

VILLAGE COMMISSION OF NEW MINAS
SPECIAL MEETING
September 27, 2004

A Special Meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held in the Conference Room at the Village office on Monday, September 27, 2004 at 6:00 p.m..

In Attendance:

Chair Dave Chaulk
Vice-Chair Linda Lockhart
Commissioner Marvin Messom
Commissioner Sherry Swanburg
Director of Recreation Jennifer Coolen
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver
Consultant Rick Ramsay

**1. Consultant's Report –
Wellness Facility**

Mr. Ramsay was welcomed to the meeting to present his report for the Wellness Facility. Chair Chaulk, on the Commission's behalf, expressed disappointment to Mr. Ramsay that his Report was so late coming to the Commission.

Mr. Ramsay asked the members to accept his apology for being so late in getting the report to them. He cited work commitments and personal reasons for the delay, and acknowledged that this tardiness was inexcusable.

Mr. Ramsay went through his report and highlighted the different areas of interest. Several points which were discussed are as follows:

- Jennifer asked about the process to be taken by the Fund Raising Committee. Mr. Ramsay suggested that there would be team leaders appointed from the community to spearhead the fund-raising projects.
- The teams would most likely be volunteers. There are examples of professional fund-raisers (Yarmouth Project as an example), but Mr. Ramsay felt in this instance, volunteers could handle the effort.

Commissioner Swanburg stated that she felt some points made in Mr Ramsay's report were lacking in substance, and at this meeting there were points made verbally which, she felt, should have been included in the report. As an example, alternative fund-raising models. Mr. Ramsay stated that it was his interpretation of the Terms of Reference that such detail was not required. Commissioner Swanburg also stated that she as a Commissioner erred when they assigned the Terms of Reference to Byron MacDonald of Kings CED; this power should have, in her opinion and in hindsight, been with the Village Commission, and there most definitely would have been more specific requirements. She stated she is disturbed that the project has lost momentum due to the time lapse, and again that she is disappointed that the report is lacking in detail she feels should be contained in the report.

- Vice-Chair Lockhart asked if the Commission agrees to proceed, would it be a requirement to next go to the electors. Mr. Ramsay stated that would be a requirement in the process.
- County of Kings will have the responsibility of securing funding from Municipal Finance Corp., and then, in turn, charge a rate on the ratepayers of New Minas to recover the cost over a 20 year term.
- Estimated \$88,000 per year for operating costs – this would increase the charge to ratepayers by approximately 3 cents per \$100 of assessment.
- Vice-Chair Lockhart asked what provisions were made in the estimates for operating for carrying out the extra work. Mr. Ramsay stated that it was assumed current staff could handle the workload.
- Concern expressed that the Village may not qualify for certain grants if it does not own the facility.
- Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that to try to go to public consultation sessions without any conceptual plans and funding options would be a useless exercise.
- Next steps: (1) Village needs to consider if it is interested in pursuing this any further (2) Meeting with Stuart Jamieson from the Valley Regional School Board; (3) Go to the general public for feedback
- Mr. Ramsay advised that grants for funding can sometimes take 2 to 3 years to finalize.
- Commissioner Swanburg advised several years ago she organized a public meeting with local dignitaries, corporate citizens, etc.. The comments were made that there was commitment to the project, but the parties wanted details before committing funds.

Mr. Ramsay was thanked for his presentation.

On motion of Commissioner Messom, the meeting adjourned.