

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
January 9, 2006
7:00 p.m.

The Regular meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on January 9, 2006 in the Civic Centre, New Minas, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also in Attendance: Maynard Stevens, Resident
Dean Hatt, Resident
Blair Coldwell, Resident
Marvin Messom, Resident
Barb Messom, Resident
Gwyn Phillips, Resident
Travis Tibbitts, Resident
Stephen Schofield, Resident
Don Zwicker, Resident
Sam Milne, Resident
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works
John Mroz, Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair Chaulk recognized former Commissioner Marvin Messom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 12, 2005

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the minutes of the Regular meeting held December 12, 2005 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: January 9, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice Chair Lockhart, that the Regular Commission Meeting Agenda for January 9, 2006 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- (a) Parking – First United Baptist Church – Update – The Clerk Treasurer stated that a letter has been forwarded to the Village’s Solicitor and she is currently gathering information for this project.
- (b) New Building – Update – Clerk Treasurer stated that she searched the files in the office, as well as files in the Public Works building, and was unable to find the Bertinelli plans for a proposed new Civic Centre. She stated that the Topline Plans have been in the office for viewing by the Commissioners.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) Water Commission – Vice Chair Linda Lockhart – Vice Chair Lockhart stated there was no meeting in December; therefore no report at this time.
- (b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo – Commissioner Pineo stated there was no Area Advisory Committee since the last Commission meeting; therefore no report at this time.
- (c) Recreation Advisory Committee - Commissioner Swanburg reported on the Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held on January 3. She highlighted the following items:
- Sherry Swanburg elected Committee Chair
 - Les Sequeria elected Committee Vice-Chair
 - Maynard Stevens welcomed as new Committee citizen member
 - 2011 Winter Games process is forging ahead. She has agreed to represent the Village of New Minas, with Recreation Director Jennifer Coolen, at the 2011 Winter Games meetings.
 - In February, the Village of New Minas will be sponsoring free information sessions to the public
 - The Skateboard Park has been completed
 - The Committee expressed concern that the VRCDA meetings are being held in Halifax instead of the Valley; Jennifer will voice this concern to that Association.

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice Chair Lockhart, that the report of the Recreation Advisory Committee be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

- (d) Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Barrett – Commissioner Barrett reported on the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on December 13, 2005 with the Department of Transportation. He stated the next meeting of the TAC will be held on January 12th, and all the items discussed at the previous meeting in December will be on the Agenda. The public is welcome to attend.

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

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Strategic Planning Process – Chair Chaulk – Chair Chaulk stated that he placed this item on the Agenda after the presentation by Mr. MacDonald from Kings CED, at which time Mr. MacDonald stated his organization would assist the Village in the development of a Strategic Plan.

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that a meeting be set up with Mr. Byron MacDonald to initiate the process of developing a Strategic Plan for the Village of New Minas. MOTION CARRIED

- (b) New Minas South – Vice-Chair Lockhart – Vice Chair Lockhart stated she placed this item on the Agenda, and asked if any of the Commissioners were interested in making an application to extend the Village Boundaries to south of the 101 Highway.

Commissioner Barrett asked what the Village could offer as an incentive to the property owners in that area to join the Village of New Minas. Vice Chair Lockhart stated that the area south of the 101 would be looking for water and sewer services, due to the zoning requirements. Commissioner Barrett stated that this should go to the Area Advisory Committee for discussion and Vice Chair Lockhart stated that this is the role of the Village Commission. Chair Chaulk agreed with Commissioner Barrett that there should be an incentive for the electors in this area to join the Village, because it would mean extra taxes for them (Village Rates), and they would need to know what they would receive for these extra taxes. Commissioner Swanburg stated she feels that New Minas South should be included in the Village’s boundaries.

It was moved by Vice Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that the Village of New Minas conduct a survey of the owners of real property in the southern section of Highway 101 for the purposes of expanding the Village boundaries. MOTION CARRIED.

Vice Chair Lockhart offered to formulate this survey.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Marvin Messom – Asked the Commission why they would think people outside the Village limits would want to consider being part of the Village and have to pay double taxes. He stated they should get the Village’s services anyway, but it doesn’t make sense for them to want to pay double taxes.

Sam Milne – asked where the boundary ends, and this was explained to him. He also stated he doesn’t understand why ratepayers would have to pay “double” taxes. Chair Chaulk explained that they would not pay double taxes, but would have to pay the Village rate, plus water and sewer fees for those services. Sam stated that fire service tax would likely be added as well.

Don Zwicker – compared taxes on his house in New Minas with those paid by the owner of a house in the Canaan Subdivision which is assessed twice as much as his, and stated he pays more taxes because he lives within the Village limits.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice Chair Lockhart, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer