

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
February 13, 2006
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on February 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Centre.

In Attendance

Dave Chaulk, Chair
Linda Lockhart, Vice-Chair
Les Barrett, Commissioner
Dale Pineo, Commissioner
Sherry Swanburg, Commissioner
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer

Also in Attendance:

Maynard Stevens, Resident
Dean Hatt, Resident
Blair Coldwell, Resident
Stephen Schofield, Resident
Mark Redmond, Resident
Don Zwicker, Resident
Derek Coombs, Resident
Sam Milne, Resident
John Mroz, Resident
Rod MacInnis, Resident
Malcolm Keith, Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order. He recognized former Commissioner Rod MacInnis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 9, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: February 13, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the Agenda of the February 13, 2006 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

(a) Parking – First United Baptist Church – Update

T. Silver advised that information had been forwarded to the Village's Solicitor in December regarding the request from the First United Baptist Church to develop a parking lot east of the Church property and adjacent to the eastern Lockhart Ryan Park entrance. She stated Ms. Howatt had requested information from the Baptist Church, and that request has been forwarded to them. No further update is available at this time.

(b) New Building – Update Vice-Chair Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart advised that a Building Ad Hoc Committee was formed to deal with discussions around alternate office/civic centre accommodations. She read from an update from the Clerk Treasurer (attached to original minutes), which stated that a tour of the "Advertiser" building took place. Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that a meeting would be set up in early March to discuss this and more options.

(c) Strategic Planning – Update

Chair Chaulk read an update from the Clerk Treasurer (attached to original minutes), which stated that an informal meeting with Mr. Byron MacDonald of Kings CED is being held on February 23rd.

Commissioner Swanburg stated that the Clerk's report mentioned the availability of binders, and asked the Clerk if these were available. T. Silver stated that Commission was emailed some time ago that these binders were in the front office on the filing cabinet, and that they are still located there.

(d) New Minas South – Update Vice-Chair Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that at the last Commission meeting, a motion was passed to conduct a survey of the real property owners in the New Minas South area to determine if there was enough interest in expanding the Village's boundaries. She said the survey form has been completed, and stated that Commissioner Barrett has met with some of the developers of a large portion of this area. She asked Commissioner Barrett to update the Commission.

Chair Chaulk gave Commissioner Barrett the opportunity to speak. Commissioner Barrett stated that he had met with several key people involved in the development of the lands south of the 101 adjacent to the New Minas boundaries. He said that the developers have made an application to Kings County to re-designate the area as Country Residential. He recommended that the Commission wait for the outcome of this application to continue with conducting a survey to expand the boundaries.

Commissioner Swanburg asked when the survey would be completed. Commissioner Barrett stated it would be his opinion that nothing be done until the County's budget was set. He also recommended that when the time comes, the Village Commission should concentrate on the undeveloped land in New Minas South, rather than Village Green area.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the survey of real property landowners in the New Minas south area be postponed until May. MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Water Commission – Vice Chair Linda Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart gave the report of the Water Commission (written report attached to original minutes). She highlighted the following items:

- Infrastructure funding application for water system upgrades and extension being re-submitted
- The Clerk has written to the Minister of Department of Environment protesting the government's non-commitment to funding regulatory requirement changes for water utilities.
- Discussion has begun on the possibility of a water rate study process in the near future.
- An application has been sent to MLA David Morse for a Private Members Bill to amend the Water Utility Bylaw to increase remuneration for Commissioners in addition to some housekeeping items.
- The staff have been given the go-ahead to design a policy to deal with water utility items such as billing landlords for water.
- The Water Commission agreed to supply water to the Morse Subdivision in Greenwich.

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

(b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo gave the report of the Area Advisory Committee (written report attached to the original minutes). He highlighted the following items:

- Development Agreement application by Mark and Kristin Redmond for semi-detached residences on Prospect Road recommended to County PAC
- Development Agreement on Cornwallis Avenue for Crosbie House recommended to County PAC

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the report of the Area Advisory Committee be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Recreation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg gave a verbal report of the Recreation Advisory Committee. She highlighted the following items from the meeting held February 7th:

- Review of the Healthy Living Tax Incentive Program discussed
- Letter from Mr. Maynard Stevens recommending the Village's participation in trail development on the former rail bed. Jennifer Coolen is investigating this
- Committee members were requested by Jennifer Coolen to each bring two goals for the Committee to the next meeting

- A community-wide healthy living contest is being initiated
- Volunteer Awards banquet to be held Friday, March 31st.

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the report of the Recreation Advisory Committee be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(d) Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Barrett

Commissioner Barrett gave a verbal report of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held in January. He highlighted the following items:

- Request to amend the minutes by Department of Transportation personnel
- Plowing of sidewalks at the new connector road intersection was a topic of discussion with DOT. The TAC recommended that in the interim the Village would plow the sidewalks at this location, even though the Village was not advised that the sidewalks would be installed. Members felt that a safety concern would be addressed by the Village, and financial concerns would be discussed separately.
- Alders Avenue traffic concerns were discussed with Mr. Etter, a resident of that street. The Engineer offered to investigate options for a traffic study.
- Cloverleaf drive water run-off concerns were also discussed, and Mr. Roger Larkin from DOT agreed to contact the Village's engineer in this regard.
- The cutting and poor repairs of the sidewalk on Commercial Street beside the Bank of Nova Scotia was discussed. The Clerk was directed to advise DOT that the Village would be repairing this and billing DOT.
- Commissioner Pineo's letter of concern to the Committee about mal-functioning traffic lights at the Canadian Tire intersection was discussed, and follow up contact with DOT.
- Sharon Boyd of Minasvale Subdivision approached the Committee with her concerns about the lands along the dyke being used by off-road vehicles, and the noise pollution caused by their use. Commissioner Barrett stated that one part of the discussion was with regard to ownership, and he had spoken with the people involved and confirmed the Committee's findings of ownership.
- The Committee's concerns about sidewalk cutting on Highland Avenue, and DOT's allowing this to take place without any contact with the Village, was discussed. In December. DOT agreed to look into it, but nothing has been done.

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the report of the Transportation Advisory Committee be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(e) Building Committee – Vice-Chair Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that the items for this Committee report were discussed earlier in the meeting, and the Commission agreed that no report was necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Skateboard Park Cover – Commissioner Swanburg

Chair Chaulk stated that this item was addressed at the Recreation Advisory Committee. Commissioner Swanburg stated that she had asked to have this placed on the Agenda because of her concerns several months ago that a small child could fall in the Skateboard Park bowl after a light snowfall and not be able to get out. She said Jennifer Coolen had provided a report on reasons why tarping the bowl would not be practical, and she read Jennifer's report (attached to original minutes).

Commissioner Swanburg stated that also at the RAC meeting, discussion took place with regard to graffiti in the skateboard park. T. Silver said that Jennifer had explained that when these instances arise, the skateboarders have been very diligent in removing any unwanted graffiti. She stated that the local skateboarders have stated that they were not responsible for any graffiti; they are very proud of the park and take good care of it. The local skateboarders have a solution that safely removes paint, and they take it upon themselves to do so. Jennifer monitors this as well.

(b) Motion to Write off Taxes for Water Utility for 2004/2005

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that outstanding Village taxes on the New Minas Water Utility be written off. MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter from Tara-Lynn Cosman, for Financial Support

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the Clerk write to Mrs. Wiseman and advise her that the Village Commission is unable to provide financial support for her daughter, Tara-Lynn Cosman. MOTION CARRIED

(b) Letter from Apple Blossom Festival for Letter of Support

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the Clerk write a letter of support for the Apple Blossom Festival MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mr. John Mroz

Mr. Mroz asked if the following could be provided by the next Commission meeting:
A comparison of the Kings County and New Minas Tax and Assessment figures.

Mr. Mroz asked if there was anything new with regard to the status of the lawsuits against the Commission by Vice-Chair Lockhart and Commissioner Swanburg. Chair Chaulk stated that the process is moving forward, but he was unable to give specific details on the advice of the Village's solicitor.

Mr. Dean Hatt

Mr. Hatt asked if the Commission is considering purchasing or building a new office/civic centre complex or just looking at options. Chair Chaulk advised that the Commission is in the very initial stages of investigating possibilities.

Mr. Sam Milne

Mr. Milne asked about the parking arrangement with the Baptist Church. He asked why this has taken so long, and cautioned the Commission on turning over valuable parkland.

Chair Chaulk advised Mr. Milne that the Church had approached the Commission almost a year ago to jointly develop a portion of land between the Baptist Church and the east entrance to Lockhart Ryan Park. T. Silver went on to explain that a proposed plan was submitted to the Commission and approval in principle was made in the fall. Information was forwarded to the Village's solicitor, the process was initiated and information has been requested from the Baptist Church, and the Commission office is awaiting this information.

Mr. Milne thanked the Chair and Clerk for the information.

Mr. Derrick Coombs and Mr. Malcolm Keith

Mr. Coombs and Mr. Keith spoke on behalf of the ATV Club, which is responsible for the "Thunder in the Valley" fund-raiser. Mr. Coombs stated that they have received information that there is a move afoot to prohibit the use of ATV vehicles, thereby shutting down their fundraiser every fall. He stated that there would be a huge loss of revenue for the Club.

Chair Chaulk stated that several citizens are concerned about the ATV activity along the northern boundary of New Minas and along the rail bed, but no mention was made of shutting down the organization's fundraising week-end. T. Silver stated that it is recorded in the minutes that the several citizens who have approached the Commission have said that they have no problem with the fund-raising week-end activities at all because they recognize the importance of it.

Commissioner Barrett stated it was his opinion that there were no concerns from anyone speaking with the Commission about the "Thunder In the Valley" week end.

Mr. Coombs and Mr. Keith thanked the Commission for this information.

Mr. Maynard Stevens

Mr. Stevens expressed concern that the Lions Club has just donated \$3,000 for a new floor in the basement of the civic centre, and now the Commission is considering building or buying a new facility. Chair Chaulk stated that this concept is a long way away; no plans are in the foreseeable future at this point.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Barrett, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer