

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 10, 2014

7:00 p.m.,

Board Room, Louis Millett Community Complex (LMCC)

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on Monday, March 10, 2014 in the Board Room of the Louis Millett Community Complex 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: John Ansara, Recreation Director
Ms. Anne Rogers, Resident

CALL TO ORDER, Chair Chaulk

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: March 10, 2014

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, that the Agenda for the regular Commission meeting of March 10, 2014 be approved with the following additions under ADDED ITEMS: "Time Change April 14 Commission meeting – Vice-Chair Stevens", and "Municipal Governance – Commission Munroe". MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting February 10, 2014

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that the minutes of the regular Commission meeting held February 10, 2014 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Sale of Civic Center – Update

T. Silver advised there is nothing new to report on the sale of the old Civic Center.

b) LED Lighting Program – Update

Chair Chaulk stated the Commission had an opportunity to review the RFP for the LED Lighting Program and asked the Commissioners if there were any questions. T. Silver stated that the RFP has been posted on the provincial procurement website. The Commission will be advised of the outcome of this part of the process.

c) Kings Partnership Steering Committee Village membership – Update

Chair Chaulk stated there is nothing new from the KPSC. Vice-Chair Stevens advised there is a meeting Wednesday evening, and suggested perhaps there would be something forthcoming after that time with regard to the County's notice to the KPSC to add three more members to the County's membership and that those members be Village Commissioners.

d) Fire Department Capital - Update

Commissioner Redmond stated there is nothing new to report since the Commission and Fire Department met with the County CAO and Manager of Protective Services Brian Desloges in February.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Recreation Director's Report – John Ansara

Chair Chaulk asked the Commissioners if they had any questions coming out of the Recreation Director's Report.

Vice-Chair Stevens stated that he attended the Village's presentation to Kings County Council requesting funding for the Splash Park project, and he commended John for doing such an awesome job. He stated that the feedback he has received from Councillors after the presentation was very positive.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the report of the Recreation Director be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

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

There was no meeting of the Water Commission. Vice-Chair Stevens requested the opportunity to updated the Commission on the Regional Sewer Committee (written report attached to original minutes).

c) New Minas Planning Advisory Committee

There was no meeting of the New Minas Planning Advisory Committee

NEW BUSINESS

a) Volunteer of the Year Nomination approval

Vice-Chair Stevens declared a conflict of interest and moved to the gallery.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that the Commission nominates Kathie Brown as volunteer of the year for New Minas. MOTION CARRIED

OTHER ADDED ITEMS

a) Commission Meeting, April 14th, Time Change Request from Vice-Chair Stevens

Vice-Chair Stevens requested the Commission to change the start time for the April 14th Commission meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 due to a commitment he has. T. Silver advised that the By-Law states that the meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m., and after discussion, the Commission agreed to change the time for this meeting only.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the start time for the April 14th, 2014 Commission meeting be changed from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m..

MOTION CARRIED

b) Governance – Commissioner Munroe

Commissioner Munroe cited passages from recent UNSM correspondence forwarded to the Villages where meetings are being held to discuss the future of municipalities in Nova Scotia, but she noted that Villages do not have a voice, except through their Council. She said she feels very strongly that if Villages, particularly New Minas, do not have a voice at the table, there could be decisions that could be detrimental to our very existence. She asked for the Commission's feelings on this.

Vice-Chair Stevens stated that the Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) is currently trying to set up a meeting with Minister Furey to voice their concerns about the current local government conditions in Nova Scotia, particularly the Springhill issue and the announcements coming from that, and especially regarding the future of Villages in general. He stated the ANSV has had a Discussion Paper on the various Ministers' desks for years and the paper just seems to be forgotten. The Association will be requesting the Minister to come to the next Executive meeting.

Commissioner Munroe stated she had a personal conversation with Premier MacNeil, and he told her that if there is anything he can do to help "make Villages work better", he will.

Discussion took place with regard to Villages being part of the KPSC, and the benefits to both the Villages of Kings County and the KPSC itself. It was felt that the Commission needs to ensure the lines of communication are kept open and that we are always aware of what is taking place with regard to discussions about governance.

Chair Chaulk stated that he feels this Village Commission has done pretty well all it can do at this point. We have requested County Council to allow Villages in Kings County to be part of the Kings Partnership Steering Committee, and although no decision has been made at this point, it is a clear message of how Villages in Kings County feel. He stated he agrees with Commissioner Munroe that we need to stay on top of things and at every opportunity let our voices be known.

The Commissioners agreed that they feel Kings County Council want Villages to be an active part of KPSC and feel we should be there to have our say. It was pointed out that when Council voted to request the KPSC to have three more members, those being Village representatives, on KPSC, our own Councillor voted AGAINST that motion, and everyone felt that the Commission deserves an explanation from Councillor Winsor.

CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Ms. Anne Rogers, Resident – stated that the Village’s website does not include the time of the Village Commission meeting. After inquiring, it was determined that Ms. Rogers was referring to the notice on the Village’s calendar. It is necessary to “click” on the calendar event to get the times. John said he would look into it and make sure the time is on the calendar on the website as well as the Commission business section.

ADJOURNMENT

On Motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer