

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2014

7:00 p.m.,

Conference Room, Louis Millett Community Complex (LMCC)

The regular monthly meeting of the New Minas Village Commission was held in the Conference Room of the Louis Millett Community Complex on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m..

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair Dave Chaulk
Vice-Chair Maynard Stevens
Commissioner Mary Munroe
Commissioner James Redmond
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Rec Director John Ansara
County Councillor District 11 Jim Winsor

REGRETS:

Commissioner Dean Hatt

CALL TO ORDER, Chair Chaulk

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: January 13, 2014

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that the Agenda for the regular Commission meeting of January 13, 2014 be approved with the following addition: under "OTHER ADDED ITEMS", add "a) Capital Tax Rate – Fire Departments – Commissioner Redmond". MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting December 9, 2013

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the minutes of the regular Commission meeting held December 9, 2013 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Sale of Civic Center – Update

Terry Silver advised the only thing to report is that, pursuant to the Commission's direction, she informed the Village's Realtor that the asking price for the old Civic Center has been reduced to \$650,000

b) LED Lighting Program – Update

Terry Silver advised that the inventory of the old fixtures is now complete (she referred to the report from Black and MacDonald). The next phase of the project is compiling and advertising for the RFP.

c) Kings Partnership Steering Committee Village membership – Update

Chair Chaulk advised that there has been nothing forthcoming from Kings County Villages' request to KPSC, except that Council has passed a motion to request KPSC to allow 3 additional members on the Committee from Kings County and that they be from the Villages.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Recreation Director's Report – John Ansara

The Commission referred to the Rec Director's Report, and Chair Chaulk asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

Vice-Chair Stevens commented that in the flyer he notes there are two new programs and commended John for this. John enlightened the Commissioners on the "Bigger Sisters" program which focuses on girls aged 12-17.

Commissioner Redmond asked John how fundraising efforts are going on the Splash Pad project. John stated he will be doing a presentation to the Lions Club in February, and to the New Minas Sunrise Rotary Club in about a week and a half. He stated that he continues to try to meet with the businesses in the community and, although they are not necessarily receptive to donating money, there is interest in other kinds of support. John stated that he has also had a meeting with Meg Cuming from the County of Kings, and that meeting went very well, and it looks promising for the County to be able to assist. He further stated that the NS Department of Health and Wellness should be a good source of funding as well.

Commissioner Munroe asked whether he is still involved with the Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition. John stated that he is and there is currently an assessment on the entire rail bed. He said there is a long way to go, but there are some very exciting possibilities currently being discussed.

Vice-Chair Stevens asked the Clerk for an update on the open hours over the holidays. Terry Silver stated that it has been reported to her that drop ins for the Fitness Room and gymnasium were adequate; certainly enough to justify keeping these two areas open for the same time in future years. She noted again that in order to give the custodians time off as well, the duties were shared by other staff, and she thanked John for offering to help out.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that the report of the Recreation Director be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

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

Vice-Chair Stevens read the New Minas Water Commission Report (attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, the report of the New Minas Water Commission be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

c) New Minas Planning Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

There was no NMPAC meeting since the last Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Capital Tax Rate – Fire Department – Commissioner Redmond

Commissioner Redmond stated that approximately a month and a half ago, at a meeting which was open to County of Kings representatives, Village Commissions representatives and fire authority reps and Kings County fire chiefs, the County's Manager of Protection Services reported that the County of Kings will be taking over the levy of Fire Department capital tax levy, and subsequently will be in charge of the capital expenditures (and perhaps even operating costs) for all Fire Departments in the County. He stated those present were advised that the County will be charging all ratepayers in Kings County the same area rate, estimated at 6.5 cents/\$100 of Assessment, and will take over the distribution of the capital equipment management for all Fire Departments. Commissioner Redmond stated that currently the area rate for the New Minas FD is 4.25 cents, and if this plan is implemented, the ratepayers of the NMPAC service area would be supplementing other FDs in the County, and New Minas FD would likely get less funding than before, but pay more on their tax bill.

Chair Chaulk asked under what authority the County can take away the rights of Fire Departments? Commissioner Redmond stated that is the question everyone is asking and there are no answers.

The Chair asked Councillor Winsor if he has any knowledge of this. Councillor Winsor stated that he knew there was a study done some time ago, but Council has not discussed this plan as cited by Commissioner Redmond. He stated he would speak with the CAO in the next day or so to get some insight into the issue.

Commissioner Munroe stated there is a Fire Service meeting this Thursday, and suggested the Commissioners may require some information prior to that.

After discussion, the Commissioners directed the Clerk Treasurer to contact the Municipal Advisor to get clarification on these items, and to investigate the items of concern expressed by Commissioner Redmond.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Councillor Jim Winsor – Councillor Winsor stated he is a member of the New Minas Sunrise Rotary Club, and they are an ambitious, community-oriented group of people who are looking forward to having initiatives to support. He stated the Village’s proposed Splash Pad is a great project that may be of interest to the Rotary Club, and there is money available from the County that he would like to see New Minas have an opportunity to tap into.

Councillor Winsor spoke of the small gap at the eastern part of the Rail Trail, and feels this could be a significant obstacle, and could create a liability for someone. He stated if the Commission was interested, he would like to investigate opportunities to deal with the area in question.

Chair Chaulk stated that the Commission has always been very supportive of the trail, and would be very interested in hearing what Councillor Winsor could find out.

Councillor Winsor stated again he will discuss the Fire Capital Tax issue with CAO Tom MacEwan. Commissioner Redmond gave some historical facts about the incorporation of the NMFD, and what impact this plan could have on the ratepayers.

Councillor Winsor asked the Village Commissioners if they have been informed by the County that the Planning Advisory Commission has been reinstated. Terry Silver stated that she knows about this because she read Council’s “*Action List*” from the December Committee of the Whole. Councillor Winsor asked the Commission how they feel this would impact them, and Chair Chaulk answered that it was his opinion there would be no impact at all, because the New Minas Planning Advisory Committee is for advice only – Council still has the final say. Councillor Winsor commented that whether this is a good move or not could depend on who goes on the PAC.

Councillor Winsor said if anyone from the Commission would be interested in joining the New Minas Sunrise Rotary Club they could go as his guest. The Club meets every Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. at Ken Wo.

Chair Chaulk thanked Councillor Winsor for his comments.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Chair Stevens, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer