

**VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS**  
**REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**  
**December 12, 2005**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Regular meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held in the Civic Centre, New Minas on Monday, December 12, 2005 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:** Eric Smith, County Councillor District 11  
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works  
Jennifer Coolen, Recreation Director  
Byron MacDonald, Kings C.E.D.  
Barbara Messom, Resident  
Audrey Herron, Resident  
Blair Coldwell, Resident  
Marvin Messom, Resident  
Murray Herron, Resident  
John Mroz, Resident  
Rod MacInnis, Resident  
Mark Redmond, Resident  
Don Zwicker, Resident  
Brad Milton, Resident  
Sam Milne, Resident

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order.

Chair Chaulk welcomed everyone to the meeting, and recognized former Commissioners Rod MacInnis and Marvin Messom.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 14, 2005**

**It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the minutes of the Regular meeting of November 14, 2005 be approved as circulated.**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA: December 12, 2005**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the Agenda for the meeting of December 12, 2005 be approved with the following**

**addition: “OTHER ITEMS – (a) Christmas Decorations, and (b) Update on Letter to Esso”. MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

**PRESENTATION – Mr. Byron MacDonald, Kings C.E.D.**

Chair Chaulk welcomed Mr. Byron MacDonald of Kings C.E.D. Mr. MacDonald thanked the Commission for the opportunity to do a presentation.

Mr. MacDonald outlined the eight key strategies for the next five years. Mr. MacDonald’s presentation is attached to the original minutes.

Mr. MacDonald was thanked for his presentation and the Commissioners asked the following questions:

- Commissioner Barrett asked about the Interpretive Centre, and questioned if it is only for the Port Williams Area. Mr. MacDonald stated that all areas are included.
- Chair Chaulk asked Mr. MacDonald to explain the procedure if the Village of New Minas is interested in developing a Strategic Plan. Mr. MacDonald stated that all the Commission would have to do is contact him, and he would begin the process with the Commission.
- Mr. Blair Coldwell asked if someone wanted to make bio-diesel, would Kings C.E.D. assist with this type of project. Mr. MacDonald stated their role in this type of project would be to direct them to the proper people.

Chair Chaulk thanked Mr. MacDonald for his informative presentation, and Mr. MacDonald thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak to them.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**(a) County Councillor representation at Commission meetings – Chair Chaulk**

Chair Chaulk stated that this matter was brought up by Commissioner Swanburg at the November meeting. He stated he offered to speak with Councillor Eric Smith, and asked Eric if he would like to explain his position as County Councillor for District 11.

Councillor Smith stated that he was elected as the Councillor for District 11 in the County of Kings. He stated he is on seven different Committees, plus a number of sub-committees, and is required to go to meetings as a County Councillor for all these Committees. He said he is also required to attend numerous training sessions, etc, which also requires a lot of time. He said when the subject of his not attending all the Commission meetings came to his attention, he made some inquiries, and was advised that most Councillors with Villages in their districts are required to attend two or three meetings per year. He emphasized that he is a County Councillor for District 11. He stated he is not a Village of New Minas representative on Council, but a representative of District 11. He stated that it is just coincidence that District 11 encompasses the entire Village of New Minas. Eric stated he will do his utmost to attend as many meetings as

possible, but it is impossible for him to attend them all. He said he is on the Village's Area Advisory Committee and attends most of those meetings. He stated that although he does not attend all the meetings, he still works on behalf of the residents and ratepayers of New Minas. He stated he is anxious to work with the Commission as well as his constituents.

Commissioner Swanburg stated she has heard what Councillor Smith is saying, and appreciates what he says. She stated she would like to have a meeting with him once a month, if he is unable to attend the Commission meetings; the meetings do not have to be formal Commission meetings, but he and the Commissioners should meet to go over concerns the Commission has, so that Councillor Smith can present these to the Council on the Commission's behalf.

Councillor Smith reiterated his comments earlier that he is the Councillor for District 11 and is a County Councillor. He said he is more than willing to meet with the Commission on a monthly basis to discuss their concerns, as long as he has a couple days notice.

Commissioner Swanburg asked if she understood him correctly that New Minas is not represented by Councillor Smith. Councillor Smith stated that he was elected to represent Kings County District 11, and the Village of New Minas happens to be all of District 11. He said he could explain it better by saying if the Village's boundaries should expand to New Minas South, then the Village would be situated in two municipal districts and therefore the constituents would be represented by two Councillors.

Vice-Chair Lockhart said to Councillor Smith that he IS the County's representative for New Minas, which is District 11. Councillor Smith stated that this is true, but only because District 11 encompasses the entire Village.

Commissioner Barrett asked Councillor Smith if District 11 is not the exact constituency base for New Minas, and if it would not be advantageous for him to represent the Village Commission of New Minas. Councillor Smith stated that he has stated that he is very anxious to do just that, but emphasized that because of all his other Councillor commitments where he has to attend all County meetings on behalf of District 11, he cannot attend every Commission meeting. Commissioner Barrett asked again if Councillor Smith feels it would be advantageous to be the actual representative for the Village of New Minas.

Commissioner Pineo stated it is his opinion from listening to the questions and Councillor Smith's answers, that by sitting on the County Council, Councillor essentially represents the Village Commission of New Minas, because he represents the constituents of New Minas – District 11. He stated he does not see Councillor Smith's representation as an issue.

Chair Chaulk stated that he understands that Councillor Smith represents all of the County as one Councillor of the entire Council, but his role is not to be the Village Commission's voice on County Council. Commissioner Swanburg asked whose voice does represent New Minas. Councillor Smith stated that his voice represents the constituents of District 11, along with Council as a whole, and he does represent the people of New Minas, but is not the Village Commission's representative.

Commissioner Swanburg stated that if the Village Commission is to be the front line to the residents of New Minas, she wants to make sure that the Commission has an open line of communication with our Councillor to represent the voice of the residents of New Minas. She asked how Councillor Smith can represent the Commission if he does not attend the meetings. Councillor Smith stated that he does not represent the Commission; he represents the ratepayers of New Minas. And he is more than willing to meet formally or informally with the Commission as long as he has a couple days notice so he can organize his time. He also stated that he recommends to the Commissioners that they attend Council meetings so they can see first-hand how the Council deals with issues in the Village. He stated there are a lot of things going on in County Council, but he has rarely seen any Commissioners at the meetings. He encouraged them to attend, to ask questions and if they have concerns, voice them. Commissioner Swanburg asked if Councillor Smith is telling them that he is not interested in meeting with the Commission. Councillor Smith stated that he will gladly meet with the Commission on a monthly basis.

Chair Chaulk stated that it would seem appropriate for meetings to be set up on an as-needed basis, and the Commissioners can make that decision after each meeting.

Councillor Pineo stated that he feels it is important that the Commission meet with Councillor Smith when there are issues, and when the issues are worthy; it is important that they are fair and reasonable.

(b) Conflict of Interest Policy

Chair Chaulk stated that the proposed Conflict of Interest Policy was presented to the Commission in November, and tabled to this meeting. The Clerk Treasurer made amendments to the proposed policy to accommodate concerns expressed at that meeting, (report attached to original minutes).

Commissioner Barrett stated that he feels the policy is redundant, because everything is spelled out in the Conflict of Interest Act.

Commissioner Swanburg stated that she agrees with Commissioner Barrett that the Policy should be abolished because of redundancy. The Clerk Treasurer stated that the Policy has never been approved so it can not be abolished, but if the Commission does not wish to continue with consideration of this policy, a motion could be made to that effect.

**It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that the Commission no longer consider the Draft Conflict of Interest Policy. MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

(c) Office Layout – Vice-Chair Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that this item was tabled from the November meeting. She stated that she would like the office layout to remain the same; she is not in favor of having Committee meetings held in the Park in the winter. She said she has an item on the Agenda later in the meeting which will address the current building issues.

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that she would prefer to not make any changes to the office until the process to build a new Civic Centre was complete. Chair Chaulk stated that it is

obvious that there are serious space issues in the Admin office, and to leave the Commission's conference table where it is certainly does not solve these issues. He stated that it would cause no problem in his opinion to move Committee meetings downstairs. Commissioner Barrett asked if another option could be considered: partitioning the stage to make a meeting room there. T. Silver stated that it might work sometimes, depending on who was using the civic centre. Commissioner Pineo stated he saw no problems that would arise if the conference room table was moved downstairs, and this option makes the most sense. Commissioner Barrett asked why there was a problem with moving the table downstairs, and Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that the situation is only temporary, because she has some suggestions for a more appropriate solution later on in the meeting. Commissioner Barrett said he would support a motion to leave things as they are, if it is only temporary.

**It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg that the office set up and layout remain as it is for the time being. MOTION CARRIED, 3 yea – Vice-Chair Lockhart, Commissioner Swanburg and Commissioner Barrett. 2 nay – Chair Chaulk and Commissioner Pineo.**

(d) Parking – First United Baptist Church

**It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, to move to the next stage to enter into an Agreement with the First United Baptist Church of New Minas for parking west of the church property on Village-owned land. MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

(e) Lions Club – Resurface Downstairs Floor – Update

Chair Chaulk stated that the report from the Clerk indicates that the new floor in the downstairs auditorium of the Civic Centre has been installed. He stated that the New Minas Lions Club has kindly offered to pay for this and the Clerk was directed to write a letter of appreciation to the Lions Club.

(f) Skateboard Park – Update

Chair Chaulk advised that the Skateboard Park was officially opened on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and was well attended by skaters, Rotarians, County of Kings representatives, Village staff, public, and dignitaries. He stated it was nice to see the enthusiasm. He asked Jennifer Coolen if she wanted to add anything else. Jennifer stated that she is receiving lots of positive feedback from local people, and from persons from all over the province as well.

Chair Chaulk said he would like to especially thank Jennifer Coolen. He stated it is a great facility, and Jennifer worked tirelessly to make the project happen, adding she literally got her hands dirty during the construction of the park. He asked if anyone else had any comments. Commissioner Swanburg asked if, now that it has snowed, could small children happen by and fall down the hill and not be able to get out after a light snow; she expressed concern for the safety of small children.

Jennifer stated that the structure will be tarped to sustain the concrete, and they could erect a "Stay Out" sign if there are concerns.

(g) Request from Resident for Flashing Intersection Lights - Update

Chair Chaulk stated that a letter was written to the Area Manager for Department of Transportation requesting that the traffic lights go into flashing mode from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., pursuant to Mr. Marvin Messom's request at a previous meeting. A letter was received from Mr. Brian Ward, in which he stated that the lights would be programmed to "soft recall", which means the signals would be returned to green in the absence of any traffic. He stated they would not consider the request as presented.

Chair Chaulk stated there is a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow with the Department of Transportation, and a number of issues will be discussed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Water Commission – Vice Chair Linda Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that there was no meeting of the Water Commission in November, and the next meeting will take place in January, 2006.

(b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo stated that there was no meeting of the Area Advisory Committee in November.

(c) Recreation Advisory Committee

Chair Chaulk stated that there was no meeting of the Recreation Advisory in November.

(d) Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Barrett

Commissioner Barrett stated that the next regular Transportation Committee Meeting is being held on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Committee is meeting with DOT tomorrow afternoon.

**NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Recreation Advisory Committee member appointment

Chair Chaulk stated that there were two applications for citizen membership to the Recreation Advisory Committee: Mr. Steve Dalziel and Mr. Maynard Stevens.

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that Mr. Maynard Stevens be appointed as the citizen member of the New Minas Recreation Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

(b) New Building – Vice-Chair Lockhart

Discussion took place on the concept of constructing a new civic centre/Village building. Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that the current civic centre is in dire need of repair and something soon has to be done. She recommended putting \$10,000 in next year's budget to have a feasibility study carried out.

Commissioner Barrett stated he remembered in the past that several studies were completed, and it might be worthwhile to look at those. Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that a number of years ago presentations had been made to the public, and conceptual plans were presented; but the request was rejected by the public (any borrowing by the Commission must have public approval).

The Clerk Treasurer will locate the two sets of plans on file for the Commission to review.

(c) Request from Flower Cart for Letter of Support

The Commission reviewed a letter from the Flower Cart, in which the organization stated that they are applying for ACOA funding to purchase new ovens for their bakery, and requested a letter of support for this venture.

**It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that a letter of support be written for the Flower Cart's application for ACOA funding for a new oven. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**OTHER ITEMS**

(a) Christmas Decorations

Commissioner Swanburg stated that Mr. Coldwell had lobbied the Commission several weeks ago to reconsider their decision to not put up Christmas decorations this year. She stated that they agreed to put up decorations in stock, and the staff put up the decorations; however, these decorations are in very poor condition. She stated that it is time New Minas gets on the band wagon as far as Village street decorations are concerned, and "do it up right".

Commissioner Swanburg stated that it would be prudent for the business community to come forward to assist with this.

Chair Chaulk stated that although he likes Christmas decorations, he has a real problem spending \$10,000 on Christmas decorations when some Commissioners cannot see fit to fund the honoraria for the Volunteer Fire Fighters of New Minas. Commissioner Pineo echoed Chair Chaulk's concerns.

**It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that funds of not more than \$10,000 be placed in the 2006/2007 Budget for Christmas Decorations. MOTION CARRIED – 3 yea votes – Vice-Chair Lockhart, Commissioner Barrett, and Commissioner Swanburg; 2 nay votes – Chair Chaulk and Commissioner Pineo**

(b) Update on Letter to Esso – Commissioner Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg asked the Clerk Treasurer if she had received a response from Esso. T. Silver stated that she sent the letter around November 20<sup>th</sup>, and to date no response has been received. Terry stated she will advise the Commission as soon as a response is received.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Letter from Flower Cart re Canteen at Lockhart Ryan Park – for information

A letter was perused from Mr. Roger Tatlock, Executive Director of the Flower Cart to Mr. Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works. He commented on the Flower Cart's operation of the canteen at Lockhart Ryan Park. He stated that his organization will not

be interested in operating the canteen again. He said the canteen is not located in the proper place at the Park and is in very poor condition.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

#### **Ms. Jennifer Coolen, Recreation Director**

Jennifer asked Vice-Chair Lockhart, Commissioners Barrett and Swanburg to reconsider their decision to not move the conference table downstairs. She stated that the Clerk is not proposing to spend any money in relocating the Commission's conference table. She said that the worst that could happen is that the Commission/Committee members may be a bit inconvenienced a couple of hours a week at the most; this compared to the staff's congestion problem all day for five days a week. She stated that the staff would really appreciate their reconsideration.

Commissioner Barrett stated that he would certainly reconsider. He said that the discussion in the motion was based on a temporary situation. Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that it could be two or three years before a new building was in place, so it's not all that temporary.

**It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the Commission agree to relocate their Conference table downstairs on a temporary basis, until an alternative solution is found. This to be reviewed in six months. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

#### **Mr. John Mroz**

Mr. Mroz asked if the Commission has any court dates for the lawsuits against the Village. Chair Chaulk answered that there are no court dates set at this point. He went on to say that he and Commissioner Pineo have made it clear that they want to move forward with these.

Mr. Mroz asked if the Commission has made application for Infrastructure Grants for the capital expenditures, and if so, what are the projects.

The Clerk advised that two applications have been submitted to Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program: Extension of Water and Services to Prospect Road East, which is the first priority of the Water Commission at the approximate cost of \$1,200,000, and System Upgrades at approximately \$600,000, which includes upgrades necessary to conform with new Provincial Regulations.

#### **Mr. Rod MacInnis**

Mr. MacInnis asked if sidewalk construction is included in these applications for funding. T. Silver stated that sidewalk construction would only be incidental; no sidewalk construction is anticipated in these two applications. She went on to state that consideration for Infrastructure funding by the government are being somewhat limited to "green projects", and approval would not be forthcoming for sidewalk construction on its own.

Mr. Blair Coldwell

Mr. Coldwell stated that he has spoken with the editor of the Advertiser and told him they should have someone attend the Commission meetings again, as in the past.

He stated that the comment made by Chair Chaulk about the decorations verses the funding the Fire Department is not a money issue, but an issue of principle. He stated that the residents of New Minas certainly need the volunteer fire fighters.

Mr. Coldwell commented on the discussion with the County Councillor. He stated that the late Dan Watters had time to attend every Commission meeting, and that was wonderful for everyone. He said things change, and if the Village Commissioners are concerned that their concerns are not being relayed to the County Council, they should be making an attempt to make sure the Council gets the information goes out to them. Also, if the Commissioners are concerned that they are not getting the information they should be getting, they need to take the initiative to find that out, too.

Chair Chaulk thanked all those in attendance for coming out to the meeting, and wished everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion on Commissioner Barrett, the meeting adjourned.**

---

**Dave Chaulk, Chair**

---

**Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer**