

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
NEW MINAS VILLAGE COMMISSION**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003
7:30 P.M.**

In Attendance:

Vice-Chairman Marvin Messom
Les Barrett
James Redmond
Wayne Merrill

Councillor Dan Watters

H. Heidi Foshay Kimball, Solicitor

Special Guests:

Approximately 35 Electors were in attendance.

Absent:

Chairman Ted Nicholson

Call to Order:

Vice-Chairman Messom welcomed all those in attendance, noting that Chairman Nicholson was unable to be at this evening's meeting due to having surgery today and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Regular Monthly Meeting December 9, 2002**
- **Special Meeting December 16, 2002**

JAMES REDMOND MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16 SPECIAL MEETING BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED AND MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9 REGULAR MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED TO INCLUDE UNDER THE HEADING "LETTERS: GEORGE CORBIN, GERALD WHITEHEAD, GEORGE SMITH, GREG DAVIDSON, LESLIE DESROCHERS" THE FOLLOWING:

"THE SOLICITOR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL COMMISSION MEMBER ACTS ON HIS OR HER OWN AND NOT AS PART OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION BODY, THAT INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONER ACTS AS A CITIZEN ONLY, AS HE OR SHE HAS NO AUTHORITY TO ACT OUTSIDE THE GOVERNING BODY – THE VILLAGE COMMISSION."

SECONDED BY WAYNE MERRILL. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes:

- **Special Meeting December 23, 2002**

JAMES REDMOND POINTED OUT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 23, 2002 WERE JUST RECEIVED TODAY AND MOVED A VOTE BE TAKEN ON THE ACTIONS OF THOSE MINUTES AT THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING. SECONDED BY WAYNE MERRILL. MOTION CARRIED.

At this time James Redmond stated he was concerned that a serious statement is missing from the December 9 minutes.

REPORTS:

- **Recreation Advisory Committee**

Deferred until the next regular monthly meeting.

- **Clerk's Monthly Report**

The Clerk's Monthly Report was presented.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nova Scotia Transportation and Public Works – Traffic Quieting

A letter was received from Robert R. Bieren, P. Eng., enclosing a report from their District Traffic Supervisor concerning the placement of stop signs at Aalders Avenue and Aalders Avenue Extension, Barron Drive and Crescent Drive and Highbury Road and Crescent Drive.

Only the intersection at Aalders Avenue and Aalders Avenue Extension is eligible for multiple-way stops.

Mr. Bieren explained that the request for a flashing signal at Highbury Road and Commercial Street during off-peak hours has been delayed by the back-order of a special battery that is required to run the clock. Delivery is expected before year end.

Mr. Bieren questioned if the Commission wished to proceed with the installation of stop signs on Aalders Avenue.

It was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting.

**Letter Municipality of the County of Kings –
Proposed Bylaw Respecting Licensing of Petty Traders**

The Clerk read a letter from Bill Butler in response to our letter of December 18 clarifying he Village's desire to have the original bylaw it submitted approved by Municipal Council.

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However, Mr. Butler recommended that in order to expedite its approval by Council it would be beneficial to receive confirmation that the proposed bylaw has been reviewed and recommended by our Solicitor.

It was agreed that the Clerk forward a copy of the proposed bylaw to the Solicitor for her review and recommendation.

Annapolis Valley Boxing Academy –Financial Support –
Natasha Weisner – National Championships

A request for financial support for Natasha Weisner of New Minas who achieved the honour of being crowned the 2003 Nova Scotia Ladies Lightweight Champion and who will represent the province at the National Championships January 16 – 19 in Montreal was received.

LES BARRETT MOVED THE VILLAGE CONTRIBUTE \$100.00 TO ASSIST MS. WEISNER WITH HER EXPENSES AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN MONTREAL. SECONDED BY WAYNE MERRILL. MOTION CARRIED.

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations –
Services Grant Cooke, Municipal Advisor

FURTHER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER OF SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MUNICIPAL ADVISOR FOR OUR AREA, MR. GRANT COOKE, IN RESPONSE TO OUR NOVEMBER 20 REQUEST FOR A MEDIATOR TO ASSIST WITH A NUMBER OF HUMAN RESOURCE ISSUES CURRENTLY BEFORE THE COMMISSION, JAMES REDMOND MOVED THE LETTER STILL STAY ON HOLD. SECONDED BY WAYNE MERRILL. MOTION CARRIED.

Wayne Merrill commented Chairman Nicholson should be involved and felt the matter should be expedited as soon as possible. The matter could be dealt with at a special meeting later in the month if necessary.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Letter Eleanor Rogers – Area Advisory Committee

A letter was received from Eleanor Rogers applying for the vacancy on the Area Advisory Committee.

JAMES REDMOND MOVED THE LETTER FROM ELEANOR ROGERS APPLYING FOR THE VACANCY ON THE AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE TURNED OVER TO THE AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THEIR COMMENTS. SECONDED BY WAYNE MERRILL. MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence Municipality of the County of Kings – Appointment of Dan Watters

A letter was received from the Municipal Clerk, Ann L. Longley, advising that the Municipal Council approved the reappointment of Councillor Dan Watters to the New Minas Area Advisory Committee.

Correspondence Gary Slater re Assistant Water/Sewer Systems Operator Position

A letter was received from Gary Slater advising he applied for a position advertised by the Village for the job of Water/Sewer Systems Operator but was unsuccessful in acquiring that position. He was advised by Les Barrett, Commissioner, that another position was made available on the Water Utility of which no open competition or advertisement was publicized and inquired why he or other previous applicants or the public in general did not have an opportunity to apply for that new position. Mr. Slater went on to say he believed he possessed the necessary experience and qualifications to meet the standards being sought by the Village for the water maintenance personnel and requested a response to this inquiry.

JAMES REDMOND MOVED THE LETTER BE RECEIVED. SECONDED BY WAYNE MERRILL. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

Questions Les Barrett:

Les Barrett questioned if the Vice-Chairman could provide a signed letter from Bill McLellan which was presented at the December 9 meeting and asked how the letter came into the Vice-Chairman's possession. Marvin Messom responded that the letter from Bill McLellan was e-mailed to him and Mr. McLellan does not wish to proceed with this matter any further; so therefore we are not going to acknowledge his letter as agreed at the December meeting.

Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board Hearing January 14 – Application Rate Increase

The Vice-Chairman referred to the hearing scheduled for tomorrow with respect to the application on behalf of the Water Utility for approval of a rate increase and questioned why the Clerk had not brought the information requests to the Commission and acted on her own instead.

The Clerk responded that all information requests were directed to her including questions from the Board relating to the Rate Study and were submitted to George Baker who approved them.

Les Barrett interjected that he had directed his questions to the Utility and Review Board who had in turn referred his questions to the Secretary-Treasurer for reply. Mrs. Lockhart responded to him as requested and copied the Board and Mr. Baker.

The Vice-Chairman indicated he did not have a problem with Mr. Barrett's questions, but questioned the replies that were forwarded in response to the questions, and as a member of the Commission he was not privy to them.

JAMES REDMOND SUGGESTED THAT THE ANSWERING OF THE QUESTIONS BY MRS. LOCKHART COULD HAVE UNDERMINED THE VILLAGE COMMISSION'S STAND ON THE RATE INCREASE AND MOVED THAT THE VILLAGE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN INVESTIGATE THE ACTIONS OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER TO FIND OUT IF SHE ACTED INSUBORDINATE TO HER POSITION. SECONDED BY WAYNE MERRILL. LES BARRETT ABSTAINED FROM VOTING. MOTION CARRIED.

The Clerk was questioned on sending out notices to water customers advising them of the rate increase and scheduled hearing. She indicated that Nancy McNeil, Regulatory Affairs Officer/Clerk of the UARB, advised it would be helpful to include an insert in the water bills notifying of the rate increase and information concerning the public hearing. The inserts were ready but the meters were not read and therefore she chose to use flyer services and Canada Post to deliver the notices. This practice is useful to customers as it supplements the notices placed in the newspapers.

James Redmond asked who pays for the notices and the Clerk replied that the Utility will pay for the notices as it does for the five newspaper advertisements.

JAMES REDMOND MOVED THE VILLAGE CHAIRMAN OR THE VICE-CHAIRMAN INVESTIGATE THE MATTER OF SENDING OUT NOTICES TO WATER CUSTOMERS TO DETERMINE IF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER ACTED CONTRARY TO HER POSITION AND ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OF INSUBORDINATION THAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST. SECONDED BY WAYNE MERRILL. LES BARRETT ABSTAINED FROM VOTING. MOTION CARRIED.

It was agreed to hold a meeting within the next two weeks after Chairman Nicholson has recuperated.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter of Thanks – Annapolis Valley Honour Choir

A letter was received from the Annapolis Valley Honour Choir Parents Association thanking the Commission for their recent donation.

PAYABLES:

ON MOTION OF JAMES REDMOND AND WAYNE MERRILL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BE ACCEPTED AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE BE APPROVED SUBJECT TO ASKING QUESTIONS AT A LATER DATE. SECONDED BY WAYNE MERRILL.

VILLAGE	\$122,380.02
TRUST FUND	5,373.72
FIRE DEPARTMENT	8,739.63
RECREATION	<u>13,806.29</u>
	\$150,299.66

MOTION CARRIED.

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Date of Next Regular Monthly Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

APPROVED:

CHAIRMAN

CLERK-TREASURER