

**VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS**  
**REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**  
**April 10, 2006**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on April 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Centre.

**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:**

Paula Kinley-Howatt, Village Solicitor  
Eric Smith, County Councillor District 11  
John Mroz, Resident  
Maynard Stevens, Resident  
Audrey Herron, Resident  
Dean Hatt, Resident  
Margaret Horne, Resident  
Bob Horne, Resident  
Mark Redmond, Resident  
Don Zwicker, Resident  
Stephen Schofield, Resident  
Andrew Mitton, Resident  
Allan Milton, Resident  
Marvin Messom, Resident  
Barbara Messom, Resident  
Blair Coldwell, Resident  
Jane Morse, Resident  
S. A. Milne, Resident  
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works  
Jennifer Coolen, Recreation Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 13, 2006

**It was moved by Vice Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the Regular Commission minutes of March 13, 2006 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** April 10, 2006

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the Regular Commission Agenda of April 10, 2006 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

(a) Parking – First Baptist Church – Update

The Clerk Treasurer advised that the Village's solicitor is currently working on an Agreement, and the process is on-going.

(b) Strategic Planning – Update

The Clerk Treasurer reported that Mr. Byron MacDonald of Kings CED was in to her office this date and advised he would be happy to set up a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss the process of Strategic Planning. The Clerk Treasurer will set up a meeting after the up-coming Commission election.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Water Commission – Vice Chair Linda Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart advised that there was no meeting of the Water Commission; therefore there is no report.

(b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo stated that there was no meeting of the Area Advisory Committee since the March Commission meeting; therefore, there is no report.

(c) Recreation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg stated that she was unable to attend the last Recreation Advisory Committee, and asked Commissioner Pineo to give a report. Commissioner Pineo stated that the Committee had discussed goals and objectives at the last RAC meeting. Chair Chaulk added that Jennifer Coolen is locating a facilitator for a "brainstorming" session for a meeting to discuss goals and objectives, and to assist in deciding where the Village wants to go recreationally, keeping in mind our own resources. Commissioner Pineo stated that the Committee discussed a number of smaller projects as well.

**It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the report of the Recreation Advisory Committee be accepted as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

(d) Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Barrett

Commissioner Barrett stated that he was unable to attend the Transportation Advisory Committee, and read from a report.

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the Clerk write a letter to Mr. Brian Ward of DOTPW advising that the Village will continue to plow, salt and sand the sidewalk at the intersection of the Connector Road and Prospect Road, but will not be responsible for any repairs or other maintenance. MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the Clerk write a letter to the RCMP, with a copy of Mr. Ward's letter, to request that they enforce the speed zones in the area of Aalders Avenue, Lockhart Drive and Cornwallis Avenue. MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the Clerk Treasurer write a letter to Hon. David Morse, MLA to request his assistance to have DOTPW deal with the Cloverleaf Drive drainage problem in 2006/2007. MOTION CARRIED.**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Brian Ward of DOTPW requesting a commitment from them to have the sidewalk adjacent to the Bank of Nova Scotia repaired two weeks prior to the Apple Blossom week-end, and putting the DOTPW on notice that if this is not done, the Village will repair the sidewalk and bill the DOTPW. MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the Clerk write a letter to DOTPW and request that Crescent Drive, Redden Avenue and Lockhart Drive be included in the traffic counts to be carried out by DOTPW in the spring of 2006. MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the Village Commission consider the subject of sidewalks on the south side of Commercial Street to be part of the process for the proposed Transportation Study. MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the Terms of Reference for the Transportation Advisory Committee be amended to allow the TAC to hold its meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. MOTION CARRIED**

(e) Building Ad Hoc Committee – Vice-Chair Lockhart

Vice Chair Lockhart advised that the Building Ad Hoc Committee has not met since the last Commission meeting. The Clerk will contact the Committee members and the Chair will call a meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Forest Hill Subdivision Open Space Fee

Chair Chaulk read an email from Bob Suffron, Co-Coordinator of Parks and Open Spaces for the County of Kings regarding the application of Mr. Art Heginbottom, developer of Forest Hills Subdivision, to sell the open space lot #20 back to the Developer, ADH Properties Canada Limited. Mr. Suffron has stated that since there may never be sufficient homes within the subdivision to warrant a play area, this offer may be advisable.

Discussion took place as to how the Commission should respond to Mr. Heginbottom's request to the County, and the County's subsequent request to the Village. Chair Chaulk stated that he has no problem accommodating the developer's request, but feels that the Village should receive a reasonable share of the parks levy. Commissioner Barrett agreed with the Village receiving its fair share, but stated it probably would be advantageous to retain the open space. Commissioner Swanburg stated when she was the Rec Director, it was her recollection that the late Dan Watters had tried very hard for the Village to receive its fair share of parks' levies, but did not; she feels that it won't happen now, either. Chair Chaulk stated that this is not a reason to stop trying, and he went on to say that the Village has had many issues with the County that are being dealt with, and the message to be sent to the County is that the Village must be treated in an equitable manner, and he would like to continue the fight.

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that the Commission advise the County of Kings that they agree in principle with Mr. Heginbottom's request to purchase the open space lot in Forest Hills Subdivision for \$27,000, and that the Village is requesting an equitable share of all parks levies within the Village. MOTION CARRIED**

(b) Four M. Investments Open Space Designation

The Clerk Treasurer read a letter from Four M. Investments Reg. , asking for the Village Commission's input on its acceptance of the environmental open space in the proposed development.

Commissioner Barrett stated that developers are usually cash poor and for financial reasons have to give up a portion of the land for open space. He stated he knows the area

in question. Commissioner Swanburg stated that she agrees that we should accept any land donated for recreational purposes.

**It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, to advise Four M. Investments Reg, that the Commission will accept the land as a park. MOTION CARRIED**

(c) Fire Fighters Honorarium – Request for List of Recipients

Chair Chaulk advised that Commissioner Barrett had asked the Clerk Treasurer to request a list of recipients for the fire fighters' honorarium granted by the Village, and the Clerk Treasurer agreed to poll the Commissioners. He stated that anything of this nature must be decided upon by the entire Commission. He asked Commissioner Barrett the purpose of his request.

Commissioner Barrett stated that when the Village budgeted \$4,500, part of the agreement was that each fire fighter would receive \$100, and he wondered if this process was properly carried out in accordance with the agreement.

Chair Chaulk stated that if the Village requests a statement of the fire fighters' honorarium, then it should be attached to all donations the Village gives. Commissioner Barrett stated that the Commission does not have certain stipulations for other recipients. He stated that a list has been provided by the Fire Department in the past. Chair Chaulk stated that he has singled out the Fire Department. He said every year the Apple Blossom Booster Club gets \$2,000, and other groups receive donations from the Village, yet they have not been asked for a statement of where the funds were spent. Commissioner Barrett stated that there was a motion that each member receive \$100; he said he doesn't need names, but just wants some accountability as to whether the Commission's wishes were followed through.

The Clerk Treasurer stated that she had followed through on the Commission's directions. She stated that she had phoned the Fire Chief and asked how many fire fighters were currently part of the force and was told 45. She stated that she requisitioned a cheque to be issued for \$4,500, or \$100 per registered fire fighter at that time.

Chair Chaulk stated that the request was for a "list of recipients". Commissioner Barrett stated that this had been done in the past, so a certain precedence had been set. A list in the past had shown a variation of the money distributed – some received more money than others, and the agreement was for each member to receive \$100. Commissioner Barrett added that he is prepared to accept the Clerk's explanation of the distribution of the fire fighters' honoraria.

Chair Chaulk reiterated his confidence in the Fire Department, and that if the Commission asks the Fire Department of disburse the funds in a particular way, they will do so. Commissioner Barrett stated that he accepts the Clerk Treasurer's statements that the proper process was carried out.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

### Mr. John Mroz

Mr. Mroz gave the Commission advice on procedures for investing.

His second question was: is the Commission making any progress on the lawsuits and Human Rights complaints against the Village.

Chair Chaulk stated that he cannot comment on the specifics, but stated as soon as the Commission has something to give to the public, they will be advised. He said that he would like to think we're making progress.

### Mr. Peter Pothier

Mr. Pothier stated that the open space on King Arthur Court should be carefully considered by the Commission. He urged the Commission to seriously consider hanging onto the land. The Clerk will investigate if they actually have the option.

### Mr. Marvin Messom

Mr. Messom stated as general information, the land on Highbury is all green space. It cannot be built on; there is a brook on this land.

### Mr. Sam Milne

Mr. Milne asked what the parking lot item is that appears on the Commission Agenda, and has appeared on the Agenda for months.

Chair Chaulk answered that the Baptist Church had contacted the Commission some time ago to expand their parking lot onto the Village's land, at no cost to the Village, to provide more parking for them and the Village. He said there have been some delays in getting information back and forth between the Church and the Village. The Village's solicitor is working on the details for an agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of Vice-Chair Lockhart, the meeting adjourned.**

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Dave Chaulk, Chair

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Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer