

**VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS**  
**REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MARCH 12, 2012**  
**7:00 p.m., Civic Center**

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on Monday, March 12, 2012 in the Civic Center.

**In Attendance:**

Chair Dave Chaulk  
Vice-Chair Maynard Stevens  
Commissioner Dean Hatt  
Commissioner Dale Pineo  
Commissioner James Redmond  
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

**Also In Attendance:**

John Ansara, New Minas Rec Director  
RCMP Sgt. Jamie Greene  
Ramona Jennex, MLA  
Patricia Bishop, County Councillor District 11  
Kathie Brown, Apple Blossom Festival  
Angela Pelton, Apple Blossom Festival

**CALL TO ORDER – Dave Chaulk, Chair**

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA: March 12 2012**

**It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens, that the Agenda of the regular Commission meeting of March 12, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting February 13, 2012**

**It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the regular Commission minutes of February 13, 2012 be approved as circulated, with the following change: Page 4 (e) Shopping Carts Problem, “Commissioner Pineo read a statement addressing the on-going problem with *abandoned* shopping carts...” – replacing the word “stray” with abandoned. MOTION CARRIED**

**PRESENTATION – Angela Pelton – Apple Blossom Festival**

Chair Chaulk welcomed Angela Pelton from the Apple Blossom Festival. Ms. Pelton read a statement in which she emphasized the importance and value of the Apple Blossom

Festival to the area and to the participants. She stated until 2011, New Minas has hosted the a “meet and greet” event for the past thirty years, and she stated that this event provides an opportunity for the Village’s representative to welcome everyone to her community and it gives all the participants an opportunity to learn about our Village and recognize the support. Ms. Pelton suggested that if the cost of hosting this event is an issue, local businesses could be solicited to make donations.

Commissioner Stevens reminded the Commissioners that a motion was made at the last Commission meeting to pre-budget an amount for the 2012/2013 fiscal year, but the motion did not receive a seconder. He stated that he feels this event is important and New Minas is seen to be an active participant in this valley event.

**It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the Village host a dinner for the Royal Party during Apple Blossom week, and the funds for this be placed in the 2012/2013 budget. MOTION DEFEATED**

Chair Chaulk thanked Ms. Pelton for her presentation, and stated that the Commission does support the festival.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### a) Boundary Expansion – Update

T. Silver stated that she was advised on March 9<sup>th</sup> that the Information Requests submitted by the Municipality of Kings and the UARB are to be answered and submitted by March 23<sup>rd</sup>. There are approximately 140 requests. She stated this is a very tight timeline, but they are attempting to meet the deadline.

##### b) Facility Update

###### ➤ Fundraising – Update John Ansara

Rec Director John Ansara stated things are moving along nicely with fundraising efforts, although it has been a challenge getting people to join the fundraising committee. He will continue to pursue that. He advised he has two Acadia students on work term who are doing an amazing job helping him with the first Village-run fundraiser, which is an event to be held at the New Minas Fire Hall on April 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be an auction, with door prizes and entertainment.

###### ➤ Grant Applications

###### ✓ Gas Tax Update Terry Silver

T. Silver reminded the Commission that she had been advised, at the “eleventh hour”, that the Village’s Facility would NOT qualify for Gas Tax funding, even though in the beginning she was advised it did qualify. She stated that it appears that only the energy savings components, including the Geo Thermal system, would qualify at this point. She stated she has had a visit from a rep from the Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Secretariat, and they visited the site. The representative advised this is the first application they have processed of this nature, and he is committed to helping New Minas get as much grant money as possible for the project.

✓ County Grant Update Terry Silver

T. Silver advised the Commission and Facility team did a presentation to Kings County's Budget session on February 27<sup>th</sup>, and she felt that presentation was well received.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) Water Commission Report – Vice-Chair Maynard Stevens

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

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

b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Hatt advised there was no Area Advisory Committee and no report is available. He advised the next AAC meeting is being held on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

c) Recreation Director's Report – John Ansara (submitted)

Chair Chaulk stated that the Commissioners had received the Rec Director's Report last week and asked for any questions or comments.

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

Vice-Chair Stevens congratulated John and his team for a great "Sledding Party". He stated it was a lot of fun and well attended.

Chair Chaulk asked John about the two interns from Acadia who are spearheading the fund-raising event, and whether they were being paid. John advised that they are on a work term and are not on the Village's payroll.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a) Rail Trail – Lease Agreement

T. Silver stated that we are very close to finalizing the Lease Agreement with the railway owners, and funding is still in place for the provincial and municipal grants until fiscal year end. She stated that the last thing needed for the Lease is for any pro-rated adjustment for expended funds if the owner should require taking back the land for railway use.

John Ansara broke down the financial factors for the project, and stated with the \$30,000 committed by the Province, \$25,000 from the County, Gas Tax for the remainder, the Village's commitment at this time would be approximately \$15,000, plus the lease payment of \$2,000/year. John stated that with the construction of the Village's

facility, and the proximity of the facility and other trails, this is a great time to be developing the rail trail if we can complete the Lease negotiations.

In general, the Commissioners felt this is a good step forward, particularly in conjunction with the construction of the new facility.

Chair Chaulk is concerned about the terms of reimbursement, and the Commission will review the terms once reimbursement schedule is presented.

## **OTHER ADDED ITEMS**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

#### RCMP Sgt. Jamie Brown

Sgt. Brown introduced himself and stated he has been in the Village only 7 days. He gave a rundown of his past placements with the RCMP, and stated he is happy to be in the Valley again. Sgt. Brown answered questions and enlightened the Commissioners on issues facing the RCMP in the area. He stated there is 24 hour policing, and this detachment is the busiest one in the province, with the highest workload. He stated they are always trying to add more members and the request is brought up at County Council every year. Sgt. Brown stated that they are constantly campaigning the public to be aware of personal safety by not driving impaired and keeping their vehicles and homes locked.

John Ansara spoke to the safety issues at the Skateboard park, and asked Sgt. Brown to ensure that their presence is known when possible.

Discussion ensued on the protection of privacy, and Sgt. Brown agreed to review this and advise the Village if charges can be laid under the criminal code against offenders on the Village's property.

Chair Chaulk thanked Sgt. Brown for his input, and the Commission agreed it is encouraging that he took the initiative to come to the meeting. Sgt. Brown emphasized that they are a hard working group of people and they are always willing to work with the local governments.

#### Hon. Ramona Jennex, MLA

Hon. Jennex asked if the Village has made any provincial applications for funding for the new facility for the kitchen. T. Silver advised the funding for the kitchen was for operating funding through Community Services, and in her discussion with the DSS representative, she was advised when the facility is ready to be up and running, contact should be made with DSS for the food preparation program. Other than that, we have applied for the Facility Grant through Health Promotion Nova Scotia, which is the only provincial grant that has been made available to them, according to responses from Hon. Jennex and provincial bureaucrats.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.**

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**Dave Chaulk, Chair**

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**Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer**