

VILLAGE COMMISSION OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

March 13, 2006

7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on March 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Centre.

In Attendance: Dave Chaulk, Chair
Linda Lockhart, Vice-Chair
Les Barrett, Commissioner
Dale Pineo, Commissioner
Sherry Swanburg, Commissioner
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer

Also in Attendance: Dean Hatt, Resident
Maynard Stevens, Resident
Hector Woodin, Resident
Irene Woodin, Resident
John Mroz, Resident
Bob Farris, Resident
Bill MacIntyre, Resident
Brent Fox, Advertiser
Blair Coldwell, Resident
Travis Tibbitts, Resident
Sam Milne, Resident
Blake Curry, Resident
Jane Morse, Resident
Brian Misner, Resident
Derek Wilson, Resident
Mark Redmond, Resident
Marvin Messom, Resident
Barbara Messom, Resident
Allan Moore, Resident
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized former Commissioner Marvin Messom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 13, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the minutes of the regular Commission meeting held February 13, 2006 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: March 13, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that the Agenda for the Regular Commission meeting of March 13, 2006 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

(a) Parking – First United Baptist Church – Update

T. Silver advised that she has received information back from the Church and has forwarded this to the Village's Solicitor, who is working on a draft agreement.

(b) Strategic Planning – Update

Chair Chaulk stated that a meeting was to have taken place in February; however there was a bit of a mix up and the meeting didn't take place; also he and Commissioner Pineo were tied up in another meeting.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Mr. MacDonald to schedule another meeting.

(c) New Building Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Swanburg stated that there is no Chair for this Committee. She stated that information from the Burke Oliver report was viewed and the Committee decided to go forward with this, have the Commission review the options in it, and subsequently have a preliminary meeting to discuss options.

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that some Commissioners and staff viewed the Advertiser Building and it would appear that this building would not serve the Village's needs at this time. She stated that at the new Ad Hoc Building Committee, it was recommended by the Village's Engineer that preliminary Architectural drawings be tendered for a proposed new building.

Commissioner Barrett asked who was on the Committee, and was advised that Vice-Chair Lockhart, Commissioners Swanburg and Pineo, the Village's Engineer Doug Seamone, Superintendent of Public Works Peter Pothier, and Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver are currently attending the meetings.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that it be recommended to the Budget Committee to place \$3,000 plus HST in the 2006/2007 Operating Budget for tendering Architectural Drawings for renovations/construction of a Civic Centre/Office building. MOTION CARRIED.

It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that an AdHoc Building Committee be formed for the Commission, consisting of those members currently attending the meetings. MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Water Commission – Vice Chair Linda Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that there was no Water Commission meeting in February; therefore, no report at this time.

(b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo stated that an Area Advisory Committee meeting had taken place in February, and he read a report from the Committee Chair (attached to original minutes), and the following was highlighted:

- Application by Jerry's RV to amend the New Minas Sector Plan to allow their business to expand in scope and size, was rejected on the recommendation by Kings County staff.

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the report of the Area Advisory Committee be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Recreation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg advised that the Recreation Advisory Committee had not met because there were a number of responses to Jennifer Coolen's inquiries, which still have not been received.

(d) Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Barrett

Commissioner Barrett advised that because of the Transportation Committee meeting is held the night following the Commission meeting, and the minutes cannot be approved until that meeting, there was nothing to report. He highlighted the following issues, which will be discussed at tomorrow night's TAC meeting:

- Plowing Sidewalks at Connector Road Intersection – Letter from B. Ward
- Aalders Avenue Traffic Concerns – Letter from B. Ward
- Transportation Study – Letter from B. Ward
- Cloverleaf Drive Drainage problems – Update from Doug Seamone

- Sidewalk Repairs at Bank of Nova Scotia – 2 Letters from B. Ward

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Response to Mr. Mroz question at Feb 13, 2006 Meeting

Chair Chaulk stated that the Clerk Treasurer has prepared a spreadsheet, which answers questions posed by Mr. John Mroz at the February 2006 Commission meeting. Mr. Mroz thanked the Clerk for this.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mr. Maynard Stevens

Maynard Stevens referred to an editorial in the Advertiser on January 23, 2006 in which was mentioned the Village Commission's actions of not supporting the New Minas Fire Department and by reducing the Honorarium in this year's budget. Mr. Stevens stated that some of the Commissioners have been seen in a bad light because of the non-support of the Firefighters' honorarium.

Mr. Stevens asked the Commission if they will, at tonight's meeting, pledge to at the very least reinstate the Firefighters' honorarium to the previous year's amount for the 2006/2007 budget.

Chair Chaulk stated that he has made his feelings very well known over the past year and has always supported the Firefighters' honorarium. He said he will bring it up again this year as a budget item.

Commissioner Pineo stated that the reduction of the honorarium last year in the budget was a grave concern to him, and it was brought up no less than three times for reconsideration after the Commission approved the budget. He will definitely be requesting the full amount be placed back in the Budget this year.

Mr. Stevens asked the remaining Commissioners to answer his question as well. He asked them if they would pledge an amount of at least what was given to the Firefighters in past years. Commissioner Swanburg stated she had no problem looking at the item at budget time. Mr. Stevens asked if she would be willing to pledge the amount in the budget for next year that had been provided to the Firefighters prior to this year. Commissioner Swanburg stated she would have no problem to look at it as a budgeted item.

Commissioner Barrett stated that he too would be willing to look at the item when the budget is being discussed, but he would absolutely not pledge anything at this time.

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated this is a budget issue and will be dealt with at budget time.

Mr. Bob Farris

Mr. Farris asked the Commission if they could do something to slow the traffic down on Crescent Avenue. He said the traffic moves very fast on that street, and he feels someone will be seriously injured or killed.

Chair Chaulk stated that the Transportation Advisory Committee has been dealing with traffic issues and referred Mr. Farris' questions to Commissioner Barrett as the Chair of that Committee.

Commissioner Barrett stated that several years ago there was some discussion about closing access from Commercial to Crescent, and stated this suggestion might be made again. He said that he would recommend that this item be placed on the TAC Agenda for the meeting on March 14th.

Mr. Farris stated he is also concerned about the fact there is no place to walk along the south side Commercial Street. He said to go from one business to another on the south side of Commercial Street means either trying to walk on the shoulder of the road, or criss-crossing at intersections. He asked the Commission to consider putting sidewalks on that side of the street as well as on the north side.

Chair Chaulk stated that the Commission made a motion several years ago to place \$50,000 per year in the capital budget for new sidewalk construction. He said that last year sidewalks on portions of the south side of Commercial Street were on the list and will be considered.

Peter Pothier stated that the Transportation Committee is in the process of carrying out a traffic study for New Minas. Part of this study will include consideration for widening Commercial Street. He stated it would not be feasible to carry out any major construction along Commercial Street until the study is complete.

Mr. Hector Woodin

Mr. Woodin reiterated Mr. Farris' concerns about walking along Commercial Street. He asked where pedestrians can walk, especially in the wintertime, on the south side of Commercial Street. Chair Chaulk stated that the Commission recognizes there is a problem and the Transportation Committee is working on it. Mr. Woodin asked if the Commission could do something in the interim, such as grade the shoulder of the road and in the wintertime ensure the snow banks are winged back enough to allow walking along the shoulder. Chair Chaulk stated that this item could be placed on the TAC Agenda for March 14th.

Marvin Messom

Mr. Messom commented on the 3 way stop on Crescent and Aalders. He stated that the former Commission had requested DOT to install a 3 way stop on Crescent, but the

Request, was declined. He said this is something worth requesting the DOT to consider again.

Mr. Messom stated that perhaps the Commission should consider borrowing money to construct sidewalks. He said pedestrian safety is a real concern.

Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that the Commission is looking at borrowing money for a new building and this would be the priority for her right now.

Mr. Messom stated that sidewalks are a necessity and should be given serious consideration.

Blair Coldwell

Mr. Coldwell asked the Commission to recognize Mr. Brent Fox from the *Advertiser*. He stated that the Village has placed some nice plants along the streets for decoration in the summer, but the numbers of plants have been reduced over the years, and he's getting over that. He stated that he will not be satisfied with the Commission's actions on reducing the firefighters' honorarium until they right the wrong. He said if an error has occurred and this has happened through personality issues awhile ago, then the mature thing to do is to move on now. He said the Commission had addressed the issue of Christmas lights and decorations throughout the Village, and a motion was passed to place money into the budget next year to have the Village decorated. He said that recognizing the valuable service performed by the Firefighters is a lot more important than having Christmas decorations. He stated again that if someone made a mistake, then they should get over it and move on, but reinstate the honorarium for the Firefighters.

John Mroz

Mr. Mroz stated he notes from the spreadsheet provided to at the meeting tonight that it looks like 33.78% of the Commercial Assessments in the County of Kings lies in New Minas; however only 8.7% of the tax revenue comes into the Village coffers. He stated that given the fact that the Village of New Minas is a very valuable entity within the County, the Village should be given more consideration by the County for a bigger portion of funding, and the Commission should lobby for this.

Chair Chaulk stated that the Commission is starting to recognize this fact and are and will continue to argue for more consideration for this very reason.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Chair Lockhart, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer