

VILLAGE COMMISSION OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 14, 2012
7:00 p.m., Civic Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on May 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center.

In Attendance:

Dave Chaulk, Commissioner
Dean Hatt, Commissioner
Dale Pineo, Commissioner
James Redmond, Commissioner
Maynard Stevens, Commissioner
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer

Also in Attendance:

Kathie Brown, Apple Blossom Club
Erika Brown, Princess New Minas
Julianne Misner, Volunteer Center Steering Committee
Anna Spooner, Volunteer Center Steering Committee
Jennifer Hoegg, Kentville News
Irene Woodin, Resident
Hector Woodin, Resident
Mary Munroe, Resident
Eric Smith, Councillor, District 11
Belinda Manning, Habitat for Humanity
Lynn Spencer, Admin Assistant/Accountant
John Ansara, Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER

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

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSIONER ELECTION

Commissioner Chaulk read the report of the Village Commissioner Election of May 2, 2012:

Dean Hatt	281 votes
Dave Chaulk	260 votes
Mary Munroe	239 votes
Teresa VanWilgenburg	54 votes
Krista Morine	39 votes

There were 467 electors casting votes. Dave Chaulk and Dean Hatt were re-elected.

OATH OF OFFICE

Commissioner Dean Hatt took the Oath of Office.

Commissioner Dave Chaulk took the Oath of Office.

ELECTION OF VILLAGE COMMISSION CHAIR

Commissioner Chaulk called for nominations of Commission Chair. Commissioner Stevens nominated Commissioner Dave Chaulk as Commission Chair. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Chaulk accepted the nomination of Commission Chair. He thanked the Commissioners for their continued confidence and support.

ELECTION OF VILLAGE COMMISSION VICE-CHAIR

Chair Chaulk called for nominations of Commission Vice-Chair. Commissioner Pineo nominated Commissioner Maynard Stevens as Commission Vice-Chair. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Stevens accepted the nomination of Commission Vice-Chair. He thanked the Commission for their support.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, May 14, 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens, the Agenda for the regular Commission meeting of May 14, 2012 be approved as presented with the following addition: under NEW BUSINESS (e) Elections – Commissioner Pineo. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES April 10 2012

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the minutes of the regular Commission meeting of April 10, 2012 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION – VOLUNTEER CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE – Anna Spooner and Julianne Misner

Chair Chaulk welcomed Anna Spooner and Julianne Misner, members of the Volunteer Center Steering committee. They gave a comprehensive presentation to the Commission for support for the new Volunteer Center, and explained the mandate of the Center. They also emphasized the importance of volunteerism, explaining staff at the Center would be the liaison between those organizations looking for volunteers and those persons wishing to volunteer.

They stated they are requesting \$500 from the Village Commission, or if that is not possible, a letter of support.

Chair Chaulk agreed that volunteers are the heart and soul of the community. He stated that the Village Commission is in the very early stages of budget discussions, and will discuss the request for financial support. He thanked Ms. Spooner and Ms. Misner for their presentation, and stated they would be advised of the Commission's budget decision.

PRESENTATION – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Belinda Manning

Chair Chaulk welcomed Belinda Manning, Fundraising Chair and Admin volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

Ms. Manning spoke of the first Kings County "build", and the success of the project. She talked also about the process to complete a project of this nature, and the many, many wonderful volunteers who made it happen. She stated her reason for approaching the Village Commission at this time is to see if the Commission owned any land to donate for another Habitat home.

The Commissioners requested staff to investigate any land possibilities and report to the Commission at its next meeting. Chair Chaulk thanked Belinda for her presentation and commended her and the Committee on their great work.

PRESENTATION – Certificate for Volunteerism and Apple Blossom Representation – Erika Brown

Vice-Chair Stevens stated that, in keeping with this meeting's volunteerism theme, it is fitting that the Commission present Erika Brown with a certificate of appreciation for volunteerism and for representing the Village as Princess New Minas in the 2011 Apple Blossom Festival.

Chair Chaulk thanked Erika for a job well done.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Boundary Expansion – Update – Terry Silver

T. Silver gave an outline of the upcoming dates respecting the Boundary Expansion. She reminded everyone the hearing begins Monday, June 11th at 9:00 a.m., at the Civic Center. The remainder of the hearings that week will be held at the Fire Hall.

b) Facility Update

- Fundraising - Update John Ansara

John Ansara advised that he and Commissioner Hatt have met with a number of business people in the community, and although there has been no money in hand yet, they are receiving positive feedback from the businesses. John stated they are continuing to meet with people and are hopeful donations will be forthcoming.

c) Request from Lions Club – Lockhart Ryan Sign

Terry Silver stated that staff had an opportunity to discuss the Lions Club's request to take over ownership of the sign at Lockhart Ryan Park when the Village erects a new one at the facility location. She recommends that this sign be turned over to the Lions Club, with conditions as stated and copied to these minutes.

Vice-Chair Stevens declared a conflict of interest and sat in the gallery.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the current sign at Lockhart Ryan Park be turned over to the New Minas Lions Club, free of charge, with conditions. MOTION CARRIED

d) Lease – Windsor to Hantsport Railway Trail

Vice-Chair Stevens stated that some time ago, he had been contacted by a resident who expressed concerns that there are several areas along the rail bed in the area the Village is considering building a trail. He stated he viewed these areas and is very concerned about the condition of the rail, the cost to repair the areas, and possible issues obtaining approvals.

The Commissioners agreed that staff will investigate the trail and report to the Commission at its next meeting.

e) Village Reps to Apple Blossom Festival Activities – Vice-Chair Stevens

Vice-Chair Stevens stated that, at the April Commission meeting, the decision to decide who will represent the Village at the upcoming Apple Blossom Festival activities was deferred until after the Commissioner election. T. Silver stated the office has not yet received any requests or schedule of events from the Apple Blossom Festival for representation.

Vice-Chair Stevens quoted dates and times and stated he has been requested to escort Erika Brown at the Coronation. Commissioners Hatt and Pineo also offered to take part if needed.

f) Security at Skateboard Park

T. Silver stated that there have been no reports forthcoming from the RCMP, public, patrons or parents of patrons of the Skateboard Park. Commissioner Redmond stated there have been 3 fires since the last Commission.

The Commission agreed that security would not be hired at this time and the Commission would review at the June meeting, but if staff sees a need in the interim, the Commission will address it more quickly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Recreation Director's report

Chair Chaulk asked the Commissioners if they had any questions from the Recreation Director's report (attached to original minutes). Commissioner Pineo asked about the implication on John's report regarding "healthy eating". John explained that all Rec Departments throughout the province looking at alternatives to serving hot dogs, pizza and pop, etc. in recreation settings. John stated it is challenging, but his goal is to work with Annapolis Valley Health to develop a healthy eating plan for the Village's recreation events and programs. Vice-Chair Stevens suggested serving bottled water as an alternative to pop. John continues to look into funding for the more expensive healthy alternatives.

Commissioner Pineo asked John if he was hiring an Events Co-ordinator. John responded that the Intern/Events Co-ordinator position starts near the end of May.

Vice-Chair Stevens commended John, the 2 students from Acadia and everyone else involved in the fundraiser at the Fire Hall in April. He stated he attended the event and said it was a great event and lots of fun. This fundraiser netted approximately \$2,000 for the Facility Music Room.

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the Director's Report be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

b) New Minas Water Commission

Vice-Chair Stevens read the report of the New Minas Water Commission (attached to original minutes). Vice-Chair Stevens' report also included the Source Water Protection Plan.

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, that the Report of the New Minas Water Commission be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

New Minas Area Advisory Committee

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

a) Payroll Policy

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the amendments to the Payroll Policy be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

b) Naming of the new Village facility

T. Silver stated that several times over the past year, discussions have taken place regarding the process to name the Village's new facility. Commissioners were asked for suggestions of names for this meeting. She said the contractor has the obligation to supply the name on the building.

Commissioner Hatt stated he has thought about this and provided two possibilities:

1. *New Minas Louis Millett Recreation and Civic Center*
2. *Louis Millett Recreation and New Minas Civic Center*

After discussion, the Commission instructed staff to place public requests for suggested names for the facility (insert in Water Bills, on our *Facebook* and the Village's website), and the Commission will review at the July Commission meeting.

c) Habitat for Humanity – Request for Support

The Commission referred to a letter from Lynn Spencer, Chair of the Steering Committee, Habitat for Humanity, Valley Project. The letter requested the Commission to support the next fundraiser by purchasing tickets for a table of 10 (\$400). The Commission deferred this request to the budget discussions.

d) Extension of Terms of Purchase and Sell Agreement – Civic Center property

The Commission was presented with a request from Plazacorp for another extension to the Purchase and Sell Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Pineo to grant an extension to the Purchase and Sell Agreement with Plazacorp as outlined in their letter. MOTION CARRIED

e) Elections

Commissioner Pineo stated he had received some complaints during the Commissioner election that the election was not well advertised and many people were not aware there even was an election. He stated he is aware that staff complied with the *Terms of Reference*, (i.e., MGA requirement) but wondered if there could have been any other advertising to alert the public that there was an election.

T. Silver advised that throughout the entire process, both local radio stations provided public service announcements, there were written notices placed in 7 different locations throughout the Village, there were notices on the Village's website, ads paid for and placed in the local newspaper at different intervals in the process, and notices placed on the sign board at Lockhart Ryan Park. She stated in the future staff can place notices in the March water/sewer bill advising of Nomination Day, but there is a short timeline after nomination day to the Advance Poll. She suggested the Commission may wish to amend the New Minas Elections Bylaw and Nomination Bylaw to seek the Minister's approval to have more time between Nomination Day and the Advance Poll.

Chair Chaulk stated that the Village is only required to advertise in the local papers, but staff have gone far beyond the requirements of the MGA to get the word out about Nomination Day and that there was subsequently an election. He stated that beyond that, the candidates bear the obligation to notify the public they are running for Commissioner. Commissioner Pineo stated he realizes this but just wanted to put forth comments from some people he had spoken with.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mary Munroe, Resident

Ms. Munroe stated she often sees patrons of the Skateboard Park not using helmets, and it really bothers her. She wonders what, if anything the Commission can do to require that helmets are being worn.

T. Silver stated this has been an on-going issue since the skateboard park was constructed. The Village has posted strict rules, and have approached the patrons numerous times. The RCMP also approach them on a regular basis. Often the patrons will put their helmets on in the presence of management or RCMP, and as soon as they are left alone, the helmet is removed. She stated that many times, however, kids are on the top of the bowl without helmets, but she

has witnessed the sharing of helmets. Unfortunately, there is still an issue, but staff and RCMP deal with it when they see it.

Mr. Eric Smith, Councillor and Resident

Councillor Smith asked if the Village still owns Ravine Park. T. Silver advised the Lease expired with the School Board, and the Village did not request to renew it.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer