

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 9, 2012
7:00 p.m., Civic Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on July 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center.

In Attendance:

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

Also in Attendance:

John Ansara, Recreation Director
Sgt. Jean-Guy Richard, RCMP
Mr. Rick Jacques, Trails Development Coordinator
Mr. Eric Smith, Councillor District 11
Doug Seamone, Village's Engineer
Peter Pothier, Supt of Public Works
Ms. Mary Munroe, Resident

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: July 9, 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the Agenda for the July 9, 2012 Commission meeting be approved with the following addition: OTHER ADDED ITEMS (a) August Commission Meeting. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Commission Meeting June 11, 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens, that the minutes of the regular Commission meeting of June 11, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Special Commission Meeting, June 26, 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, that the Special Commission meeting held June 26, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION – RCMP Update – Sgt. Jean-Guy Richard

Chair Chaulk welcomed RCMP Sgt. Jean-Guy Richard. Sgt. Richard presented the Commissioners with statistics from the previous year's RCMP incidents and explained in details his department's efforts in reducing crime in the area. The Commissioners inquired about some recent vandalism and other crimes, and Sgt. Richard responded with the detachment's plan of action.

Chair Chaulk thanked Sgt. Richard, on behalf of the Commission, for taking the time and effort in providing the stats. He stated we are lucky to have such a great bunch of men and women who are out there all the time. The Commission is grateful for the consideration and respect given to the Commission and the community.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTESa) Boundary Expansion – Update

T. Silver advised that the process has moved along since the hearing in June. She stated that the parties all have an opportunity to present summations, and the UARB have requested a number of "undertakings" to which the Village and County will respond. It is expected that it will be fall, at the earliest, before any decision would be made by the Board.

b) Facility Update➤ Fundraising – Update John Ansara

John Ansara stated that he and Commissioner Hatt continue to meet with business owners in the Village. He announced that Tim Horton's has graciously donated \$10,000 to the project.

c) Lease – Windsor to Hantsport Rail – Report from Staff

Chair Chaulk stated that staff has reported on the erosion issues identified by Vice-Chair Stevens at several points on the rail bed. Peter Pothier and Doug Seamone were invited by the Chair to speak to their findings. Doug Seamone stated that he feels it would be very costly to mitigate the erosion areas (much more than the original estimated cost), and the area would be difficult for contractors to work around.

Commissioner Pineo stated that he and John Ansara had also visited the site, and was also concerned that the cost to deal with the area could be prohibitive for the Village in the long term.

Chair Chaulk permitted Mr. Rick Jacques to speak about the issues. Mr. Jacques has had extensive experience with developing rails, and he does not feel the sections noted are of any great concern. He stated that the trail could be diverted around these areas, and other options could be utilized.

Chair Chaulk asked John Ansara for his opinion on the issue. John stated that he understands both points of view on the risks. He stated he personally wants to see the Commission move forward with the project, if there is any way to make it work, but they obviously have to be pragmatic and realistic in their decision. John suggested that perhaps the erosion should not be the Village's responsibility and discussion pursued this notion.

Vice-Chair Stevens stated he has been a support of this project from the beginning, but he feels the Commission needs to find out from the owners what they would be prepared to do with regard to the eroded areas before the Commission puts any money into the project.

Chair Chaulk thanked everyone for their participation in the discussion. The Commission requested the Clerk Treasurer to contact the railway owner to ask if his company would consider taking the responsibility of the eroded areas identified by the Commission as a risk.

d) Security at Skateboard Park – Update

T. Silver advised that there have been no incidences reported from the Skateboard Park. Sgt. Richard advised that they have had no complaints, and they make every effort to visit the skateboard park, whenever possible, to interact with the patrons. He further advised that RCMP have helmets in their squad cars for use of kids using the skateboard park. He stated they try to educate the cyclists/skateboarders, and any law enforcement will come sometime down the road; they prefer to educate the kids and to help them comply by offering helmets, etc..

e) Naming of the new Village Facility

T. Silver advised that there have been only a few possible names submitted for the new facility.

The Commission requested staff to submit all the names and they would choose an appropriate name.

f) Sale of Civic Center – Update

T. Silver advised that options continue to be explored for the sale of the Civic Center. The Commission has agreed to continue with the Rezoning application.

g) Village Wellness/Fitness Incentive Program – Commission’s Decision

The Commission discussed the status of the Wellness/Incentive Program. Rec Director John Ansara provided research for this program, which indicates that most municipalities provide some type of funding to encourage healthy living for their staff. Commissioners generally felt that it is important to encourage staff, but also felt that there should be a cap on the expenditures. Chair Chaulk stated he feels it is inappropriate for the ratepayers of New Minas to pay for wellness/fitness programs or purchases of the Village staff.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens, that the Commission fund 50% of wellness and fitness incentive programs for full-time employees, up to a maximum of \$150 per year. MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Pineo stated he feels this is an important source of encouragement for Village staff to become/stay fit, and commended the Recreation Director, who is actually active and therefore inspires others to be active also – leading by example.

COMMITTEE REPORTSa) Recreation Director’s Report – John Ansara

The Commission had previously received the Recreation Director’s monthly report, and Chair Chaulk asked if there were any questions for John.

Commissioner Pineo congratulated John for the Canada Day celebrations at Lockhart Ryan Park. He suggested that in the future, comments from dignitaries may be held later in the day to seize the opportunity for them to speak to the maximum numbers. John thanked Commissioner Pineo for his suggestion and will try to do this in the future.

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) 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) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Hatt advised there was no Area Advisory Committee meeting and no report.

NEW BUSINESSa) Request from County Planner for input on Restructuring Area Advisory Committee

The Commissioners referred to information provided to them by County Planner, Ben Sivak, in which the Commissioners were requested to answer questions about whether the New Minas Area Advisory Committee should include lands within the Village **and** those within the New Minas growth center, and whether the Commission wishes the AAC to continue to host the initial Public Information Meetings, on behalf of the County.

The Commissioners all agreed that all planning items within the Village and those within the New Minas growth center should be dealt with by the New Minas Area Advisory Committee because the New Minas growth center encompasses the Village's recharge area for water.

As far as the structure of the AAC, the main issue discussed was, given that New Minas has now been split into two municipal electoral districts (Districts 10 and 11), which Councillors should be on the AAC when applications are being considered for recommendation to the County for approval.

The Commission agreed, by majority, that the New Minas Area Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference will state that only the councillor representing the district in which any given application is located will be eligible to vote for that particular application.

OTHER ADDED ITEMSa) August Commission Meeting – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo stated that for the last four years, the Commission has voted to not hold its regular August Commission, and he feels the Commission should make this a standing order, unless there is urgent business, in which case the August Commission meeting would be held.

Vice-Chair Stevens stated he does not agree with this, and feels at the very least, the decision should be discussed annually.

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the Commission recess the regular August meeting, on an annual basis. MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE**PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Ms. Mary Munroe

Ms. Munroe asked if the Skateboard Park will remain on the current Civic Center property if the property sells. John Ansara stated that it would be up to the purchaser; however, it would be very unlikely that the Skateboard Park would survive a commercial development. He stated that there are plans at the new facility for a portable skateboard/bike park, and he is currently working with Officer Payne at the New Minas RCMP detachment to apply for funding for this. Ms. Munroe stated it should be visible from the road for security reasons, and John agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer