for their consideration. To date, only one recommendation has been received. The Commission agreed that the Clerk will provide a list to Kings County staff as received by the January 2005 meeting.

**(b) Esso Property -
Update**

The Clerk provided a written and verbal report to the Commission on the latest information regarding the Esso property in New Minas (copy of report attached to original minutes). The Clerk was requested to find out more details on the Irving property in Wolfville (such as length of time to remove the buildings, complete environmental clearance, etc.).

**(c) Purchasing and
Tendering Policy –
Vice-Chair Lockhart**

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Messom that this item be deferred to another meeting. MOTION CARRIED

(d) Civic Numbering

The Clerk gave a verbal and written report with regard to the problems expressed some months ago by Mr. Edwin Ditmars in his subdivision.

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Commissioner Messom that a letter be written to Mr. Edwin Ditmars advising that the Village has no authority to consider his request, and suggesting that he meet with Kings County Planning staff to come to a resolution to his problem. MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Recreation
Advisory Committee
– Commissioner
Nicholson

Commissioner Nicholson advised that there was no RAC meeting held since the last Commission meeting due to no quorum; therefore, no report was available.

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Commissioner Messom that a review of the Recreation Advisory Committee Guidelines take place and changing of the quorum number requirements be considered. MOTION CARRIED

(b) Water
Commission-
Commissioner
Messom

Commissioner Messom reported the following from the Water Commission meeting:

- Hydrants have all been checked and marked
- Greenwich system is now up and running and connections being made

It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that the report of the Water Commission be accepted as stated. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Area Advisory
Committee –
Commissioner
Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg reported that the Area Advisory Committee met on November 22nd, to deal with the Yellow Meadow B & B Application for Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw. She stated Dave Chaulk chaired the meeting because Yellow Meadow is located on her street. The AAC recommended to the Kings County Planning Advisory Committee that the application be rejected, based on the recommendation of County Planners. The County of Kings will hear the details of the application at a meeting to be held on December 14, 2004 at 9:00 a.m..

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that the report of the Area Advisory Committee be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Wellness Facility
Committee –
Commissioner
Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg read a statement with regard to the Wellness Facility Project. The statement is as follows:

“As the previous Recreation Director for New Minas and also as a citizen of New Minas, I have given my support and commitment toward the creation of a Wellness Centre. The vision for this centre was to see it attached to the New Minas

Elementary school, benefiting not only the children but the greater citizens of Kings County.

This idea was originally conceived by a small group of keen and interested citizens of New Minas who volunteered many hours to bring this project into reality. This type of initiative and drive is crucial to a project like this, and I would like to thank the many people who volunteered their time.

My duty as a Commissioner of the Village of New Minas to make decisions that I believe will benefit the well being of the citizens of New Minas, so while I continue to strongly support the concept of a Wellness Centre, it is my belief that the work completed to date, has not produced the necessary foundation to partner with the school board. As a Commissioner of the Village of New Minas representing its residents, I am concerned that to date, no funding and no Wellness committee is in place to support this project along with the fact that concrete plans and costs have yet to be determined. Having said that, I continue to support this concept and believe the Village should be open and prepared to look at other options in the very near future. It is therefore with regret that I

Moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that we not partner with the School Board for a Wellness Centre. MOTION CARRIED

Chair Chaulk reiterated Commissioner Swanburg's comments and stated that he fully supports the concept of a wellness centre for New Minas and believes it is something the Commission should continue to work towards. He stated that the necessary groundwork has not been done to enable the Commission to continue at this time.

Commissioner Messom agreed, and expressed his disappointment that the project could not continue at this time, but felt the Commission will be able to look at it again in the very near future.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Sidewalk Snow Clearing – Vice-Chair Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated her dissatisfaction on the November 13, 2004 snowstorm sidewalk clearing. She stated that Milne Avenue and Prospect Road were not cleared until Tuesday, and wondered why it took so long to clear the snow. Chair Chaulk stated he also had concerns that the clearing was delayed and

was not well done when it was done.

Mr. Bill Milligan, the Village's sidewalk ploughing contractor, was asked for an explanation. He stated that the storm was an exceptionally bad one: it came earlier than usual and his company's equipment and that of DOT were barely ready; with the power outage, gas was not available for a period of time. He stated that late Saturday evening he had made arrangements with Kentville to exchange fuel for equipment time, and by Tuesday, his equipment was back and ready to operate. Then, he stated, his equipment encountered some mechanical problems because of severed posts caused by DOT equipment.

Mr. Milligan stated his staff did the best they could under the circumstances and have made provisions for this type of thing happening again. Chair Chaulk asked if it was prudent for them to let out their equipment to Kentville for 10 to 12 hours, when the possibility of power restoration might have happened within an hour. Mr. Milligan stated at that time all reports were indicating that the power would be off an additional 72 hours. He also stated that he has an agreement with Kentville to get needed fuel from them in the event of another power outage.

Chair Chaulk also asked about the large tractor ploughing Milne avenue, and the ineffectiveness of that. Mr. Milligan stated that due to the weight of the snow, the larger piece of equipment was necessary initially, and the smaller snow blower went along the sidewalks to clean up after that. Again he stated that the circumstances were extreme, and he plans to be prepared for the next storm.

The Superintendent of Public Works will closely monitor the relationship between the contractor, the Village and DOT. Commissioner Messom stated that the Village would expect in the future that lack of fuel would no longer be an issue, and Mr. Milligan assured him of that.

Vice-Chair Lockhart asked Mr. Milligan if he could pay closer attention to Prospect Street, where many persons from the Seniors' Complex walk, and asked that more salt be used in that area. She thanked Mr. Milligan for his explanations.

(b) **Storm Preparedness – Commissioner**

Commissioner Swanburg reiterated to the Commissioners the call she had received from a concerned citizen whose elderly mother lives in New Minas, and the fact that she was not aware

Swanburg

of any emergency help during the snowstorm and power outage in November. She asked if the Commissioners are satisfied that the Commission is doing all it can to provide information to the residents at times like these.

Chair Chaulk advised, from first-hand knowledge, that the emergency information was announced on a regular basis, and although every attempt is made to get the word out, there is always someone who will miss it. Vice-Chair Lockhart mentioned that she was totally isolated; she didn't even have a phone. She stated that several years ago, the Fire Department went around announcing of a water shortage; maybe this type of thing could be considered in times of emergency. Commissioner Messom stated that the Fire Department worked hard to make sure they could accommodate the public need, and are continuing to do so by purchasing a generator. Also, the fact the Fire Chief is a member of EMO is a huge benefit to New Minas. Peter Pothier advised that the Village is in the initial stages of securing a generator for the wells in emergency situations, and he is getting quotes and recommendations from electricians.

Gerard Hamilton provided some information at the meeting on the staff's challenges during the power outage. Chair Chaulk commended Gerard for handling this difficult situation with such proficiency. He also stated that a thank you should go to Jennifer Coolen who voluntarily assisted Gerard during the power outage at the sewer lift stations and water sites.

(c) Policies for Consideration**Facilities Use Policy**

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Messom that the Facilities Use Policy be approved as discussed. MOTION CARRIED

Court Attendance Duty Policy

It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that the Court Attendance Duty Policy be approved as discussed. MOTION CARRIED

Training and Development Policy

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg be deferred to another meeting. MOTION CARRIED

**Staff – Commissioner
Messom**

Commissioner Messom thanked the staff for all their efforts and hard work on behalf of the Commission throughout the year. He stated that the staff constructed and presented two different floats in the local summer and Christmas parades. He said the staff worked hard to provide a lovely Christmas dinner and evening for the Commissioners, Committee members and related organizations and their guests. He stated that a letter was received from a local resident (living near a lift station), on his handling of a potentially dangerous situation during the power outage. Commissioner Messom again thanked Jennifer for her assistance at this time, as well.

He also wanted to thank the New Minas Volunteer Fire Department for their dedication and hard work in providing such an essential service to the residents.

**Honoraria –
Committee Members**

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that honoraria be issued to all Committee members for the year, per budget. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

The Commissioners and staff extends warm wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2005 to all the residents and business owners in the Village of New Minas.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Nicholson, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m..

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer