

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
September 11, 2006
7:00 p.m.

The Regular meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on September 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, New Minas.

In Attendance

Byron McDonald, Kings CED
Sandra Horley, Resident
Gwyn Phillips, Resident
Eric Smith, Resident, Councillor District 11
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works
Gerard Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works
Scott Callaghan, Resident
Shannon Callaghan, Resident
Stephen Schofield, Resident
Sam Milne, Resident
Mark Redmond, Resident
Don Zwicker, Resident
Audrey Herron, Resident
Carla Davison, Resident
Leo Davison, Resident
Murray Herron, Resident
David Etter, Resident
Marvin Messom, Resident
Gordon Silver, Resident
Rod Dawe, Village Employee
Adam Landry, Resident

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Chaulk

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone and thanked all for coming to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting July 10, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Vice-Chair Pineo, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 10, 2006 be approved as circulated.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: September 11, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the Agenda for the meeting of September 11, 2006, be approved with the following addition: Item (d) New Business, add *Resignation, Jennifer Coolen* MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION – BYRON MACDONALD, KINGS CED – Strategic Planning Process

Chair Chaulk welcomed Mr. Byron MacDonald from Kings CED. He stated that Mr. MacDonald had facilitated a Commission Strategic Planning Process and is here to follow up on that process.

Mr. MacDonald thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend the meeting tonight; also for the opportunity to take part in the Strategic Planning Process. The result of the process was to set the Commission's goals, as outlined in his report, with the two conclusions being:

- To request an amendment to Village's Sector plan to make Kings County Council more appreciative of the views of the Village Commission in matters relating to Planning within the Village.
- Develop an Economic Development Committee

Mr. MacDonald presented the Chair with an original copy of his report. Chair Chaulk thanked Mr. MacDonald for his participation in the process and stated he found it to be beneficial.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

(a) Sidewalk Projects – Capital Borrowing – Date for Public Meeting

Chair Chaulk stated that the Commission agreed to seek approval from the electors of New Minas to borrow \$2M to construct new sidewalks throughout the Village. He asked the Commission if they wanted to set a meeting now. Commissioner Lockhart stated that the end of October would be a good time, and it was agreed that the Clerk Treasurer would check dates, book a venue and advertise. Chair Chaulk stated that the Fire Hall should be booked because it is hoped that there will be a large number of electors present.

(b) Council Attendance at Commission Meetings – Vice-Chair Pineo

Vice-Chair Pineo stated he had asked to have this placed back on the Agenda because he felt the issue was not dealt with properly by the Commission at the last meeting. He said he felt Councillor Smith fully explained his situation at the December '05 meeting when he advised the Commission that he has Council commitments the second Monday of every month, and would make any Commission meeting he could. Vice-Chair Pineo stated that Councillor Smith also invited Commissioners to speak with him directly if they had any concerns he should take back to Council, and he would meet with them monthly if they requested him to do so. Vice-Chair Pineo stated that the Commission

must exercise fairness in their requirements, and Councillor Smith's offer is very acceptable to him.

Commissioner Barrett asked Councillor Smith if he is busy every second Monday. Councillor Smith stated that since December 8th, 2005, he has had two Monday evenings when he did not have a meeting, and he attended the Commission meeting one of those Mondays. He stated that tonight he has two meetings at 7:00, and has to leave this meeting now to arrive late at the other meeting. Councillor Smith stated that he gets copies of all the minutes of the Commission and Committee meetings and is aware of Commission business; he stated he will meet with the Commissioners if they request him to do so.

Commissioner Barrett stated that the concerns were not expressed by the Commission, but by a citizen. Councillor Smith stated that if he could be here at all the meetings, he certainly would be, but he is elected as a County Councillor and must dedicate his time to Council meetings first.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Water Commission - Commissioner Linda Lockhart

Commissioner Lockhart stated that the last Water Commission meeting was held on July 22nd, and highlighted the following items from that meeting (report attached to original minutes):

- There was nothing new on the Water Bylaw Amendment, except the Clerk had forwarded documentation to the Board as required
- Doug Seamone has provided Step 2 of the GUDI Protocol
- A request for applications for an Assistant Superintendent of Public Works was posted internally, and one application was received. Congratulations to Gerard Hamilton for being the successful applicant
- Ben Sivak, County Planner, attended the meeting to address concerns regarding the proposed application for amendment to the New Minas Sector Plan by Jerry's RV. The Commission members requested the County to address the following concerns:
 1. An abandoned well on the property
 2. Washing vehicles on the premises
 3. Storage of hazardous materials
 4. Waste Disposal – on-site dumping station
- The Water Commission gave the Engineer authority to begin a Water Rate Study
- A request was received from the Union to open the contract to negotiate salaries; the Commission agreed to upon up the contract in its entirety.
- The Clerk updated the Water Commission on Gas Tax Funding
- The Superintendent's Monthly report was accepted.

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the Water Commission report be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

(b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Hatt

Commissioner Hatt stated that there was no Area Advisory Committee meeting since the last Commission meeting, and therefore no report.

(c) Recreation Advisory Committee – Vice-Chair Pineo

Vice-Chair Pineo stated that there was no Recreation Advisory Committee meeting since the last Commission meeting, and therefore no report.

(d) Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Hatt

Commissioner Hatt stated that there was no Transportation Advisory Committee meeting since the last Commission meeting, but he asked permission to give an update on items from that Committee. Chair Chaulk permitted Commissioner Hatt to do so.

Commissioner Hatt highlighted the following items:

- The Traffic Study has been moving ahead and a Draft Report has been presented. The report identifies the results of traffic and accident counts.
- The next meeting is scheduled for September 19th at 2:00 and Mr. Brian Ward from NSDOTPW has agreed to attend to address concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) New Minas South

Chair Chaulk stated that at a previous meeting, Commissioner Lockhart asked to have this item placed on the September Agenda. Commissioner Lockhart stated that she had once thought it would be a good idea to make an application to have New Minas expand its boundaries, but she has changed her mind. No further discussion ensued.

(b) Request County to Revise Terms of Reference for Area Advisory Committee

The Clerk Treasurer stated that the Commission made a request a year and a half ago or more to the County to review the Terms of Reference for the Area Advisory Committee, and to date nothing has happened in that regard.

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Vice-Chair Pineo, that the Area Advisory Committee be requested to consider amending the Kings County Terms of Reference for the New Minas Area Advisory Committee to bring them up to date.

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Fall 2006 Debenture Funding

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart, that the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation be requested to place \$2,000,000 in the Fall Debenture requests, for the Village of New Minas. MOTION CARRIED

(d) Legal Services

Chair Chaulk stated that the Commission had been previously advised that Ms. Paula Howatt no longer works with Burchell MacDougall, and has joined another firm. Ms. Howatt has agreed to continue to handle the Village's legal affairs, and Burchell MacDougall have agreed to turn these files over to Ms. Howatt. The Commissioners all agreed to keep all Village files with Ms. Paula Howatt.

(e) Resignation, Jennifer Coolen, Director of Recreation

Chair Chaulk stated that Jennifer Coolen, the Village's Director of Recreation, has submitted her resignation, effective September 15, 2006. He stated that Jennifer is embarking on an exciting career in the Northwest Territories, and her last day is this Friday.

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, to accept the resignation of Jennifer Coolen, with regret. MOTION CARRIED

Chair Chaulk, on behalf of the Commission, expressed a sincere "thank you" to Jennifer for what she has brought to the Commission, and to the community. He stated she has done a great job and will certainly be missed. He wished Jennifer all the best in her new endeavours.

Chair Chaulk stated the Clerk Treasurer will carry on the process of hiring a replacement for Jennifer.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter from 3rd Kentville Scout Group

The Commission referred to a letter from the 3rd Kentville Scout Group, in which the Village was thanked for the opportunity to use the basement auditorium of the Civic Centre, and requested permission to use the facility in the upcoming Scouting season.

It was the consensus of the Commissioners that as long as there are no scheduling conflicts with any New Minas group, the 3rd Kentville Scout Group is welcome to use the basement auditorium for their meetings in the upcoming year.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mr. David Etter

Mr. David Etter read a Petition from residents of Aalders Avenue North (signed Petition attached to the original minutes). He stated that it appears to be a legal document, with a lot of "whereas's", but it is not a legal document. The Petition expressed the following concerns of those signing:

- Significant increase in traffic volume, which includes "commercial heavy vehicle" traffic for which they stated the road was not designed
- Lack of law enforcement for excessive speed

- Concerns for safety of the residents
- Residents paid for the road in 1979 and there have been no significant improvements since then
- The residents petition to have the road returned to its original and stated use as a Local Interior Road.

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart that this Petition be forwarded to the New Minas Transportation Advisory Committee for placement on its next Agenda. MOTION CARRIED

Chair Chaulk commented that the Commission has had many discussions in the past, and is very sympathetic to their cause. He reiterated that the Commission has no authority to make changes with regard to streets and traffic; these are DOTPW responsibilities.

TAC Chair Dean Hatt stated that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for September 19, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., and that Mr. Brian Ward has agreed to attend the meeting to discuss other items. The Clerk will ensure that a copy of this Petition is forwarded to Mr. Ward prior to this meeting.

Mr. Etter stated again that there are a lot of “whereas’s” that might be confusing; this is not a legal document, but the “legal will of the people”, only an impact statement.

Commissioner Barrett stated that the Transportation Advisory Committee is open to the public and if Mr. Etter has an impact statement, then it should go to the Committee, but the Committee needs a copy prior to the meeting. The Clerk will provide this to the Committee.

Mr. Etter went on to give examples of motorists driving too fast, and of residents who have tried to ask motorists to slow down, and being rudely yelled at by the drivers.

Chair Chaulk stated that Mr. Ward should be told this, and reiterated Commissioner Hatt’s information about the September 19th meeting.

Mr. Gwyn Philips

Mr. Philips stated he doesn’t like coming to meetings, but they are concerned for the safety of the children. He stated he moved here because it is a nice place, and in his opinion it is crucial to not put up with this kind of “stuff”. He also cited incidents of near misses of pedestrians.

Chair Chaulk stated that the Commission has again heard the concerns, and the Commission appreciates that the residents of Aalders Avenue North have a lot of concerns. He stated that the Commission may want to consider facilitating a joint meeting with the RCMP and DOTPW. Ultimately, the Village has no authority to do anything, but would suggest the Commission facilitate a meeting of those who do have authority.

Mr. Sam Milne

Mr. Milne stated that it might be difficult to get any action on this from those with authority to do anything. He said that most people in New Minas know how to bypass Commercial Street. He cited historical traffic issues on Highland Avenue, Highbury Road, and Crescent Drive, and how difficult it is to even get a stop sign erected.

Mr. Milne asked about the status of the proposed demolition of the old Highbury School. He stated the residents built this school, and he and others hate to see the building demolished.

Commissioner Hatt stated he had spoken with the Clerk Treasurer and expressed his concerns, and T. Silver had followed up with another call to the School Board.

T. Silver advised Mr. Milne and the Commission that she contacted the School Board and passed along the concerns expressed at that time, and she contacted the School Board again and expressed the concerns recently mentioned by Commissioner Hatt. The School Board owns the property, and is demolishing the old school house because it is condemned. There is no indication at this point that the property will be disposed of, but the building will be taken down. There are a number of portable classrooms that will remain on the site to be used for the adult education programs and youth programs currently taking place.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Lockhart, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer