

VILLAGE COMMISSION OF NEW MINAS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
January 31, 2005
7:00 p.m.

The Committee of the Whole meeting for the Village Commission of New Minas was held on Monday, January 31, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Village Office.

In Attendance

Chair Dave Chaulk
 Vice-Chair Linda Lockhart
 Commissioner Marvin Messom
 Commissioner Sherry Swanburg
 Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver
 Village Solicitor Heidi Foshay-Kimball

Regrets

Commissioner Ted Nicholson

Call to Order

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order t 7:04 p.m..

Policies for Consideration:

Job Sharing Policy

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the Job Sharing Policy be recommended to the Commission for approval as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Probationary Policy

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that the Probationary Policy be recommended to the Commission for approval as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Messom and Village Solicitor Heidi Foshay-Kimball joined the meeting at this time.

Legal Issues

Ms. Foshay-Kimball gave the Commissioners an update on legal issues in which the Commission is involved. She stated she has received a letter from Human Rights office offering the opportunity to the Village to go to mediation on the Human Rights cases. She stated that she had received a call several months ago from an officer from the Human Rights Office who was taking over from another officer and during that conversation, she was asked if the Commission had considered mediation. She stated that at the beginning of the process the request was made and the Commission denied the request.

She then advised the Commissioners on the appearance of conflict of interest with regard to certain Commissioners participating in certain discussions, and cited the reasons for this. She explained she had received confirmation from the solicitor for the N.S. Department of Justice of her interpretation of this. Ms. Foshay-Kimball went into great detail of the procedures to be taken and the repercussions to the Commission and Commissioners should her advice not be taken. She advised that this needs to be resolved before the Commission makes any decisions on the pending legal issues.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Foshay-Kimball for the information.

Commissioner Swanburg stated that she was concerned that the solicitor received a call two months ago and the Commission was advised that there had been no communication. Chair Chaulk said it was his interpretation that the call was an introduction to a new officer, and the question for current mediation had not been forthcoming until the letter dated January 21st, 2005 was received.

Statements of Revenue and Expenditures to December 31, 2004

The Commissioners asked the Clerk Treasurer questions about the Statements of Revenue and Expenditures for the Village Operating Account and Water Commission Account.

Goals/Objectives of the Village of New Minas

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that the Goals/Objectives for the Village of New Minas be tabled to the February

**28th, 2005 Committee of the Whole meeting.
MOTION CARRIED**

Area Advisory Committee

The Commission considered the discussion at the January 10th, 2005 Commission meeting with regard to abolishing the New Minas Area Advisory Committee. Chair Chaulk advised he has given it a lot of thought, and feels that this Committee was crucial to the planning processes in the Village and is an excellent tool for the people of New Minas to have input into planning issues. He agrees with Commission Swanburg that it is frustrating when the County Council does not take the recommendations of the AAC; however, when he voiced his opinion at a Council meeting, he was assured that they do take the AAC's recommendations seriously.

Commission Swanburg stated that she has had to ask herself as a Commissioner where she can be most effective to the residents of New Minas.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commission Swanburg that the Area Advisory Committee item be tabled to the February 28th, 2005 Committee of the Whole meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Sewer Bylaw

It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart to recommend to the Commission that the Sewer Bylaw be approved as amended. MOTION CARRIED

Outline for Reporting - Recreation

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that the Outline for Reporting – Recreation item be tabled to the February 28th, 2005 Committee of the Whole meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be held February 28, 2005 at 7:00 p.m..

Adjournment

On Motion of Commissioner Messom, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m..