

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015
7:00 p.m.,
Conference Room, Louis Millett Community Complex (LMCC)
A G E N D A

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on September 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Louis Millett Community Complex.

In Attendance: Chair Dave Chaulk
Vice-Chair Maynard Stevens
Commissioner Mary Munroe
Commissioner Ken Pineo
Commissioner James Redmond
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

Also in Attendance: Mr. Matt Povah, Town of Windsor (VCFN Network)
Ms. Lynn Spencer, Accountant/Facility Manager
Mr. Bruce MacArthur, Resident/Kings Citizens Coalition
Mr. Jim Winsor, Councillor District 11
Mr. Gerard Hamilton, Assistant Supt. Of Public Works
Mr. Pierre Clouthier, Resident/Kings Citizens Coalition
Mr. Ed Coleman, Columnist
Mr. Don Zinck, Resident
Mr. John Ansara, Recreation Director
Ms. Shelly Palmer, Tax/Water Clerk
Mr. Mark Redmond, Resident
Mr. Gary Connolly, Resident

CALL TO ORDER, Dave Chaulk

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: September 14, 2015

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the Agenda for the meeting of the Commission meeting of September 14, 2015 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 13, 2015

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that the minutes of the Commission meeting held July 13, 2015 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION: Matt Povah re VCFN Network

Mr. Povah gave a very detailed presentation on the process for connection to the VCFN (Valley Community Fiber Network), and commented on those units who already are on the network, with points on their successes and challenges.

Chair Chaulk thanked Mr. Povah for his informative presentation. The Commission requested the Clerk Treasurer to have staff look into the service for New Minas.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) Sale of Civic Center
 - Selection of Realtor

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the firm of MacKay Realty be hired to list the former Civic Center property, pursuant to the specifications in the RFP. MOTION CARRIED

- b) Village Status Process
 - Response from Mark Furey, response to Village's request for Study funding

Chair Chaulk advised that the Commission had requested the former Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mark Furey, to fund the completion of New Minas' Town Status Study or at the very least, pay for the incurred costs of the study to date. He stated that a letter was received from Mr. Furey advising that he would only authorize reimbursement of actual costs of the study to date. His letter suggested he may consider funding for the remainder of the study if the Village wanted to consider changing the focus.

The Commission directed the Clerk Treasurer to contact the consultant to meet with him to discuss any possibilities in this regard.

In this regard, Chair Chaulk advised, with the Commission's blessing, that he has met one on one with the Mayors of Kentville and Wolfville to discuss governance in the area. He stated he has subsequently been asked by both of them to have a joint meeting and he asked the Commission's direction on this. The Commissioners all agreed that this would be a good opportunity for New Minas, Kentville and Wolfville to come together and discuss issues.

- c) Request for Crosswalk on Prospect (At Bishop Avenue East/West)
- Commission's discussion

Chair Chaulk stated this item is brought forward from the Commission's discussion in July. He stated a petition had been circulated. He asked if the Commission wished to do a study on the feasibility of constructing a crosswalk.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the Clerk Treasurer be instructed to contact Mr. Joe Crowell of NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to determine the feasibility of locating a crosswalk at the intersection of Bishop Avenue East and Bishop Avenue West across Prospect Road. MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Recreation Director's Report – John Ansara

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the Recreation Director's report be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

John Ansara asked the Commissioners for permission to speak on a request he just received on Friday of last week with regard to the possibility of a booking for the Millett Complex, which would include a Beer Tent and an outdoor concert on the park grounds. After much discussion, John was asked to advise the event organizers that, although at this point the Commission is not really warm to the idea of a beer tent and an outdoor concert, they would be interested in having them present their ideas to the Commission in person.

Vice-Chair Stevens congratulated John and Intern Jared on a very successful Celebration Days event, and stated he has heard great things about the "Jiggs with Jimmy Flynn" event.

John commented that both events were very successful. He also noted that we are still waiting on the completion of the Splash Pad, but is hopeful it will be completed soon.

- b) New Minas Water Commission Report – Vice-Chair Stevens

There was no Water Commission meeting to report.

- c) New Minas Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

There was no Area Advisory Committee meeting to report.

- d) Sign Committee – Commissioner Munroe

Lynn Spencer gave a power point- presentation showing the proposed Entry Point signs. After the presentation, Commissioner Munroe asked for feedback from the Commissioners.

Chair Chaulk thanked Lynn for the presentation and he thanked the Committee for their work. The Committee will move forward with getting prices on construction.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Service Award Presentations:

- Ms. Shelly Palmer, Mr. Brian Aulenback and Mr. Leslie Karayz

Chair Chaulk stated that there are so many great things about New Minas – to name a few: the New Millett Complex, the great financial condition of New Minas, the services we provide, and the many recreation programs we offer. He stated that one of the reasons for the Village’s success is because of its dedicated staff. He said he tries to never miss an opportunity to commend the staff, and this is another great opportunity for the Commission to recognize the dedication and long service of three of its employees:

Shelly Palmer	10 years
Brian Aulenback	5 years
Les Karayz	5 years

Shelly was in the audience and Chair Chaulk called her up to present her with a certificate and a small token of the Commission’s appreciation. Chair Chaulk stated, and the Commission agreed, that she and all the staff do a fabulous job.

b) Request from Staff for Food Drive 2015

The Commission reviewed a letter from Lynn Spencer, on behalf of the Village staff, requesting permission to use Village vehicles and have available Village staff to carry out a food drive again this year. Last year, staff collected over 2000 pounds of food, and this with very short notice. They expect this year will be an even bigger success.

The Commission agreed wholeheartedly and again spoke to the commitment of Village staff.

c) Request from A. Todd Johnson to purchase property, 21 Minas Crescent

The Commission reviewed a letter from Mr. A. Todd Johnson, in which he asked to purchase a small strip of land adjacent to his property on 21 Minas Crescent.

The Commission requested the Clerk Treasurer to ask the solicitor and the engineer for comments on any legal or engineering implications.

d) Association of NS Villages – AGM – voting member

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that Commissioner Mary Munroe be appointed as the voting delegate at the 2015 Association of Nova Scotia Villages AGM. MOTION CARRIED

e) Debenture Funding – Fall 2015

**It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the Clerk Treasurer be directed to advise Mr. Paul Wills of the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation that no debenture funding will be required by New Minas for the fall 2015 issue.
MOTION CARRIED**

d) Request from Lorraine and Ross MacPherson for letter to pave Thistle Court

The Commission reviewed a request from Lorraine and Ross MacPherson for a letter in support of paving Thistle Crescent. Mr. and Mrs. MacPherson advised that it was suggested to them by County Councillor Wayne Atwater that if they wanted Council to consider paving their street, the request should come from the Village of New Minas.

The Clerk Treasurer was directed to write a letter to the Warden and Council on behalf of the MacPhersons to have Thistle Crescent paved.

DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mr. Pierre Clouthier – stated he is grateful to the Commission for agreeing to continue discussions with regard to options for regional governance. He stated that New Minas has more in common with the Towns, and he appreciates the discussion that could lead to a real possibility of merging.

Councillor Jim Winsor – referenced the discussion of a new crosswalk on Prospect Road. He suggested that the Commission needs to look at the lower end of Prospect Road near the Super Store.

Councillor Winsor spoke to the Commission and guests about the disposition of the County's new office complex. He stated that after some persuasion, Council has decided not to accept a proposal at this time, and is re-evaluating the process. Chair Chaulk asked if the land in Coldbrook has been purchased and Councillor Winsor stated it has. He said there is a workshop scheduled for September 16th and a Special Council meeting to deal only with this issue on September 22nd. He further stated that the Village's property may be a suitable location. Chair Chaulk said we'd be very happy to sell it to the County.

Councillor Winsor spoke on the J-Class Roads, and noted there has been some confusion on the definition of "J-Class Roads" with DTIR personnel. Up until now, it was agreed the definition of J-Class meant all roads except those that are the sole responsibility of DTIR. He said it is his understanding that once a road/street has been rehabilitated it goes back to DTIR. He spoke of the three roads in New Minas that are gravel: Kings Crescent, Forsythe North and Thistle

Crescent. He reminded the Commission that he and Village staff/Commission worked up a perspective on all roads over the past three years, and this process has proven to be fairly successful. The first step has been to work with the Village and DTIR will create a priority list; therefore, he feels the letter to Council would not be required.

Councillor Winsor too, commended the Village Commission for their willingness to talk openly with the Towns.

Gary Connolly – thanked the Commission for “diverting a tragedy” (by looking into installing a crosswalk on Prospect Road).

Commissioner Redmond – spoke of the need to have the Granite Drive Exit done as soon as possible. He stated it will not be done in the next couple of years because they have not had any surveying done, nor are there any profiles done.

Councillor Winsor – spoke again and stated he was told this is a 2-year project, and suggested the Commission may wish to include the necessity of keeping the Granite Drive project a project. Commissioner Redmond stated the Village has written a number of letters to the province and Council, and we have received responses from the province that the interchange is still on the construction list.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens that the meeting be adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer