

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2014

7:00 p.m.,

Civic Center, Louis Millett Community Complex (LMCC)

The regular meeting of the New Minas Village Commission was held on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center at the Louis Millett Community Complex.

In Attendance

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

Also in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Kelly, Flower Cart
Mr. Robert Horne, Resident
Ms. Diane Burns, Resident
Mr. Mark Redmond, Resident
Mr. Don Zinck, Resident
Hon. Keith Irving MLA
Mr. John Ansara, Recreation Director
Mr. Gordon Silver, Resident
Mr. Gerard Hamilton, Assistant Supt. Of Public Works

CALL TO ORDER, Chair Chaulk

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: December 8, 2014

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the Agenda for the December 8, 2014 meeting be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting November 10, 2014

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the minutes of the Village Commission meeting held November 10, 2014 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 old Civic Center for this meeting.

b) Village Status Process – Update

T. Silver advised that the Commission has received five proposals for the Town Status study. The closing date for these was December 4th, and she will provide the Commission with a spreadsheet with which to assist in the evaluation of the bids in order to determine a successful proponent. She advised this will likely take a bit of time due to the complexity of the study, and she will provide an update at the January 2015 Commission meeting.

c) Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Bylaw – Final Reading

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Bylaw, at this final reading, be adopted. MOTION CARRIED

d) Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review

Just prior to this Commission meeting, the Village Commission held a public information meeting to discuss the Provincial/Municipal Fiscal Review. Twenty-seven people attended this meeting, and the Chair read his opening remarks (attached to these original minutes). Those present were given a report outlining Recommendations 13 and 14 of the Review (attached to these original minutes). Chair Chaulk asked the Commissioners if they had anything to add. The Commissioners stated they did not have anything to discuss further at this point.

PRESENTATION – FLOWER CART, Mr. Jeff Kelly Executive Director

Chair Chaulk introduced Jeff Kelly, Executive Director of the Flower Cart and invited him to give his presentation.

Mr. Kelly stated he has been the ED since May, 2014, and he has learned a lot and faced some challenges. He stated he works with a great group of people and truly enjoys his new position. He said his reason for coming to the Village Commission is to request a letter of support for the upcoming major project planned by the Flower Cart – the building of a new facility. He stated they have purchased a property on Commercial Street (next to LMCC), and this is one of the proposed sites. Mr. Kelly explained processes for fund-raising and a brief explanation of the proposed facility. He stated their goal is to break soil 3 years from now, and noted they will be looking at a Design Build project.

Mr. Kelly stated they also have a second option – and that is renting space in the County Fair Mall. They are currently looking at pros and cons of both options.

The Commission agreed that Mr. Kelly will contact Clerk Treasurer Silver in the new year to provide details on his request. Chair Chauk thanked Mr. Kelly for his presentation and stated their organization does great work. This comment was reiterated by the Commissioners.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Recreation Director's Report – John Ansara

Chair Chauk asked the Commissioners if they had any questions from the Rec Director's report. Vice-Chair Stevens asked about the eroded area on the railbed, adjacent to the Village's completed trail. John stated he has attended a recent meeting, which was also attended by the County of Kings, Department of Health and Wellness, and the engineer for the Railway to discuss this area. John said at this point, there is nothing to report, but a meeting is planned for the new year and he will keep the Commission updated.

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

Vice-Chair Stevens apologized that there was no report of the Water Commission. He stated he will report on the November meeting at the next Village Commission meeting.

c) New Minas Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo stated there was no meeting of the NM Area Advisory Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Sidewalk Snow Clearing

Chair Chauk stated he would like the Commission to consider directing the staff to report on the cost to the Village to do the sidewalk snow and ice clearing in-house. He stated this is the last year of the current contract and this is a good time to evaluate all possibilities. T. Silver stated she will work with her staff to come up with some costs.

Commissioner Munroe asked the Clerk about the ground water run-off from the EMS property onto the Village's sidewalk. G. Hamilton was in the audience and stated he will check on the situation.

b) Resolution supporting New Building Canada Fund Projects

T. Silver advised that part of the New Building Canada Fund process is for the Village Commission to pass a resolution approving the projects. It was agreed that the original list should be re-vamped, and the Clerk will get prices and bring a new list back to the Commission in January for their approval.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond to defer discussion on the resolution supporting New Building Canada Fund Projects to the January, 2015 Commission meeting. MOTION CARRIED

c) Village Food Drive Campaign – Request from Gerard Hamilton on behalf of Staff

The Commission reviewed a letter from Gerard Hamilton, in which he requested permission from the Commission to utilize Village staff and vehicles for a food drive (letter attached to

original minutes). He said he had heard of a similar program undertaken by the City of St. John's NL, and stated it would be as economical on village resources as possible.

The Commission was in full support of this, and commended Gerard for his initiative. It was suggested that, if time permits, a request could be extended to partner with a volunteer group. Gerard stated he will look into this for sure, and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Kings Citizens Coalition – letter

The Village Commission acknowledged the letter from the Kings Citizens Coalition (attached to original minutes).

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

John Ansara – Recreation Director – John wanted to clarify an item from the discussion earlier in the meeting with regard to the rail bed. He stated that the portion of the rail bed in question is still owned by Mr. Bob Schmidt, and until and unless Mr. Schmidt wishes to do something with the undeveloped portion of the rail bed, there is nothing anyone can do with it, and the discussions around development will continue to be moot.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer