

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 11, 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, July 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m..

In Attendance: Chair Dave Chaulk
Vice-Chair Maynard Stevens
Commissioner Dean Hatt
Commissioner Dale Pineo
Commissioner James Redmond
Recording Secretary Lynn Spencer

Regrets Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

Also in Attendance: Mr. Saï Sherwood, Village Recreation Director
Mr. Peter Pothier, Village Supt of Public Works
Gordon Ginter, Resident of New Minas

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Dave Chaulk, Chair

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: JULY 11, 2011

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the Agenda for the June 13, 2011 Commission meeting be approved with the following additions 7a) New Minas Elementary School Music Dept and 7b) Future of New Minas.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 13, 2011

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the minutes of the June 13, 2011 Commission meeting be approved as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 21, 2011 Special Meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, that the minutes of the June 21, 2011 Special Commission meeting be approved with the

following changes, the minutes should reflect that Commissioner Stevens was not in attendance when the meeting was called to order. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 27, 2011 Special Meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the minutes of the June 27, 2011 Special Commission meeting be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Boundary Expansion – Update

There is nothing to report at this time.

b) Facility – Update

L. Spencer stated that there was a pre-submission meeting held at the New Minas Fire Hall with the contractors that have taken out tender packages. This meeting was to answer any questions that they had concerning the submission of their proposal. Out of that meeting an addendum was issued and as S. Sherwood pointed out there was a one week extension given to the due date.

➤ Develop Facility Committee

The Commission discussed the idea of a committee, but felt that all Commissioners would prefer to be hands-on with this project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Water Commission Report – Commissioner Maynard Stevens

Vice-Chair Stevens reported there was no water commission meeting in the month of June, but reported on the Regional Sewer meeting of July 7th.

Vice-Chair Stevens reported that the sewer capacity allocation chart that was agreed upon at the regional sewer meeting in May was forwarded to County Council and under legal advice was not approved. The time sheets that were requested before budget approval were not given until the July meeting; they were given out at the meeting and only that of the operator. If we wish any other time sheets there will be a charge and the words of the Chair were, you should be careful of what you ask for. Vice-Chair Stevens voted against the budget, but it still passed without his vote.

Chair Chaulk suggested putting in a freedom of information request for the time sheets.

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 Pineo, 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 Stevens asked if the attendance of the Day Camps is still down as he had stated in his report last month. S. Sherwood informed the Commission that yes in fact they were running at about half.

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

NEW BUSINESS

a) Skateboard Park-Security Issues

A lengthy discussion took place on the issues at the skateboard park. Commissioner Pineo read a report that he had written on the issue (attached to original minutes). Commissioner Pineo feels that the security issues there are of great concern and feels that the park should be disabled.

Commissioner Hatt feels that the skateboard park should be taken out.

Vice-Chair Stevens does not want to see it disappear because some children really enjoy it and wonders where they will go, will they go back to the commercial properties and use their parking lots again. He has witnessed the bad language and drug use there, but feels that we should post notices voicing our concerns and inform them that if it does not change the skateboard park will be removed.

Commissioner Redmond has a problem with the people using it, but feels that it would be a shame to remove it considering the amount of money that went into putting it there. If we shut it down the problem that is there will only move to another part of the village. He made a suggestion of policing the park.

Chair Chaulk is against closing it down and does not like to give in to bullies. He feels that the Commission should explore other options and look for a way to make it better, if we put a fence around the skateboard park and have it opened only at certain hours that may make a difference. To take it away because of the bad apples is not the way to go, without trying for fix the problem first.

Superintendent Peter Pothier reported on some of the damage they are experiencing on with the park now such as the posts that have been cemented into the ground have been torn out a number of times, staff vehicles are being damaged, public works staff are finding glass from bottles being broken and needles. He feels it will cost a lot to put a fence around the property and a lot to repair the fence each time they decide to tear it down.

Recreation Director Sai Sherwood feels that, fencing will be destroyed by the bad users of the park and we will be repairing it all the time. He does not feel that by shutting it down it will be giving into bullies because the bullies will only locate in other areas of the village, it is the interest of the childrens safety is what we should looking at.

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the Skateboard Park disabled and discontinue its use. 2 Yea, 3 nays Motion Defeated

P. Pothier will look into the cost of fencing and security, he will report to the commission.

b) Lease Agreement- Rail Trail

A discussion took place on the lease agreement for the Rail Trail. The Commission feels that a one year renewable lease is not a sufficient amount of time to lease this property. The amount of money that would be put into this project is too great for something that has the potential to be taken away after one year.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that a letter be written to the Windsor & Hantsport Railway Company Limited to request a 20 year lease. MOTION CARRIED

c) Proclamation-Continuing Care Month-September 2011

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens to declare September 2011 Continuing Care Month. MOTION CARRIED

OTHER ADDED ITEMS

a) New Minas Elementary School Music Department

Vice-Chair Stevens provided the Commission with a write up in the paper congratulating New Minas Elementary School Principal Sheila Mills for being selected as a Music 2011 Award Winner in the inaugural national Principals of Music Awards. Vice-Chair feels that the Village Commission should also be congratulating her for such an award.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that a letter be written to Principal Sheila Mills congratulating her for such an accomplishment. MOTION CARRIED

b) Future of New Minas

Chair Chaulk informed the Commission that a Task Force has been struck to review the municipalities in the Province of Nova Scotia. He feels that it is time for the Village of New Minas to let our position be known, and that we are a strong viable, self sustaining, independent community. He feels that maybe it is time to look at incorporating to town status and would like the Commissioners to give it some thought.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that a letter is written to the Task Force and copied to Municipal Affairs and the Minister to let them know that we are a strong viable, self sustaining independent community. MOTION CARRIED

c) August Meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Pineo that there will be no Village Commission Meeting held in August unless something urgent comes up then a meeting will be called. MOTION CARRIED 4 yeas and 1 nay

d) Pole at Round-a-bout

Commissioner Hatt asked if there is something that can be done about the pole in the middle of the road at the Round-a-bout. Clerk Terry Silver has contacted Department of Transportation and apparently the pole is an Aliant Pole and that is the hold up.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Letter of thanks, Valley Youth Fun Run

The Village received a letter from the Valley Youth Committee thanking the Village Commission, and staff for supporting them for their years of support.

Commissioner Pineo made a comment to say that Tracy Young and the committee should be congratulated on the great job they have done with this run and getting children to participate and be active the group has grown each year and he hopes it continues to grow and keep children active.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Resident, Gordon Ginter from Minas Crescent asked the Commission if there is possibly something that could be done with the noise coming from West Side Charlies,

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights are very disturbing. Setting outside in the evening is very loud with the sound of fights, screaming people cursing and swearing and loud music coming from the premises.

Chair Chaulk informed Mr. Ginter that the Municipality of the County of Kings is responsible for enforcing the bylaws for this issue and asked him if he had discussed the matter with them. He stated he has spoken with County Councillor Eric Smith and Councillor Smith gave him a copy of the noise bylaw. Chair Chaulk ensured Mr. Ginter that the Village will look into it and make a complaint on his behalf.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Redmond, the meeting adjourned at 8:27.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Recording Secretary Lynn Spencer