

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
JULY 25, 2005
7:00 p.m.

The monthly Village of New Minas Committee of the Whole meeting was held in the Civic Centre at 7:00 p.m..

In Attendance Vice Chair Linda Lockhart, Chair ing the Meeting
 Commissioner Les Barrett
 Commissioner Sherry Swanburg
 Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

Regrets Chair Dave Chaulk
 Commissioner Dale Pineo

Also in Attendance Ms. Paula Howatt, Burchell MacDougall
 Mr. Maynard Stevens, Resident
 Mr. Don Zwicker, Resident
 Mr. Gordon Silver, Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Lockhart called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 27, 2005

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 27th, 2005 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – July 25, 2005

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the Agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of July 25, 2005 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) Goals and Objectives

There was no report for this item at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction – Paula Howatt, Burchell MacDougall

Vice-Chair Lockhart introduced Paula Howatt from Burchell MacDougall as the Village's solicitor.

(b) Insurance Tender

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the Insurance quote from MacDonald Chisholm be recommended to the Village Commission for acceptance. MOTION CARRIED unanimously

OTHER ITEMS

(a) Comment on Skateboard Park – Commissioner Barrett stated he had received comments from Mr. Phil Jordan regarding the location of the Skateboard Park. He stated that Mr. Jordan recommended that the Commission reconsider the location in the event there is an opportunity to sell the Civic Centre property in the future. Mr. Jordan advised Commissioner Barrett that the value of the land would far outweigh the need for a skateboard park at this location. Commissioner Swanburg stated that the decision has already been made as to the location of the skateboard park.

(b) Introductory comments from Ms. Paula Howatt – Ms. Howatt gave those in attendance a brief history and current status of her firm. She stated that although Burchell MacDougall is relatively new to the Valley area, they have been in existence for some sixty years and has a combined staff with a wide range of expertise. She stated they have a background in municipal government as noted in her proposal. She stated that she has some ideas to discuss with the Commission, and is looking forward to working with the Commission and the staff.

Commissioner Barrett stated that in her proposal there were three other active members of the firm and asked if it would be her intention to utilize the associates (at a lower hourly rate) the majority of the time. Ms. Howatt stated that the staff would work as a team and advised that there would be some instances where she would rely on junior lawyers to do research, for example. She stated that their team members have definite expertise in different areas, and they will definitely try to make their services as cost-effective as possible.

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that the Commission is looking forward to working with Ms. Howatt and her firm, and it was agreed by those present that the Commission meet informally with Ms. Howatt immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting on August 29th.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Maynard Stevens

Mr. Stevens advised that on August 17th, 2005, the Acadian Heritage Sites Committee is conducting a Walking Tour starting at 7:00 p.m. from the Elementary School Parking Lot. He stated that the Village Commission has posted the notification on their website and posters will be up throughout the Community in the near future.

Gordon Silver

Commented on Mr. Phil Jordan's concerns about the Skateboard Park. He stated that if and when the Village is in a position to sell the civic center property, there would not be any problem dismantling and even rebuilding the skateboard park.

Commissioner Barrett stated that he himself didn't have any concerns; he was just relaying Mr. Jordan's message.

Maynard Stevens

Mr. Stevens thanked the Commission for authorizing the purchase of a new furnace for the civic centre.

Commissioner Barrett

Commissioner Barrett asked if the Commission is still intending to hold Committee of the Whole (COTW) meetings, since the reason for having them in the first place was to give the Commissioners the opportunity to go In Camera. The Commission has been advised that In Camera Sessions are no longer permitted, so there seems to be no reason to hold the COTW meetings. Paula Howatt stated that COTW meetings are actually designed for municipalities who have long agendas. Having Council business deal with issues prior to the monthly Council meetings accommodates any research required by staff for the Councils to make an informed decision. The Commission will discuss the necessity of continuing Committee of the Whole meetings at its next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Barrett, the meeting adjourned.

Linda Lockhart, Vice-Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer