

NEW MINAS WATER COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday Feb 25, 2009

7:00 pm

The regular monthly meeting of the New Minas Water Commission was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center.

In Attendance:

Maynard Stevens, Chair
Bob Horne, Vice Chair
Dave Chaulk, Commissioner
James Redmond, Commissioner
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer/Secretary Treasurer

Absent:

Marlene Dwyer, Citizen Member

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Stevens

Chair Stevens called the meeting to order

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Monthly Meeting Jan 28, 2009

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Chaulk that the minutes of the New Minas Water Commission held January 28, 2009 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – February 25, 2009

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Horne that the Agenda for the Regular meeting of the New Minas Water Commission of February 25, 2009 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Regional Sewer Update

Chair Stevens briefed the Commission members on Technical Memo #6 for the Regional Sewer Upgrades (attached to original minutes). The gist of TM#6 is a \$5M upgrade to the existing Regional Sewer facility over the next five years.

Chair Stevens asked the Commission if the Commission members have given any further consideration to the motion of October 2007 re three years' notice to withdraw. Considerable discussion ensued.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Horne that Technical Memo #6 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

b) Sewer Bylaw – Review by Commissioners

T. Silver updated the Commission on the Sewer Bylaw amendment, and stated the Engineer and staff feel all amendments are completed at that level

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Horne, that the Draft Sewer Bylaw be accepted as presented by the New Minas Water Commission, and staff now forward it to the Village's Solicitor. MOTION CARRIED

c) License Agreement – DOT for Test Station Greenwich

It was moved by Commissioner Chaulk, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, that the Licensing Agreement between the Village of New Minas and the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for land in Greenwich to construct a test station be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

MONTHLY REPORT – Superintendent of Public Works

The Superintendent's monthly report was presented by P. Pothier (copy attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Vice-Chair Horne, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the report of the Superintendent of Public Works be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Deposit on Water Connections

Commissioner Redmond asked the Clerk if the Village currently charges a deposit on Water Connections. T. Silver advised this has not been the practice. Commissioner Redmond stated that his son owns rental units and has discussed with him that he is responsible for the water/sewer fees of his tenants if the tenant refuses to pay. T. Silver advised that the Commission passed a policy several years ago giving staff the authority to bill the property owner, but with the option to send the bill to the tenant. If for some reason the tenant fails to pay, the owner is notified immediately. Commissioner Redmond stated that landlords only have 14 days after a tenant moves to submit a claim for any unpaid rent, and that would not even include water bills.

T. Silver stated that she and the staff have tried to encourage landlords to include water and sewer fees in the rent. She stated if the Village has an account that is outstanding for 45 days or more, they have the right to disconnect water until all fees are paid. This makes it difficult for the landlord if the tenant doesn't pay and leaves. She did say that

she and staff have been discussing charging deposits; however, it is time consuming for an already stretched staff, and can cause even more problems. That's why the Policy was written and approved – to keep Village staff out of landlord/tenant disputes.

Commissioner Redmond stated he would take this information back to his son.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

Maynard Stevens, Chair

**Terry Silver,
Clerk Treasurer/Secretary Treasurer**