

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
April 10, 2007
7:00 p.m.

The Regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m..

In Attendance: Dave Chaulk, Chair
Les Barrett, Commissioner
Dean Hatt, Commissioner
Linda Lockhart, Commissioner
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer

Regrets: Dale Pineo, Vice Chair

Also in Attendance: Sandra Horley, Resident
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works
Blair Coldwell, Resident
Don Zwicker, Resident
Brenda Redmond, Resident
Sam Milne, Resident
Mark Redmond, Resident
John Mroz, Resident

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Chaulk

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. He sent along regrets from Vice-Chair Pineo who was attending the Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony in Halifax along with Rec Director Vincent Forrestall on behalf of the Village Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: April 10, 2007

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart, that the Agenda for the Regular Commission meeting of April 10, 2007, be approved as presented, with the exception of item (b) under Business Arising from the Minutes, which is to be deleted from the Agenda. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting March 12, 2007

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the Minutes of the Regular Commission meeting held March 12, 2007, be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- (a) Membership Kings Partnership Steering Committee -Update Letter from Councillor Janet Newton

Chair Chaulk stated that the Clerk had forwarded a letter to the Chair of the Kings Partnership Steering Committee requesting that the Village of New Minas, and all Villages in Kings County, be permitted to sit on that Committee. He stated a letter was received from Ms. Janet Newton, Chair of the KPSC, stating a meeting will be held in early April, at which time the Village's request will be considered.

- (b) Sick Leave Policy – Revision – removed from the Agenda

- (c) Civic Centre/Admin Offices - Update

The Clerk Treasurer gave a written updated to the Commission on actions thus far on the Commission's request to investigate options and costs to renovate the Civic Centre (attached to original minutes). Village Engineer Doug Seamone was present at the meeting and offered two estimates for renovations to the Civic Centre/Admin Offices: These are: Renovation the present building - \$250,000 to \$300,000
Build an entirely new building - \$500,000 to \$600,000

The Commission thanked Mr. Seamone for this information and agreed to continue to discuss options.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) Water Commission - Commissioner Linda Lockhart

Commissioner Lockhart gave the report of the Water Commission. She outlined the following items:

- Busch Subdivision application no longer applicable for water services
- No response to date from either Kentville or Port Williams for sewage collection and treatment alternatives
- Mr. Baker should have a draft of the Water Rate Study for the next meeting
- The proposed monitoring station at the DOTPW site in Greenwich has been turned down, and a request for an explanation will be forwarded to them
- Canaan Heights hydrant inquiry from the County of Kings to the New Minas Fire Department was discussed, as well as a copy of a letter from the Fire Chief to the County stating that the maintenance of fire hydrants is the Village's responsibility.
- A letter will be written to New Minas Fire Chief asking them to inform the Village when they use a hydrant, so that quality control of the hydrants is maintained by the Village.
- An aggressive hydrant maintenance program is carried out twice yearly by the Village.

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett to accept the report of the Water Commission as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Hatt gave the report of the Area Advisory Committee (written copy attached to the original minutes). Commissioner Hatt outlined the following items:

- Application to rezone property at 8743 Commercial Street from I-1 Institutional to C-1 Major Commercial was recommended to the Planning Advisory Committee for action.

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to accept the report of the Area Advisory Committee as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Recreation Advisory Committee – Vice-Chair Dale Pineo

In the absence of Vice-Chair Pineo, Chair of the Recreation Advisory Committee, Commissioner Lockhart gave the report of the RAC (attached to the original minutes). She outlined the following items:

- March Break Day Camp
- Status of Grants
- Provincial Volunteer Week, and nominees
- Update on Kings County Basketball Academy and Grant Applications
- Events Valley update
- Discussion on the possibility of creating website calendars
- Winter/Spring 2007 programs and events updates
- Park Improvement request from Golfview Homeowners Association
- Discussion on the feasibility of a Visitor Information Centre

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the Rec Director and RAC member Maynard Stevens contact the managers of the County Fair Mall to discuss the feasibility of placing a Visitor Information Centre booth at the mall. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the Village hold a contest for a new Recreation Department logo, with nothing binding the Village to accept any entry, and providing a \$25 prize if a winner is declared. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the Village Commission enter into a joint agreement with the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board for use of the New Minas Elementary School. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett that the Village Commission write a letter to Mr. Doug Haas of Archie's Welding, thanking him for the kind donation of the Standards for Nets. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett that the report of the Recreation Advisory Committee be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

(d) Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Dean Hatt advised that the Transportation Advisory Committee did not meet in April, therefore there was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Lease – Parking Lot

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart, that the entire Lease Agreement between the Village and New Minas Baptist Church for the Parking Lot be recorded in its entirety. MOTION CARRIED

(b) Electronic Devices – Chair Chaulk

Chair Chaulk stated that there has been a couple of complaints received about the use of electronic devices at meetings by Commissioners, and suggested that Commissioners and Committee members should turn off cell phones, blackberries, and other such devices while they are taking part in Commission and Committee meetings. Commissioner Hatt agreed.

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the Meetings and Procedures Policy be amended to state that all Commissioners' and Committee members' electronic devices be turned off during official meetings. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mr. John Mroz, Resident – Mr. Mroz commented on the Civic Centre renovations items. He stated that given the need for parking, the Commission may want to reconsider putting a lot of money into renovating this property. He cautioned the Commission on spending a lot of money on this property before some thought goes into the future needs of the Village for a facility.

Mr. Mroz also stated that the Village should be mindful of a buy-out clause in the lease for the parking lot.

Mr. Sam Milne - Mr. Milne asked to state his disappointment that the Highbury School was demolished recently without any discussion by the Village Commission. He said it was built by the residents of New Minas, and was demolished without any consideration for the history. Clerk Treasurer Silver stated that the Commission had actually discussed this property in the past when it's future was brought to their attention by Mr. Milne, and

letters of protest went along to the School Board, who are now the owners of the property. She stated she also had a lengthy discussion with Mr. Terry Clements, property and services director of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, when she reiterated Mr. Milne's concerns and the Commission's concerns that the school was being demolished, and the historical value it represented in the Village. She stated that Mr. Clements was sympathetic to these concerns, and stated that every consideration had been given to renovating the school, and indeed it had been saved from demolition for several years prior to 2006, but it was inevitable due to its state of disrepair. The building had been condemned.

Mr. Milne thanked the Clerk and the Commission for this.

Mr. Milne also expressed concerns to the Commission with regard to spending a huge amount of money on the current site for the civic centre/admin building. He said parking is a huge problem, especially with the skateboard park, which in his opinion should have been placed in a different area of the property.

Chair Chaulk stated that the discussions are just that – discussions, and everything is in the very preliminary stages for a building to house the Village's administration and the Civic Centre. Everything will be taken into consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Lockhart, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer