

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 13, 2013

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 May 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, LMCC.

In Attendance

Dave Chaulk, Chair
Maynard Stevens, Vice-Chair
Dean Hatt, Commissioner
Mary Munroe, Commissioner
Maynard Stevens, Commissioner
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer

Also in Attendance:

Mr. John Owen, Resident
Ms. Pam Hill (Beck), Resident
Mr. Keith Irving
Mr. John Ansara, Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER, Dave Chaulk

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

REPORT OF ELECTION – Maynard Stevens in by Acclamation

Dave Chaulk announced that Maynard Stevens was acclaimed as the Village's Commissioner for 2013/2014 through 2015/2016. He congratulated Mr. Stevens on his acclamation.

OATH OF OFFICE – Maynard Stevens

Maynard Stevens confirmed the Oath Office.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Dave Chaulk called for elections of Village Chair.

Commissioner Hatt nominated Dave Chaulk for Chair of the Village Commission.

There being no other nominations, Dave Chaulk was elected as Chair of the Village Commission.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner Redmond nominated Commissioner Stevens as Vice-Chair of the Village Commission.

There being no other nominations, Maynard Stevens was elected as Vice-Chair of the Village Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: May 13, 2013

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the Agenda for the regular Commission meeting of May 13, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting April 8, 2013
Special Commission Meeting April 18, 2013

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the minutes of the regular Commission meeting held April 8, 2013 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that the minutes of the special Commission meeting held April 18, 2013 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Facility Update

- Fundraising – Update John Ansara

John advised there was nothing to report for facility fundraising this month, but efforts continue.

b) Sale of Civic Center – Update

T. Silver stated that, the Village's Realtor contacted her today and advised that, although but nothing has been forthcoming by way of any decision on location for the RCMP building, the door has not yet been closed on their considering the Civic Center as one option.

c) Response from Mr. Basil Pitts, NSTIR

Chair Chaulk asked the Commissioners if they had any comments on the response from Mr. Basil Pitts with regard to the Village's questions on paving. Commissioner Redmond stated he felt that they (DTIR) were not going far enough with the paving project. Vice-Chair Stevens stated that he is encouraged to see that the Granite Drive (interchange) project is moving forward. Commissioner Munroe said that she had spoken with many residents of New Minas during her election campaign, and they are very frustrated with the condition of all the streets in New Minas. Chair Chaulk said that the streets and roads are getting worse every year, and there just isn't the money to repair them. The Commission expressed concern that the streets and roads will deteriorate beyond repair.

T. Silver advised that Mr. Basil Pitts had offered to attend a Commission meeting to answer questions and provide insight into DTIR projects and roads and streets. The Commissioners thought this would be a good idea. Terry will see if he is available for the June 10th meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Recreation Director's Report – John Ansara

Chair Chaulk asked the Commissioners if they had any questions pursuant to the Recreation Director's report, which they had previously received (attached to original minutes).

Vice-Chair Stevens asked if the Village is involved at all in the Kings Senior Games. John stated that the Village is hosting the awards banquet. He is on the Planning Committee and will be assisting in other events for the games.

Vice-Chair Stevens stated that several years ago he had requested that bottled water not be used for events, and he noticed that we do distribute (sell) bottled water at our events. John responded that it is easier to distribute bottled water than to use jugs and cups, although he agrees with Vice-Chair Stevens, philosophically. John stated that we are utilizing our own water supply in the Millett Complex: we have two taps that patrons can use to fill up their water bottles. The water from this comes directly through our water system.

Vice-Chair Stevens also asked for an update on the Rail Trail development. John reported that things have gone along fairly well, and we met our cost deadline of March 31st in order to receive the \$30,000 funding from the province. This was a winter project and our public works crew did all the labour. It was necessary to replace a culvert, and an old bridge needs to be assessed for load, and John stated once this is done, we can move the project forward.

Commissioner Hatt asked when the sound panels will be installed in the gymnasium. John stated they are now in and they are amazing; they make a huge difference in the gym.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the report of the Recreation Director be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

b) New Minas Water Commission Report - Vice-Chair 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 Redmond that the report of the New Minas Water Commission be approved as read. MOTION CARRIED

c) New Minas Planning Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Hatt advised there was no NMPAC meeting, therefore no report.

d) Apple Blossom Committee Report – Vice Chair Stevens

Vice Chair Stevens read the report of the Apple Blossom Committee (attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that the report of the Apple Blossom Committee be approved as read. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

a) Resolution - Temporary Borrowing Resolution

T. Silver advised that the Temporary Borrowing Resolution (TBR) acquired for the construction of the Millett Complex expired in April 2012, and although the Village has not had to borrow any money to date, the bank requires an up to date TBR for the Village to maintain its Line of Credit.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that:

WHEREAS Section 438 (1) of the Municipal Government Act provides that a village, subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose authorized by statute;

AND WHEREAS under Section 423(u) the village has the authority to expend funds for the capital purpose of land and buildings required for any purpose of the village, namely for village offices and recreation complex;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act provides that no money shall be borrowed until the Village Commissioners have obtained the approval of the electors to the proposed borrowing at a public meeting;

AND WHEREAS the electors of the Village of New Minas present at a duly called public meeting on the day of approved of the proposed borrowing by the Village Commissioners of a sum not exceeding Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT under the authority of Section 438 (1) of the Municipal Government Act, the Village borrow a sum or sums not exceeding One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) in total for the purpose set out above, subject the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations;

THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Village to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;

THAT the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that the Village borrow from time to time a sum or sums not exceeding One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) in total from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;

THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) Months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations of this resolution;

THAT the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and

THAT the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

b) Request from Valley Regional Hospital Foundation – for “*Health In Harmony Radiothon*”

The Commissioners reviewed the request from the Valley Regional Hospital Foundation to permit volunteers to collect donations from passing motorists on the morning of June 12th or June 14th for the “*Health in Harmony Radiothon*”.

After lengthy discussion the Commission concluded that, although the Commission supports such a fundraiser and wishes the organization success, they do not have authority to permit such an event on the streets of the Village. The Clerk will advise them to clear this with the RCMP.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

John Owen, Resident – Mr. Owen asked for a completion date for the Rail Trail. John Ansara advised that it is difficult to have a firm completion date at this point because there have been some set-backs. He said Public Works Superintendent Peter Pothier is in charge of “hammer and nails” and could give a better idea of when the project will be finished.

Mr. Owen asked also about signage, etc., and whether the owner’s name will be mentioned. John Ansara stated this is being worked on, and absolutely the owner’s name will be mentioned. Then Mr. Owen asked if there were any thoughts of extending the trail to Greenwich (Warehouse Road). John stated that there is discussion about building a trail adjacent to the rail bed and he offered to show Mr. Owen on the ground. Mr. Owen talked about areas that are not currently being developed by the Village, and John stated that these areas are still “walkable”, but the areas are not part of our trail.

John Ansara – Recreation Director – John asked the Commission if they thought it would be appropriate for him to post notices about such things as the proposed plan for street/road work, etc.. The Commission thought that would be a good thing.

Other discussions took place during the public discussion period:

- Sweeping of streets in New Minas – Commercial Street has been swept this year, but no other streets seem to get this attention.
- MLA should be contacted about the deplorable condition of the streets. John Owen offered to do a letter to the MLA and it was noted that it is her job to take complaints from her constituents to Cabinet.
- MLA’s contact information should be in the Village’s newsletter.

Ms. Pam Hill Bck – Ms. Beck complained to the Commission that Valley Waste does not pick up Christmas Trees until May, and by then they are a nuisance and offensive. She suggested the Commission may wish to be involved in contacting a service club, such as the Lions or Kiwanis Club, to carry out a Christmas Tree pick-up program after Christmas. John Ansara stated that sports teams will often do that as a fund-raiser for their team. Vice-Chair Stevens suggested

that Ms. Beck, as a citizen, could write a letter to the New Minas Lions Club and make this suggestion.

Chair Chaulk stated it would not be appropriate for the Village Commission to request a service group to carry out such a task, but if the Commission wished to discuss the Village doing it in the future, they could do so.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, that the meeting adjourn.

Dave Chaulk, Commission Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer