

**NEW MINAS WATER COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JUNE 23, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m. Civic Center**

The regular monthly meeting of the New Minas Water Commission was held on June 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center.

**In Attendance:** Chair Maynard Stevens  
Vice-Chair Robert Horne  
Village Commission Chair Dave Chaulk  
Village Commissioner James Redmond  
Citizen Member Marlene Dwyer  
Superintendent of Public Works Peter Pothier  
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

**Also in Attendance:** Gordon Silver, Resident

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Maynard Stevens called the meeting to order.

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – April 28, 2010 and Budget Meeting of June 9, 2010**

It was moved by J. Redmond, seconded by R. Horne, that the Minutes of the regular April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and Budget Meeting of June 9, 2010 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA, Regular meeting June 23, 2010**

It was moved by J. Redmond, seconded by R. Horne that the Agenda of the Regular meeting of June 23, 2010 be approved as presented, with the following addition: 7(d) Letter from Kings County Warden. MOTION CARRIED

**ELECTION OF WATER COMMISSION CHAIR**

M. Stevens called for nominations for Water Commission Chair.

**J. Redmond nominated Maynard Stevens as Chair of the Water Commission. There being no other nominations, Maynard Stevens was elected as Chair.**

M. Stevens called for nominations for Water Commission Vice-Chair.

**J. Redmond nominated Robert Horne as Vice-Chair of the Water Commission. There being no other nominations, Robert Horne was elected as Vice Chair.**

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) Regional Sewer Update – M. Stevens stated that the Village Commission has approved a budget in the total amount of \$228,100 for the Regional Sewer services. P. Pothier stated that things have been slowly improving at the Regional Sewer facility, and there are still more issues to work out.
  
- b) Application by Ken Barrett – Commercial Street Paint Shop

**It was moved by B. Horne, seconded by D. Chaulk that based on the information supplied by Mr. Barrett and the County of Kings, the application to install a Paint Shop in his property on Commercial Street be accepted. MOTION CARRIED**

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by J. Redmond, the Superintendent’s Report be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Housekeeping Accounts

**It was moved by J. Redmond, seconded by B. Horne that the water account items be removed from the Receivable Accounts to the Collections Accounts as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

- b) Laurence Coldwell request

**It was moved by J. Redmond, seconded by D. Chaulk that Mr. Laurence Coldwell’s letter and attached information be received as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

- c) Ken Barrett – Subdivision Plan approval of Water and Sewer

After discussion, the Commission members agreed that the subdivision plans for Ken Barrett on Commercial Street be approved as presented.

- d) Letter from County Warden

Chair Stevens read a letter he had received today from County Warden Whalen in which he requested that a member of County Council sit on the New Minas Water Commission, similar to the Water Commission for Kentville.

T. Silver advised that the New Minas Water Commission has a bylaw, which is an act of parliament and which clearly sets out the criteria for membership on the New Minas Water Commission. She read directly from the bylaw, and it was very clear a County Councillor would have no right, simply by being a Councillor, to be on the Water Commission.

Discussion then moved into Council's motives surrounding this request. This discussion took place at an open session of Council, because Council was not happy with the Village's invoice for Fire Protection charges (hydrant tax). T. Silver further explained that the NS Utility and Review Board, not the Village, sets the formula for hydrant tax to the County for those hydrants outside the Village limits, and the Village has no authority to change the formula. Silver stated the UARB would have the same authority for other Water Utilities, including those owned by Kings County.

The Commissioners expressed great disappointment with Council's continual "big brother" approach to the Village when it comes to Village operations, while at the same time, deliberately ignoring the Village when it comes to municipal participation in important County-wide committees and matters (eg.: Kings Partnership Steering Committee) . The Commissioners find this inappropriate and insulting.

**It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by J. Redmond that the Chair of the New Minas Water Commission and the Chair of the Village Commission reply in writing to Kings County Warden's letter of June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 advising that Kings County Councilors have no authority to sit on the New Minas Water Commission, and that the Warden and Council be advised that this type of request is not warranted or justified. MOTION CARRIED**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of J. Redmond, the meeting adjourned.

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M. Stevens, Chair

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T. Silver, Secretary Treasurer