

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2014
7:00 p.m.,
Conference Room, Louis Millett Community Complex (LMCC)

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on Monday, November 10, 2014 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 Kenneth Pineo
Commissioner James Redmond
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

Also in Attendance: Gordon Silver, Resident
Mark Strickland, Business Development Officer, Municipality of the County of Kings
John Owen, Resident
Mark Redmond, Resident
Jim Winsor, County Councillor, District 11

CALL TO ORDER, Chair Chaulk
Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: November 10, 2014
It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the Agenda of the November 10th, 2014 Commission meeting be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting October 14, 2014
It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the minutes of the Village Commission meeting held October 14, 2014 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Sale of Civic Center – Update

Clerk Silver stated that she has been advised there was a recent inquiry on the former Civic Center property, and she was asked to provide some information, which she has done.

b) Village Status Process – Update

Clerk Treasurer stated that the RFP was submitted and is on the provincial procurement site and notices have gone by direct mail. There have been a number of inquiries and the deadline is the first of next month.

c) Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Bylaw – Second Reading

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Bylaw be approved for second reading. MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION – Mark Strickland, Municipality of the County of Kings

Chair Chaulk welcomed Mr. Mark Strickland, Business Development Officer for the Municipality of the County of Kings and gave him the floor. Mr. Strickland gave a brief synopsis of his background and stated he works with developers in the process of setting up business in the County (permits, bylaw interpretation, business plans, etc.), and also works to bring in business to New Minas and all other parts of the County. He stated he wants to work closely with the Commission to “tap into” our resources and knowledge.

Mr. Strickland then answered questions from the Commissioners. Chair Chaulk thanked Mr. Strickland for his informative presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Recreation Director’s Report – John Ansara

Chair Chaulk referred to John Ansara’s Rec Director’s report and asked if there were any questions.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond 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 advised there was no Water Commission meeting since the last Village Commission meeting; therefore no report was available.

➤ Regional Sewer Committee – Inter-Municipal Agreement Draft

Vice-Chair Stevens advised that at the most recent Regional Sewer Committee meeting, the members were asked to bring forward a recommendation to their municipal unit regarding the Committee's proposal for the development of an Inter-Municipal Agreement for ownership and operation of the Regional Sewer facility. He presented a list of possible items that would be contained in such an agreement.

The Commission agreed to the process, in principle, and Vice-Chair Stevens was directed to pass this along to the RS Committee. Vice-Chair Stevens stated this will also be presented to the New Minas Water Commission.

c) New Minas Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo read the report of the New Minas Area Advisory Committee (attached to original minutes), which was prepared by Committee Chair John Owen.

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the report of the New Minas Area Advisory Committee be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

a) Fiscal Review

Chair Chaulk stated that there have been a number of meetings regarding the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review. Many of the Villages in Nova Scotia attended an emergency meeting set up by the Association of Nova Scotia Villages and each Village was invited to share their responses with the Association for their submission. Another meeting was held between the Villages of Kings County and the County Council, and he advised that Council supports the Villages in opposing Recommendations 13 and 14 in the Review and it was agreed that a joint working group would be formed to develop a response to the Review specific to 13 and 14. He stated that each Village agreed to go back to their Commission to make a decision on whether they will also respond individually. Chair Chaulk asked the Commission for input.

Vice-Chair Stevens stated he believes the Commission needs to take a strong stand and issue their own response. He noted that the Clerk had prepared answers to each of the questions posed by the Fiscal Review Working Group, as well as the 41 Recommendations. Vice-Chair Stevens stated that we should make sure that any documentation pertaining to the Fiscal Review be forwarded along to the Premier, all MLs with jurisdiction in Kings County, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and leaders of all opposing parties. He also made note of the County of Kings' Press Release.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that the Village forward a letter signed by the Chair to the Fiscal Review Committee, copied to the Premier, all MLAs with jurisdiction in Kings County, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and leaders of all opposing parties, and that the package contain all the reports supplied by the Clerk Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Chaulk asked Councillor Winsor if anyone voted against the Council's motion to oppose Recommendations 13 and 14, and Councillor Winsor stated he didn't think so.

b) Christmas Hours

Clerk Silver presented a report to the Commission outlining different flex Christmas hours for staff.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the list of working hours for the holidays as presented by the Clerk be approved. MOTION CARRIED

The Commission requested the Clerk to develop a Policy so the Commission will not have to deal with this question every year. T. Silver stated she will do that and bring it to them when ready.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Councillor Jim Winsor – stated that the Fiscal Review was discussed at UNSM. It was on the regular meeting Agenda, and the Warden brought the subject up at the Rural Caucus meeting. He stated that a lot of rural municipalities do not have Villages and aren't mindful of the important role played by Villages in Nova Scotia. He stated that the Minister of Municipal Affairs does not fully understand the role either, and for sure the Working Group knows nothing about the value of Villages, which is clear from these two recommendations that focused on the dissolution of Villages without any supporting documentation or discussion. It was his opinion that the Towns were the problem, but the review really didn't want to deal with them.

He spoke of the value of Villages and the services they provide for a small amount of money to the taxpayer. He said everyone needs to speak out loudly and clearly against Recommendations 13 and 14. He said no one has thought about what would happen to those services currently being provided by Villages if the government would force dissolution.

ADJOURNMENT

On Motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer