

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2013

7:00 p.m.,

Conference Room, Louis Millett Community Complex (LMCC)

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held in the Conference Room of the Louis Millett Community Complex.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

REGRETS

Commissioner Dean Hatt

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mary Munroe, Resident
Linda Sawler, Resident
Jennifer Hoegg, Transcontinental Media
Mike Ennis, Deputy Warden, Municipality of the County of Kings
Jim Winsor, Canaan Heights
Inspector Mike Payne, RCMP
Staff Sgt. Jean-Guy Richard, RCMP

CALL TO ORDER, Chair Chaulk

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: February 11, 2013

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the Agenda for the February 11, 2013 Commission meeting be approved as presented, with the following addition: "New Business (c) Resignation, Commissioner Pineo". MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 14, 2013

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the minutes of the regular Commission meeting held January 14, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Boundary Expansion – Update

Chair Chaulk stated to those present that the application from the Village of New Minas to expand the Village boundaries to the south of Highway 101, submitted to the NS Utility and Review Board has been approved. He stated that there are several housekeeping items that the Village must respond to the UARB about. These are:

1. Effective Date – The Commission approved the recommended date of April 1, 2013 as being the effective date of the boundary expansion.
2. Boundary location – the Commission feels the boundary as set out in the Village's application is appropriate. Unless the County wishes to discuss anything different, they would not make any attempt to change it.
3. Recovery of Costs – the Commissioners felt that at this point they feel it is more important to go forward and foster better relations with the County. To apply to the UARB to recover costs, they feel, could cause more agitation than it would be worth. They feel they went into the process with their eyes wide open and do not want to apply to recover costs.

b) Facility Update

- Fundraising – Update John Ansara

John stated that he continues to have meetings and send out sponsorship letters, but does not have anything to report at this meeting.

c) Sale of Civic Center – Update

T. Silver advised there is nothing to report with regard to the sale of the old Civic Center property.

d) Village Generating Village Tax Bills – Update

T. Silver advised she and her staff have recently met with Property Valuation Services Corp. (PVSC), and finance staff for the County of Kings. She stated there are some issues with the Village obtaining information required to produce the tax bills at reasonable cost, but they will continue to try to negotiate a reasonable process.

e) Apple Blossom Festival Official Opening Ceremonies Update – Vice-Chair Stevens

Vice-Chair Stevens reported that the Apple Blossom Official Opening Committee has met twice since the last Commission meeting and plans are well underway with several sponsors being secured. He thanked all the volunteers and in particular the New Minas Lions Club for their assistance.

f) Granite Drive Interchange – Response from NS Transportation

Chair Chaulk advised that the Village has received a response from NS Transportation and Infrastructure to their letter, regarding the timing of the Granite Drive interchange project. Mr. Brian Ward noted in his letter that the project is still scheduled for the 2014/2015 fiscal year, but of course much depends on budget approvals.

PRESENTATION – Kings RCMP - 2012 Year in Review Presentation – RCMP Inspector Mike Payne

Chair Chaulk welcomed Inspector Mike Payne and Staff Sgt. Jean-Guy Richard. He invited Insp. Payne to present the annual report to the Commission.

Insp. Payne gave a very comprehensive and detailed presentation on the role of RCMP in Kings County, and their relationship with surrounding communities. He gave details on County-wide statistics. Insp. Payne and Sgt. Richard answered questions from the Commission during the presentation.

Chair Chaulk thanked Insp. Payne and Sgt. Richard for their very presentation, and commended them on their great work in the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Recreation Director's Report – John Ansara

Chair Chaulk asked the Commissioners if they had any questions for Rec Director John Ansara pertaining to his report, which they had previously received.

Commissioner Pineo asked John if he knew where and when the Valley Youth Run will be for 2013. John stated it is in May (and will get the exact date), and will be held again in Canning. John is hoping the Run will come back to New Minas in 2014.

Vice-Chair Stevens asked John for clarification of the approval of paving the rail trail, and the grant cited in John's report. John stated that he had applied for the \$110,000 grant to pave the rail trail, and it was approved. Vice-Chair Stevens commented he likes the natural trail, and John explained that paving the trail makes it accessible to all non-motorized traffic. Commissioner Pineo asked if any of the Trans Canada Trail has been paved, and John was not aware of the answer for this.

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

b) New Minas Water Commission Report

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 approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

b) New Minas Planning Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

There was no meeting of the New Minas Planning Advisory Committee; therefore, no report.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Budget approval – Royal Party Dinner – Vice-Chair Stevens

Vice-Chair Stevens stated that it was his understanding that there was money placed in the 2012/2013 budget to pay for the June 2013 Royal Party Dinner, and the Volunteer of the Year banquet. He stated that he had discussed this with T. Silver, but was told these amounts were not in the budget. T. Silver explained that in order to place money in a reserve for future expenditures in a new budget year, it can't simply be placed in the current year's budget, but the Commission must pass a motion to do so, and she does not have a record of such a motion.

Vice-Chair Stevens told the Commission he now understands these two events fall between the beginning of the fiscal year and the time before the approval of the year's budget approvals, and he feels these are very important expenditures and would like the Commission to give pre-approval to the expenditures for the 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award event and hosting the Royal Party dinner after the parade.

Chair Chaulk stated that it was his opinion that the Commission's decision for 2012/13 was based upon a philosophical reason (to not do these 2 events), rather than for budgeting reasons. Commissioner Pineo stated that it has been his experience that there has been limited response to the invitations for the Volunteer event. Vice-Chair Stevens stated he feels it is still an important recognition of volunteers and the Commission should consider doing something.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Stevens, but there being no seconder, the motion was lost.

b) Special Premises Liquor License – Motion to Approve

T. Silver advised that the New Minas Lions Club has been operating the bar in the Louis Millett Community Complex Civic Center since it opened. In order to simplify the liquor licensing procedure for the Lions Club, a discussion has taken place with NS Gaming and the Village's insurance agents with regard to obtaining a "Special Premises Liquor License", thereby cutting down on the paper work and expense for the Lions Club.

Chair Chaulk asked why the Village is allowing liquor to be served from the Civic Center, and who has liability if someone consumes alcohol on our premises and something bad happens. T. Silver stated that the Village is practicing due diligence by ensuring the bar is only operated by a responsible group whose members have gone through training to ensure they can properly handle the task. She stated the Lions Club has been informed also that they must have liquor liability. Chair Chaulk stated again he is not sure the Village Commission should even permit the sale of liquor on its premises. Terry stated that the Village has a policy approved by the Commission a number of years ago allowing liquor to be served in the Village's Civic Center only, and the Commission approved of the design plans of the Louis Millett Community Complex, and she apologized if she made an incorrect assumption. Chair Chaulk stated that he was aware the bar was in the design, but nothing had come forward to the Commission for the sale of liquor. Silver apologized for not realizing this step, and stated she had made the assumption based on the facts. T. Silver stated she has spoken at length with the Village's insurance agent, and the Village has liquor insurance (as stated the Village's policy has always allowed liquor licenses in the Civic Center), and has been assured that the proper process has been followed.

John Ansara asked Chair Chaulk if he would feel better about running the bar in the LMCC if the Village hired security for the events. Chair Chaulk stated he feels he would feel better. Chair Chaulk said he is concerned that there would be a number of (inebriated) people at a function and there would be a risk of "trashing" this new facility. T. Silver explained that if there is an event in the Civic Center, everything else in the facility is locked down.

The Commission directed the Clerk to request clarification from the Village's Insurance Agent as to the Village's liability, and they would discuss their concerns further. T. Silver stated there are some critical timelines at this point, and requested the Commission to give direction as quickly as possible. J. Ansara stated that the Village is holding a Valentine's Dance this Thursday, and liquor will be served at this event. Commissioner Redmond stated that this should be "grandfathered" through since it has already been booked.

c) Resignation, Commissioner Dale Pineo

Commissioner Pineo requested permission to read from a written statement and was given the floor. Commissioner Pineo submitted his letter of resignation to the Clerk Treasurer and thanked the staff and Commission for their guidance over the past eight years. He stated he is submitting nomination documents for County Councillor in District 11.

Chair Chaulk thanked Commissioner Pineo for his years of dedicated service to the people of New Minas, and he, along with the other Commissioners wished him well in his future endeavours.

d) By Election call

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that a by-election be held within the required 30 days. MOTION CARRIED

Chair Chaulk thanked Commissioner Pineo for his years of service as Commissioner and stated he had brought a lot to the table with his dedication and integrity. On behalf of the Commission, he wished Dale good luck in his endeavors.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Ms. Mary Munroe – Ms.Munroe asked the Commission if they felt the County would appeal the decision of the NSUARB with regard to the expansion of the Village’s boundary. Chair Chaulk stated the Commission has not heard anything yet and would not speculate.

Councillor Mike Ennis – stated there will be a public announcement by Warden Brothers tomorrow. He stated he could not divulge the contents of the announcement, but stated Council is anxious to develop the best working relationship possible with Villages.

Ms. Mary Munroe – asked who would be responsible for development expenses. T. Silver stated that water and sewer transmission mains are the responsibility of the Village and the developer is responsible to install laterals to connect to the Village’s mains.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer