

VILLAGE COMMISSION OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 2004 7:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on August 9, 2004 in the Civic Centre at 7:00 p.m..

In Attendance

Chair Dave Chaulk
Vice Chair Linda Lockhart
Commissioner Marvin Messom
Commissioner Sherry Swanburg
Commissioner Ted Nicholson
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

Also in Attendance

Rebecca Crouse, Resident
Les Barrett, Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m..

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES –
Regular Commission Meeting,
July 12, 2004**

It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting held July 12, 2004 be approved as circulated.
MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA -
AUGUST 9, 2004**

It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the Agenda for August 9, 2004 be approved with the following addition: **Under Business Arising from the Minutes**, add item (f) “*Founding Fathers*”.
MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM
THE MINUTES**

**(a) Petty Traders’ Bylaw -
Update**

T. Silver gave a written and verbal update on the status of the Petty Traders’ Bylaw. Due to vacations, the staff at the Municipality of the County of Kings have been unable to manage a meeting with the Commission. She will continue to make these arrangements.

**(b) Toulon Development -
Update**

T. Silver gave a written and verbal update. She advised that as a follow up to her letter, she received a call from a representative from the Company, and they agreed to clean up as much of the property as possible. Vice-Chair Lockhart advised that the property was much improved and suggested this fall or next spring the Commission clean up old debris on the property left by former owners.

Commissioner Swanburg advised that the Yard Sales had ceased on the parking lot; however, they moved to the adjoining property to the west, and have, over the past week or so, edged onto the Toulon property again.

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that a letter be written to John Warden updating him on the status of the weekly yard sales still being carried out on the Toulon property, and requesting him to follow up on his letter to them. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Village Clean-Up Update – Vice-Chair Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart advised that there was only one response from the general public, Mr. Doug Barrie, to assist with the Clean Up Day for the Village, which was scheduled for July 31st. She said she and Gordon and Terry Silver were also willing to take part; however, four people would not have been enough to carry out this project. She recommended trying it again in the fall or spring and to encourage service groups to take part.

Commissioner Swanburg suggested there could be an opportunity for the Recreation Department to organize a yearly event thereby being pro-active and promoting the Village. Vice-Chair Lockhart suggested that it should actually be organized through the Public Works staff, and could include all departments.

T. Silver advised she would place it on the next Staff Meeting Agenda for discussion.

(d) Election Procedures Changes-Update

T. Silver reported that she had written a letter to the Minister advising of the Commission's request to investigate changing the Election Procedures, and has not received an acknowledgement. She stated she had spoken with the Village's Municipal Advisor at Service Nova Scotia, and he suggested that this change could be considered as an amendment to the Act, and a decision could be forthcoming as early as Spring 2005. Terry will keep the Commission updated.

(e) Edwin Ditmars – Letter re Civic Numbering, Meadow Terrace Subdivision

T. Silver gave a written and verbal update on Mr. Ditmars request. She advised she and Supt of Public Works Peter Pothier toured the Subdivision. She also phoned the Department of Transportation regarding signage and Municipality of the County of Kings regarding Civic Numbering.

It was moved by Commissioner Nicholson, seconded by Commissioner Messom that the Clerk be instructed to write the Department of Transportation, with a copy to Mr. Edwin Ditmars, with a request on Mr. Ditmars' behalf to address his concerns at Meadow Terrace Subdivision. MOTION CARRIED

(f) Founding Fathers - Update

T. Silver advised that she had searched records in the Village Office, and public works staff were searching records at storage area in their shop as time permits. She advised that she had found one cheque issued in 1999 to Julie White; however, has not found anything else. Vice-Chair Lockhart recollected that the cheque to

Julie White was the only cheque issued, to her knowledge. Terry was asked to continue the search so that information can be forwarded to Mrs. MacPherson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Recreation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Nicholson

Commissioner Nicholson gave two reports prepared by Jenn Coolen on the Canada Day Celebrations and Celebration Days (reports attached to original minutes). The Rec Advisory Committee did not meet in July or August; therefore, no Committee report was available.

It was moved by Commissioner Nicholson, seconded by Commissioner Messom that the Canada Day Celebrations Report, and the Celebration Days Report be approved as read. MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Swanburg made several observations with regard to Canada Day and Celebration Days, which she wanted to bring to the Commission's attention and will bring up at the next RAC meeting:

- Since there were no canteen facilities, water was in very short supply.
- Staff also ran out of hot dogs and cake at Canada Day

In this light, she recommended that consideration be given to encouraging mobile vendors to come to the park during celebrations of this sort.

Vice-Chair Lockhart also had several observations:

- BINGO was advertised in the Schedule of Events for Celebration Days, but there was no BINGO scheduled.
- Suggested that more local bands could be used for the events; this would encourage local participation, and would cut costs somewhat.

T. Silver advised that these items have been previously discussed by the staff and a list has been started. She will ask Jenn to keep these items of concern in the file for next year.

(b) Water Commission – Commissioner Messom

Commissioner Messom highlighted the Water Commission meeting in July:

- Sewage Treatment costs are going up drastically partners in the Regional Sewer Agreement have been meeting to develop a new agreement.
- He reported on the booster pump and mixing tank
- The Operating and Capital Budgets were approved by the Water Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Messom, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that the report of the Water Commission be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Area Advisory Committee

Commissioner Swanburg read the report for the Area Advisory Committee (copy of report attached to original minutes). It highlighted the following:

- Role of the Area Advisory Committee in the public consultation process. Recommendations made in this regard:
 1. Public Information meetings
 2. Public Participation meetings
 3. PAC retains option of obtaining additional public consultations

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Commissioner Messom that the Area Advisory Committee report be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(d) Wellness Facility Project Committee – Commissioner Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg advised that the consultant had advised in July that a report would be available for the July 12th meeting; however, no report has been received to date. The Clerk was directed to continue to try contacting Mr. Ramsay for a report, and to also make this request in writing.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) User Group Insurance

T. Silver referred to the information previously circulated to the Commissioners and available in this meeting's package with regard to "User Group Insurance.

After discussion, the Clerk was directed to request a legal opinion from the Commission's solicitor in this regard. Such things as waivers, requirement to do this, and liability for not doing this, etc..

(b) Disaster Fund Assistance

T. Silver referred to information previously circulated from Stephen Feist (AMA) with regards to Emergency Measures Organization "Disaster Financial Assistance Program for Municipalities". She stated that she had spoken with the staff and has been advised they are not aware of any claims from their perspective. The Commissioners advised they are not aware of any claims either.

(c) Fall 2004 Debenture Funding

T. Silver advised that it was time for the Commission to decide whether or not to advise the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance

Corporation if there was any need for debenture funding for the fall issue. It was felt that in view of the fact that the Budget approvals made no provision for debenture funding, then the Clerk should advise that no funding is required at this time.

**(d) New Minas Website –
Commissioner Swanburg**

Commissioner Swanburg read from her prepared presentation her ideas with regard to the New Minas Website (presentation attached to original minutes). The presentation highlighted the following:

- Problems with the current procedure
- Webmaster's preference to deal with one contact person
- Re-evaluation of information provided
- Enhancing the Village's image through this medium

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that a Website Committee be created and consist of one or 2 Commissioners, the Recreation Director, and the Webmasters for the Village, in an attempt to build a website that resembles some of the Village's local neighbours and that can be a source of information and support for the New Minas residents. MOTION CARRIED

The initial meeting will take place in September 2004

**(e) Sewer Bylaw Amendment –
1st Reading**

Bylaw #3, Village of New Minas Sewer Bylaw was read by the Commission members and approved as presented. There were no objections to the amended Bylaw.

**(f) Apple Blossom Festival –
Commissioner Swanburg**

Commissioner Swanburg questioned the Commission's role in the Apple Blossom Festival. She read from a written presentation (copy attached to original minutes). She highlighted the following:

- Apple Blossom Festival is outdated
- Should the Village take part – princesses getting harder to find
- Booster Club funding campaign losing support

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that the Commission meet to consider and ultimately decide the Commission's role in the Apple Blossom festival in the upcoming year. MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Messom stated that he is totally in favour of supporting the Apple Blossom Festival. He said having a princess to represent the Village in this and other events is very important and helps to put New Minas in a good light with other communities.

T. Silver noted that she and her husband have taken the New Minas float for New Minas Princess Carrie Terry to represent the Village to Annapolis Royal and Digby parades. She said they have received very favourable feed-back from the locals in each of these areas; people are impressed to see New Minas represented by a Princess.

The meeting will be held at the same time as the initial Website meeting.

(g) Unsightly Premises – Commissioner Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg read from a prepared presentation her concerns about the current Unsightly Premises Bylaw enforcement (copy attached to original minutes). She stated that the MGA provides authority for the Village to make its own Bylaws.

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that a request be forwarded to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations to investigate the possibility of enacting an Unsightly Premises Bylaw for the Village of New Minas. MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Messom stated that rather than creating a separate bylaw, it would seem more reasonable to urge the County to better enforce the County's Bylaw. The Commission would need to hire an enforcement officer whereas the current staff does not have the time to do this.

Vice-Chair Lockhart advised that there would be a need for a casual Bylaw enforcement officer, but there would not be a requirement for a full-time position.

Chair Chaulk advised he is not in favour of hiring staff or putting more work onto the Village staff and he feels the Commission would be better off to work with the County to better serve the Village.

(h) Esso Property

Commissioner Swanburg advised that the folks at the County have provided information on the status of the abandoned Esso property in New Minas. Commissioner Messom added information with regard to the history of the building.

The Clerk was instructed to write a letter to Esso and ask them for an update on their plans for this property.

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Gordon Morse - Letter

Chair Chaulk asked the members if they would agree to discuss a letter from Mr. Gordon Morse on behalf of Golfview Homeowners' Association (letter attached to original minutes). Everyone agreed.

On motion of Commissioner Messom, seconded by Commissioner Nicholson, Mr. Gordon Morse's request on behalf of the Golfview Homeowners' Association to construct a track at the Dan Watters Memorial Park be approved and the Commission will donate \$125.00 towards this project. MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Swanburg noted that it is clear this Association has made a huge effort to investigate this project and receive donations in kind, and it was agreed that the Golfview Homeowners' Association should be commended for their hard work.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business which the Commission wished to discuss at this time

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

(a) Mr. Les Barrett

Mr. Barrett commented on the following items from the Commission business:

- Ditmars civic numbering – stated maybe the Village should not get involved; that Mr. Ditmars should contact DOT himself thereby leaving the Village out of the middle if things are not resolved.
- User Group Insurance – stated that since MacDonald Insurance has made it a requirement, then the Village has no choice.
- Unsightly Premises Bylaw – reiterated Commissioner Swanburg's comment that under the MGA the Village has the authority to establish its own Bylaws. He stated that he has in the past been hired by other municipalities to enforce bylaws (as "*Special Constable*"), and although he was not soliciting business from the Village, his type of expertise could fit into this bylaw enforcement role. He recommended that the Village go over Mike Ennis' head and make sure the Unsightly Premises Bylaw is adhered to.

(b) Rebecca Crouse

Ms. Crouse commented on the following:

- reiterated Commissioner Swanburg's recommendations with reference to the Website. She stated she placed her children in the Wolfville Day Camp because the information was not available on the Village of New Minas' website in time for her to enrol them here.
- Asked about the Skateboard Park; is the Village waiting
- to hear from the youth? Chair Chaulk advised that that is the case and the Rec Advisory Committee were told some time ago that the organizers of the Skateboard Park would be coming to them with a plan. Also he stated, in response to Ms. Crouse's question, that the proposed location is not an issue at this point. The process hasn't reached this point

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Messom, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m..

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer