

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 10, 2012
7:00 p.m., Civic Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at the Civic Center at 7:00 p.m..

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, Recreation Director
Mike Payne, Inspector, RCMP
Cpl. Greg Hicks, RCMP
Eric Smith, Councillor District 11

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Dave Chaulk, Chair

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: April 10, 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the Agenda for the regular Commission meeting of April 10, 2012 be approved, with the following additions:

PRESENTATION: Mike Payne, RCMP Inspector

OTHER ADDED ITEMS (c) Earth Day, and (d) Security at Skateboard park

**CORRESPONDENCE: (a) New Minas Lions Club – Volunteer of the Year
(b) New Minas Lions Club – Lockhart Ryan Park
(b) Woodworks Atlantic
(c) Hon. Keith Colwell**

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting March 12, 2012

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting held March 12, 2012 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Boundary Expansion – Update T. Silver

T. Silver advised that the Commission had until office closing on April 6th to submit responses to the UARB and County's Information Requests, and these were forwarded on April 5th. She stated the other parties will have until April 27th to submit their documents, and each party will have some time to respond. At this point, the Hearing is set for the week of June 11th to 15th and will be held at the Fire Hall.

b) Facility Update

➤ Fundraising – Update John Ansara

J. Ansara was asked to speak to the fund-raising efforts for the Facility. John advised he had made several attempts to have community business people meet to join his fund-raising team; however, that has not gone as well as he had hoped. He stated he and Commissioner Hatt have upcoming meetings scheduled, and everyone is hopeful this will bring even more community awareness.

Chair Chaulk asked for an update on the sale of the Civic Center property. T. Silver advised that the buyer has requested an extension, which seems realistic since their application of February 3rd did not come to the Area Advisory for a Public Information Meeting until April 17th.

The Commission allowed the Recreation Director's report to be moved to this point in the meeting.

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

Chair Chaulk asked the Commissioners if they had any comments on the Rec Director's report, previously submitted.

Vice-Chair Stevens asked why the Youth Fun Run is not at Lockhart Ryan Park this year. John stated he came on with the Commission after the decision was made to move it to other locations, but he stated that there is serious discussion about bringing it back to Lockhart Ryan because it is the ideal location.

Commissioner Hatt reiterated John's earlier statement regarding contact with potential facility donors, and said they would start next week.

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

PRESENTATION – Inspector Mike Payne, RCMP

Chair Chaulk welcomed Inspector Mike Payne of the New Minas Detachment of the RCMP. Inspector Payne gave a very comprehensive presentation on the “*Kings District 2011 Year in Review*” (copies attached to original minutes).

Insp. Payne and Cpl. Greg Hicks then answered questions from the Commission. They emphasized the need for people to practice good safety, by locking house and shed doors, keep valuables out of sight in vehicles and keep vehicles locked. They also urge the public to call the RCMP if they notice anything strange; “*if it doesn’t seem right, call us*” was his advice.

Insp. Payne gave a brief rundown on how manpower is determined and stated this detachment has a very large area. They are hopeful that Kings County will be successful in adding another staff member to their 2012/2013 budget.

Chair Chaulk stated he feels that visibility is everything, but he doesn’t see a lot of police patrolling in New Minas, and wonders if their resources are strained. Insp. Payne stated that the detachment is staffed on a rural model; that the provincial average is one police officer to just over 500 people. Kings ratio is 1/1100 with 2,200 square miles of patrolling area. He stated they are making every effort to be visible.

Commissioner Redmond voiced concern that part of the problem could be related to the justice system; there seems to be a revolving door for some offenders. Insp. Payne stated they have a Crime Analyst, and that person’s job is to analyze the details of committed crimes and to use this information to help solve crimes. Chair Chaulk felt it would be helpful if police officers could criticize what goes on in court. He also stated he feels the media should be used more.

Chair Chaulk thanked Inspector Payne, Corporal Hicks, as well as Jamie Brown and Jean-Guy Richard, for taking an interest in the Village, and on behalf of the Commission he stated the Commission appreciates their coming to the meetings, as well as the work they do.

b) 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 Water Commission Report be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

c) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Hatt read the report of the Area Advisory Committee (attached to original minutes).

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

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Nomination Day – April 18 2012

Chair Chaulk announced that Nomination Day is April 18, 2012, for 2 Commission seats.

OTHER ADDED ITEMS

- a) Village of New Minas Volunteers recognition (Volunteer of the Year etc.) – Vice-Chair Stevens

Vice-Chair Stevens expressed disappointment that the Village did not do a better job of looking for nomination of volunteers, and notifying organizations to come forward with nominations. T. Silver stated that the Village Commission did not place any money in the 2011/2012 budget for a recognition event or advertisements, except there was \$100 in the budget for mileage if an organization chose to nominate someone as the result of the County and provincial advertisements. She stated the Commission had seen a dwindling interest in nominations in the Village and felt the budget should be cut. There were numerous advertisements in the newspapers and on local radio stations for Volunteer week throughout this area, and the Village's website carried these at the time. Vice-Chair Stevens stated that a lot of people miss advertisements in the newspaper and on the radio, and a mail out to organizations would be a good way to remind people, and T. Silver urged the Commission to keep this in mind for the upcoming budget discussions.

Vice-Chair Stevens recommended that the service organizations could be invited to attend a Commission meeting for recognition. T. Silver stated this is a very, very busy time for staff, and asked Vice-Chair Stevens if he would be able to carry out that task if the Commission wished to do it. Vice-Chair Stevens stated he would.

Chair Chaulk stated he wishes we had been able to recognize volunteers, but he feels to do something at this time could be inappropriate, and it needs to be discussed at budget time.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the Village Commission recognize community volunteers at the next Village Commission meeting and that we use the budgeted item of \$100 for awards/certificates, etc. MOTION DEFEATED

- b) Village of New Minas representatives to Apple Blossom Festival events 2012 – Vice-Chair Stevens

Vice-Chair Stevens wondered if the Commission would like to discuss Commission representation at the upcoming Apple Blossom Festival events. He stated he has been

requested by Erika Brown to be her escort at the Tea, and he would be willing to bring greetings from the Village Commission at the same time. The Tea is on April 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the United Church.

T. Silver stated that the events schedule has not been received from the Apple Blossom Festival office at this point. The Commission agreed that Vice-Chair Stevens would give greetings at the Princess Tea and when the schedule is received, staff will notify the Commission for scheduling.

c) Earth Day – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo advised the Commission that April 22nd is Earth day, and wished the Commission to recognize this very important event.

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the Village Commission of New Minas recognize Earth Day on April 22nd. MOTION CARRIED

d) Security – Skateboard Park

With the weather getting better, and the activity increasing at the Skateboard Park, discussion took place as to what type of security would be necessary at this point. Vice-Chair Stevens stated he felt security should be hired now, even if only for the weekends. After discussion, it was agreed that the staff will monitor the activity at the Skateboard Park, advise the RCMP if necessary, and the Commission will review the question in May.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) New Minas Lions Club – request for use of Events Sign, Lockhart Ryan Park

The Commission reviewed a letter from the New Minas Lions Club requesting permission to use the events sign at Lockhart Ryan Park once the new facility is open.

T. Silver stated this request has just come to her and she would like time to consider the request and discuss it with staff. The item will be brought forward at the next Commission meeting.

b) New Minas Lions Club – Volunteer of the Year

Vice-Chair Stevens read a letter from King Lion, Mary Stevens, of the New Minas Lions Club stating the Lions Club had intended to nominate someone for New Minas' Volunteer of the Year; however, they had missed the deadline. The letter (attached to original minutes) asked the Village Commission to recognize Ms. Erika Brown in some manner for her volunteerism.

The Commissioners agreed to recognize Erika Brown for her volunteerism and for representing the Village Commission as their Apple Blossom Princess.

c) Woodworks Atlantic

The Commission reviewed a letter from Woodworks Atlantic requesting the Village Commission to notify their company of any Village projects featuring a significant use of wood in the design. No action was taken by the Commission with regard to this letter.

d) Honourable Keith Colwell, Critic for Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

The Commission reviewed a letter from the Honourable Keith Colwell, Critic for Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations requesting feedback from the Commission on the provincial government's announcement that they would not honour the terms of the MOU regarding mandatory payments on province-wide services. No action was taken by the Commission with regard to this letter.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Chair Stevens, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer