

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2015

7:00 p.m.,

Conference Room, Louis Millett Community Complex (LMCC)

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the LMCC.

In Attendance:

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

Regrets:

Commissioner Mary Munroe

Also in Attendance:

Gerard Hamilton, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works
Mark Redmond, Resident
Beth Easson, Community Inc.
Rebecca Crouse, Community Inc and Resident
John Ansara, Recreation Director
Jim Winsor, Councillor District 11

CALL TO ORDER, Chair Chaulk

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: February 9, 2015

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the Agenda for the regular Commission meeting of February 9, 2015 be approved with the following addition: "Other Added Items – Granite Drive – Commissioner Redmond". MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting January 12, 2015

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the minutes of the Regular Commission meeting held January 12, 2015 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Sale of Civic Center – Update

T. Silver advised there is no update on the sale of the former Civic Center.

b) Village Status Process – Decision of Commission on Proposals

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the proposal submitted by Richard G. Ramsay Management Consultants, to carry out a study on the feasibility of New Minas becoming a town, be accepted. MOTION CARRIED

c) Sidewalk Snow Clearing – Option

➤ Calling for/not calling for tenders

The Commission discussed options for snow clearing (sidewalks and properties), and agreed that all options would be reviewed again at Budget time and a decision made at that time.

d) Small Communities Fund – BCF – Resolution for Application

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the following motion passed at the regular Commission held January 12, 2015 be rescinded: “... that it be resolved that the Village Commission of New Minas approve the list for the *NEW MINAS WATER AND SEWER UPGRADES project* for the Small Community Building Canada Fund submitted December, 2014. This is a five year capital plan with the total amount of the projects being \$7,385,268.66.” MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that it be resolved that the Village Commission of New Minas approve the list for the *NEW MINAS WATER AND SEWER UPGRADES project* for the Small Communities Building Canada Fund submitted December, 2014 for the “Water/Sewer Services Upgrades in Floodplain”. MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION – Community Inc – Beth Easson

Chair Chaulk welcomed Ms. Beth Easson of Community Inc., and invited her to give her presentation.

Ms. Easson gave a very comprehensive and interesting presentation on the mandate and importance of Community Inc., and the benefits to their clients and to the community. She noted that the Village of New Minas has taken part in their program for a number of years and she expressed appreciation to the Village for this. Ms. Easson

distributed copies of her powerpoint presentation to the Commissioners (copy attached to the original minutes).

Chair Chaulk thanked Ms. Easson for her presentation and stated in his opinion he cannot understate the importance of her getting out and educating the public on this very worthwhile organization and its importance in the community. He said her presentation spells out very well how Community Inc. helps take away negative stigma, and makes for more inclusive programs, and he commended her and the organization for this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Recreation Director's Report – John Ansara

Chair Chaulk asked if the Commissioners had any questions for Rec Director, John Ansara. Vice-Chair Stevens noted the meeting John attended regarding “turf proposition” and asked for more detail. John stated that the EKSA are proposing to work on an artificial turf in New Minas. He stated they have \$80K raised so far and plan to continue fund-raising. He stated another meeting is scheduled for this coming Wednesday and he will have a report for the next Commission meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Pineo to accept the Recreation Director's report as presented. MOTION CARRIED

b) New Minas Water Commission Report – Vice-Chair Stevens

➤ Inter-Municipal Agreement Regional Sewer

Vice-Chair Stevens read the report of the New Minas Water Commission held January 21st (report attached to original minutes). He stated this meeting was actually called early in order to accommodate the Regional Sewer Committee meeting to be held on January 22nd, at which each of the partners was supposed to present their respective Commission's/Council's/Board's recommendation on the Inter Municipal Services Agreement for the Regional Sewer. Vice-Chair Stevens noted in a report (attached to original minutes) that New Minas was the only partner to comply with the request from the Regional Sewer Committee, so it has gone back to the members for the March meeting. He stated that the County stated it could be a month or two to get it on their Agenda.

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

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo to support the Inter-Municipal Service Agreement for the Regional Sewer between the partners, and to continue to work on the Terms of Reference. MOTION CARRIED

c) New Minas Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo advised there was no NMAAC meeting.

OTHER ADDED ITEMS

a) Granite Drive

Commissioner Redmond expressed his concerns with regard to the proposed “reserved lands” in the newly expanded Village area south of Highway 101 and adjacent to the proposed Granite Drive interchange. He stated that is a large area that very likely may not be available for commercial development, and big box stores wanting to come to New Minas may not be able to do so.

Discussion took place on the presentation made by County staff on limitations and/or possibilities related to the County’s proposed MPS/LUB plan reviews. Commissioner Redmond’s concerns are if developers do not have available land, they will go elsewhere – eg.: Bridgewater. He and other Commissioners are confused and therefore concerned over the “reserved lands” and “highway commercial” categories noted in the presentation.

Chair Chaulk invited Councillor Winsor to speak from the audience. Councillor Winsor stated that the approach currently being taken by County staff is much softer than originally stated. He urged the Village Commission to make their vision for their community known now so future land use issues are minimized from the Commission’s perspective. He said the Village needs to take care of itself going into this, and the only way to ensure that happens is to make their concerns and desires are well known. He stated that the term “reserve” needs to be well defined, as with other aspects of the proposed plan.

Chair Chaulk asked if it really isn’t up to the developers that want to come to the area that will dictate what the use is? He noted that there would be no way of knowing this until the developers make application. Commissioner Redmond stated that is true, but it may be impossible for changes later on, and developers have had long-standing issues and he feels there is a strong need to make sure that doesn’t happen in the future.

The Commissioners agreed that there are a still a lot of unanswered questions in this major process, and the Clerk will contact the County for another meeting to hopefully get answers to these questions. Chair Chaulk asked the Commissioners to compile their list of concerns and questions prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer