

VILLAGE COMMISSION OF NEW MINAS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MAY 30, 2005

(Immediately following the AGM)

The regular monthly Village Commission of New Minas Committee of the Whole meeting was held on May 30, 2005 immediately following the Annual General Meeting of the electors.

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

Ms. Sharon Boyd, Resident
 Mr. Blair Coldwell, Resident
 Mr. Blake Currie, Resident
 Mrs. Barbara Messom, Resident
 Mr. Marvin Messom, Resident
 Mr. Gordon Silver, Resident
 Mr. Maynard Stevens, Resident
 Mr. Eric Smith, Resident and Council for District 11

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order at 9:20 p.m..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Committee of the Whole April 25, 2005

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that the Committee of the Whole Minutes for April 25, 2005 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Goals and Objectives

Chair Chaulk was to speak with the President of the New Minas Rotary Club to discuss forming a Committee for a wellness facility. He stated he will do this and report to the Commission.

(b) Performance Appraisal Policy

Commissioner Barrett stated that he had asked to have this item held off until after the Commissioner election, and is now ready to deal with it.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the Performance Appraisal Policy be recommended to the Commission for approval, with the change on page 1 as noted. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Skateboard Park

Chair Chaulk called the Commissioners' attention to Rec Director Jennifer Coolen report on the Skateboard Park. He stated, after direction from the Commission, he had spoken again with the President of the New Minas Rotary Club to determine if their offer for a financial contribution would still stand if the park were to be located in another area in the Village. The answer he received was it must be in the originally planned location, and it must happen this year in order for them to continue with their offer.

Commissioner Barrett stated he has reservations about locating the skateboard park beside the civic centre because of the prospect of relocating the village offices. He stated the Village owns a recreation facility (at Lockhart Ryan Park), and the portion of land adjacent to the Baptist Church would provide good exposure, it is nowhere near an intersection, making it safer. He stated the only interest he has in this is that it is in the right location. Commissioner Barrett asked Mr. Blake Currie, who was in the audience, to give the rationale behind his comments at the April, 2005 Commission meeting with regard to the proposed location. Mr. Currie stated that the originally proposed location is highly visible, and easily patrolled, there is approval for funding and this would seem like the best plan.

Concern was expressed that if the Commission should, in the near future, decide to relocate the Village offices, this could be the wrong location.

The Chair was asked to again check with the Rotary Club to see if they would consider relocating the Skateboard Park to another area. The Clerk asked the Commissioners to consider having a telephone poll taken with regard to their decision, once an answer is received from the Rotary Club in order to move the project along. The Commission agreed.

(d) Ratification Annapolis Valley Working Group – 2011 Canada Winter Games

The Commissioners agreed that a letter should be written to the Annapolis Valley Working Group – 2001 Canada Winter Games supporting the games in this area. The Clerk advised this letter was sent, based on the telephone poll.

(e) Resignation – Village Solicitor

Chair Chaulk brought the Commissioners' attention to the letter of resignation from Ms. Heidi Foshay-Kimball, the Village's Solicitor. Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver advised that an ad had been placed in the local newspaper for proposals, and once the proposal deadline closed, the Commission would be notified. She stated, to date, no proposals had been received and the deadline was June 2nd at 2:00 p.m.. She stated in Ms. Foshay-Kimball's letter, she had offered to assist the Commission with legal issues, except pending lawsuits. Commissioner Swanburg stated she would not feel comfortable going back to them for legal advice. She stated any upcoming legal issues could either come back to the Commission or be referred to Mr. John Cameron who has offered interim legal advice in the past. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mr. Cameron to request any interim legal advice.

Commissioner Swanburg requested to place Mr. Cameron's letter, with respect to an opinion on a legal issue, at the end of the Committee of the Whole Agenda.

(f) Area Advisory Committee Membership

Chair Chaulk stated that at the April Commission meeting, the Clerk Treasurer was asked to research the past processes taken by the Area Advisory Committee, Village Commission, and the County of Kings in the selection of members to the Area Advisory Committee. The Kings County PAC had rejected an application for a citizen member, Mr. Gordon Silver, which had been approved by the AAC on the basis that proper procedure was not followed. Furthermore, in a letter to the Chair, it was stated that the fact that a new ad had not been placed when Mr. Silver's application was approved by the AAC, and his relationship with the Village Clerk Treasurer had created a problem for the committee's accepting his application. Chair Chaulk stated that the report has been provided to the Commissioners, and it is obvious that there has been no consistency over the years with regard to the County's approving membership applications to the AAC.

Commissioner Swanburg stated that she feels this is terrible that the County of Kings is doing this. She stated that it has been proven that there is no provision in the Terms of Reference for any of this; indeed, in the past ads were not even run at all for membership. Once again the County is dictating to the Area Advisory Committee. After discussion, it was agreed that a letter be written to the Planning Advisory Committee chair voicing the Commission's objections to their rejection of this application, and pointing out inconsistencies in their process. The Clerk's report to the Commission will be attached.

Commissioner Barrett stated that the Terms of Reference should be changed to allow the AAC have authority to do this type of thing on their own. The Clerk advised that the process is all set out in the Act. Councillor Smith stated that the County is currently looking into its policy. The letter will also include a request

that the Council collaborate with the Commission in the revision of the Terms of Reference.

5. **STATEMENTS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES to March 31, 2005**

The Statements of Revenue and Expenditure were previously distributed by the Clerk Treasurer.

6. **OTHER ITEMS**

(a) Sewer Billings

Clerk Treasurer Silver stated that the Water Commission passed a motion at it's May, 2005 meeting to permit the Commission staff to produce and collect the Water Utility billings in house. Sewer Charges, which are an expense to the General Operating, are also billed at the same time as water bills, and a motion would be required from the Commission for the Sewer Bills to be produced in house as well.

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the sewer bills be produced in house. MOTION CARRIED

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that the Commission has discussed viewing the Advertiser building with the view of moving its Commission Office and other village operations. The Clerk will arrange with the Realtor to view this building.

7. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Sharon Boyd – Ms. Boyd spoke to the Commission with regard to the earlier presentation of the Budget and finances of the Village. She asked them to consider the inevitable decrease in property values in her area as the result of ATVs disrupting the “peaceful enjoyment” of the residents along the railroad property. Ms. Boyd stated that she has made an attempt to have the constant use of this area as a dirt bike and ATV track halted, and is constantly communicating with the RCMP and County of Kings. She stated that she has been informed that the only recourse is to have the property owners post “No Trespassing” signs and to forbid them from running the vehicles in this area. She asked the Commission to support her efforts by writing a letter to the property owners.

Commissioner Barrett stated that the Commission may be implementing a Transportation Committee and this would be something they could deal with, as well as streets.

Chair Chaulk stated that even with an advisory committee, the Commission would have no authority, but he felt a letter would be helpful. She stated she would appreciate it, and also noted that most of the people are not local. Commissioner Barrett asked her if she

has gone to the property owners; really, he stated, the authority should be theirs to keep people off their property.

Councillor Eric Smith advised that he is aware of problems behind Aalders Avenue, and he has spoken with homeowners in that area. He stated that the people along Aalders area are not concerned. He stated he wasn't aware of the Minasvale area. He advised he has also spoken with DOT, and they are aware of the problem.

Marvin Messom stated that the Nova Scotia Police Association hired 6 people to patrol this type of thing, and suggested to Ms. Boyd that she contact them.

The Commissioners directed the Clerk to write a letter to the property owners concerned and asked them to post "No Trespassing" signs on their properties so the RCMP will have something to enforce.

Marvin Messom – Marvin Messom commented on the Commission's discussion about the Skateboard Park. He stated he has always been of the opinion that this is a most valuable addition to the village, and had originally recommended that an alternative location be investigated. He stated that it has become clear that this is not feasible and urged the Commission to move now and get this skateboard park started so the kids and use it.

Blake Currie – Mr. Currie spoke with regard to the Skateboard Park. He stated that if another meeting date goes by without a decision on this thing, it will delay it for even longer, and the Clerk has stated that as of the last delay the completion date would be late August. He suggested the Commission Chair call a special meeting to deal with this and not delay it to next month.

Mr. Currie stated that the Commission and any interested persons should keep at the ATV situation until it is resolved.

Chair Chaulk responded that hopefully the delay would not go beyond this week.

Commissioner Barrett advised that he is giving a Notice of Motion to move at the June Commission to form two new Committees.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Chair Lockhart, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m..

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer