

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 13, 2011
7:00 p.m., Civic Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held in the Civic Center on Monday, June 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m..

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

Also in Attendance: Councillor Eric Smith, District 11
Mrs. Carolyn Smith, Resident
Mr. Kirk Starratt, Reporter Advertiser/Register
Mr. Gordon Silver, Resident
Mr. Gerard Hamilton, Village Assist. Supt Public Works
Mrs. Lynn Spencer, Village Admin Assistant/Accountant
Mr. Saï Sherwood, Village Recreation Director
Mr. Peter Pothier, Village Supt of Public Works
Ms. Paula Kinley-Howatt, Village Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Dave Chaulk, Chair

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: JUNE 13, 2011

**It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the Agenda for the June 13, 2011 Commission meeting be approved as presented.
MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 9, 2011

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the minutes of the May 9, 2011 Commission meeting be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Boundary Expansion – Update

T. Silver advised she and the Village's Solicitor are still gathering documents to submit to the NSUARB, but other than that she had nothing to report. Chair Chaulk asked the Commissioners if there were any questions, and stated the Commission just had a brief meeting with the Solicitor on the subject. No further discussion took place.

b) Facility – Update

T. Silver stated that things have moved forward since the Minister approved the Village's Temporary Borrowing Resolution on June 10th. The RFPs have gone out for Design Build bids and for a fundraiser.

c) Questions For District 11 Councillor Eric Smith

Chair Chaulk explained that the Village Commission had directed the Clerk to write a letter to District 11 Councillor Eric Smith to attend this meeting and to clarify to the Commission his actions at a recent Council meeting, where he made the motion to oppose the Village's application to the NSUARB to expand its boundaries. He thanked Councillor Smith for coming. Councillor Smith asked to speak and was invited to do so by Chair Chaulk.

Councillor Smith passed out a copy of a media release from the County of Kings, which stated the County was opposing the Village's application to "annex" an area south of Highway 101 (this document is already on file and is also attached to these minutes). Councillor Smith stated he will answer questions but will NOT enter into a debate.

Vice-Chair Stevens stated he was the one to bring up this subject at the May, 2011 Commission meeting. He stated he was surprised and disappointed that our own Councillor would actually make the motion to oppose the Village's application to expand, and asked Councillor Smith why he would have done that.

Councillor Smith thanked the Commission for inviting him to the meeting. He stated that he was voted in as Councillor for District 11 for 3,000 residents, but he also represents the entire County of Kings of 60,000 people, and he wants to make that clear, he does not represent just New Minas, and he is on a number of Committees that take in the entire County; not just New Minas. He referred to the media release, and stated he feels the desire to expand the boundaries did not come from the Village itself, but from "outside", and there was no consideration given to the people of White Rock, Canaan and Highbury (outside the expansion area) regarding the boundary change or whether they want to be included. He stated he feels the residents do not know how much of a substantial increase they will see in their taxes.

Councillor Smith proceeded to say he needs more answers, and he stated, “and the County, they need to have more answers”. He said he and the “County” was hoping we would work with them, and he just has to have more information.

Vice-Chair Stevens reminded Councillor Smith that, yes he is on Kings County Council, but the voters in District 11 voted him in to be their representative and to be their voice on Council. He told Councillor Smith he did not properly reflect the wishes of the Commission to Council.

Commissioner Pineo stated that unfortunately, everyone does not always agree, and he understands why he took the position he took. He thanked Councillor Smith for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Hatt asked Councillor Smith what bearing the taxes in an area outside the subject area has to do with his decision. Councillor Smith stated that he’s just concerned that the people in White Rock and other areas should be included (in the discussion ?). Commissioner Hatt stated that the 2050 plan referred to in the April press release was not even mentioned until the Village’s application to expand the boundaries was made. Councillor Smith stated that it was his belief that the meeting with the County Council and the Villages in Kings County, at which a 2050 presentation took place, actually happened before the application for the boundary expansion. Chair Chaulk later stated that the Commission passed the motion on the boundary expansion in September 2010, and the meeting with the County/Villages was March 2011.

Councillor Smith stated that he values all Villages, and he values the Village of New Minas. He hopes we can all work together for the best interests of the County.

Chair Chaulk asked Councillor Smith to explain his statement about the increased taxes. Chair Chaulk stated that it is his understanding that most of the land within the expansion area is forestry, and he asked Councillor Smith to clarify what “people” he was referring to. Councillor Smith stated, “it’s the other people”. Chair Chaulk feels this did not give him justification to go against the Village’s recommendation. He stated he has not heard anyone from New Minas or the expansion area opposing the expansion, and Councillor Smith’s notion that some people may or may not be paying increased taxes needs clarification. He asked Councillor Smith who are against it? Councillor Smith stated people have spoken to him who have opposed to it, but did not elaborate further.

Chair Chaulk went on to say that he is extremely disappointed with Councillor Smith’s actions of making the motion to oppose the Village’s application.. He said he understands that it is a democratic body, but Councillor Smith is there to represent the Village of New Minas, and for him to make a motion to absolutely oppose the wishes of the Village was wrong. Chair Chaulk went on to explain that this boundary expansion gives the Village an opportunity to expand its tax base in time, to expand its

development area, and for Councillor Smith to make a motion to oppose that was very disappointing.

Councillor Smith stated he is not against expansion; he just wanted the Village to wait for a couple weeks while they worked on the 2050 plan. Commissioner Redmond asked Councillor Smith if the decision had been delayed a couple of weeks, would Councillor Smith still have voted against a motion to oppose? Councillor Smith stated that he could not support it without enough information, and he only knew about it when it came to County Council after the Commission made its motion. Commissioner Redmond asked Councillor Smith why, then, he did not make a motion to have staff gather more information.

Commissioner Redmond stated that historically the County Council has always opposed expansion in New Minas. In 1968, the Village was incorporated because Kings County would not support a sewer system in New Minas that developers desperately needed to develop, and he feels there has always been an “anti-New Minas” attitude at the County Council table.

Chair Chaulk stated that Councillor Smith still had not answered the question as to why he made the motion. Councillor Smith responded that it was his feeling, and still is, that he would not vote until he has enough information. He went on to say that, yes, he made the motion, but he will not debate it (his action of making the motion). He stated it was not his intention to do any harm to New Minas. Councillor Redmond stated that there are 17 landowners who signed a petition to be part of the Village – 100% signing in favour – and if Councillor Smith did not understand what was going on, it was up to him to get the answers before he made any motions.

Commissioner Hatt agreed that the negative attitude towards New Minas (by County Council) has been going on for years. Councillor Smith stated, “we want it done right”. Chair Chaulk said the Commission fully understands the process, and the fact that Councillor Smith made the motion, leads him to believe that perhaps there were discussions that went on behind closed doors. Councillor Smith stated adamantly Council did NOT do that, and said he is not going to do anything to hurt New Minas. Chair Chaulk stated he fears that it is too late.

Councillor Smith then referred to the April Press Release. Commissioner Stevens noted that the County’s Press Release made reference to the Village wishing to “annex”; however, clearly the Village is wishing to expand its Village boundaries, and does not have authority to annex lands.

Paula Kinley-Howatt, the Village’s solicitor, spoke on her general observation of Councillor Smith’s actions on the procedure, insofar as the fact that Councillor Smith made the motion, however, if he had not done so, it is possible the opposition would not have gone forward. She, too asked the question of Councillor Smith that, procedurally, if there was not enough information presented, would it not be proper

procedure to get the information and table the item, rather than make a motion to oppose the item?

Councillor Smith replied that he cannot say certain stuff because the Council went In Camera and that information is not for public knowledge.

Chair Chaulk thanked Councillor Smith for attending the meeting. Councillor Smith stated he had a cheque for the Village and handed same to the Clerk Treasurer. At this point, Councillor and Mrs. Smith left the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Water Commission Report – Commissioner Maynard Stevens

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 Pineo, that the report of the New Minas Water Commission be approved as read. MOTION CARRIED

b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

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

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, that the report of the Area Advisory Committee be approved as read. MOTION CARRIED

c) Report of the Recreation Director

Chair Chaulk thanked Recreation Director Saï Sherwood for sending the Recreation report to Commission last week, and asked the Commission if there were any questions. Commissioner Pineo stated he hadn't meant to imply at the May meeting that the Volunteer event was cancelled because the numbers were low. He stated that it is a waste of staff's time if no one supports an event.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commission Redmond that the report of the Recreation Director be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

a) Set Date for Annual Meeting

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that the Annual General Meeting of the Electors for the Village of New Minas will be held on June 28, 2011. MOTION CARRIED

b) Motion to Transfer Trails commitment - \$40,000

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the Clerk Treasurer be authorized to transfer \$40,000 from the General Operating Fund for 2010/2011 to a reserve for the Rail Trail project. MOTION CARRIED

c) Motion to Transfer Surplus amount to Capital – Facility - \$400,000

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the Clerk Treasurer be authorized to transfer \$400,000 from the General Operating Surplus Account for the 2010/2011 operating year to a reserve for the new Facility project. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer