

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 13, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on Monday, July 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m..

In Attendance: Chair Dave Chaulk
Vice-Chair Dale Pineo
Commissioner Dean Hatt
Commissioner James Redmond
Commissioner Maynard Stevens
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

Also In Attendance: Mr. Eric Smith, Councillor District 11
Mr. Don Zwicker, Resident

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Dave Chaulk, Chair

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: July 13, 2009

It was moved by Vice-Chair Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the Agenda for the July 13, 2009 regular Commission meeting be approved with the following additions: *OTHER ADDED ITEMS (a) August Meeting – Vice-Chair Pineo, and (b) Venders – Chair Chaulk.* MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting June 8, 2009, Special Commission Meeting (BUDGET) June 8, 2009, Special Commission Meeting – June 29, 2009

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the minutes of the Regular Commission meeting held June 8, 2009, Special Commission Meeting held June 8, 2009 and the Special Commission meeting held June 29, 2009 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) Village of New Minas Sewer Bylaw, Bylaw #3 – Second Reading

It was moved by Vice-Chair Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Stevens that the Village Commission approve the Second Reading of Village of New Minas Sewer Bylaw, Bylaw #3. MOTION CARRIED

b) Update - No Smoking Policy Lockhart Ryan Park – Draft Bylaw

It was moved by Vice-Chair Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Hatt to accept the draft of the Non Smoking Policy as presented, and to forward it to the Municipality of the County of Kings for consideration. MOTION CARRIED

Chair Chaulk stated he was very upset and vocal when the Village's request some time ago to the County was not given due consideration, but he wanted to express his pleasure that County staff has agreed to move forward on this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Water Commission Report – Commissioner Maynard Stevens

Commissioner Stevens read the New Minas Water Commission report (copy attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Vice-Chair Pineo to accept the 2009/2010 Regional Sewer budget as recommended to the New Minas Water Commission. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, to accept the New Minas Water Commission Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED

b) New Minas Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Hatt read the report of the New Minas Area Advisory Committee (attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the report of the New Minas Area Advisory Committee be accepted as read. MOTION CARRIED

c) New Minas Recreation Advisory Committee – Vice-Chair Dale Pineo

Vice-Chair Pineo read the report of the New Minas Recreation Advisory Committee (attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Vice-Chair Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the report of the New Minas Recreation Advisory Committee be accepted as read. MOTION CARRIED

d) New Minas Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Hatt advised there was no meeting of the New Minas Transportation Advisory Committee therefore no report.

e) Fire Services Task Force – Commissioner Redmond

Commissioner Redmond read the report of the Fire Services Task Force (attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Pineo to accept the report of the Fire Services Task Force as presented. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

a) Letter to County Warden re Fire Grants – Response from Bill McKennan

The Commissioners discussed the email received from Mr. Bill McKennan, County of Kings, in response to the Village's request to Kings County Council to reconsider the formula for Volunteer Fire Department funding.

It was the consensus of those present that Mr. McKennan's response did not address the Village Chair's letter, and although specific questions were not posed in the letter, the three recommendations for equitable funding were specific.

The Commissioners agreed that Commissioner Redmond will meet with the Clerk Treasurer to go over the original letter and the Chair will write another letter asking for answers to specific questions, as well as requesting a meeting.

b) Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ISCP) membership request

Commissioner Dean Hatt offered to be the Village's representative on the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan Committee. The Clerk Treasurer will forward this information to the County of Kings.

OTHER ADDED ITEMS

a) Commission Meeting – August – Vice-Chair Pineo

It was moved by Vice-Chair Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Redmond, that the August Commission and Committee meetings for the month of August will be cancelled unless it is determined that a meeting is necessary. MOTION CARRIED

b) Vendors – Chair Chaulk

Chair Chaulk expressed his displeasure that vendors are permitted by the County of Kings to set up randomly within the Village and compete with established businesses that are required to pay businesses taxes. He feels it is inappropriate and unfair to Village businesses. He stated the Clerk Treasurer has forwarded a list of questions to County staff to try to determine if the Village currently has conflicting bylaws prohibiting/permitting portable vendors.

The Clerk advised she has not received a response to date from her inquiry and will continue to approach the County for answers.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Councillor Eric Smith – Councillor Smith spoke about the vendors, and stated he does not agree with them coming into the Village, setting up, paying a minimal fee, and directly competing with the businesses in New Minas. He said he has spoken out about this and will continue to speak out until it is changed and feels the County should take a stand. He said violators of the Bylaw are being ignored and he feels that is wrong also. He cited several vendors who have set up illegally and are being allowed to continue to break the law. He said one vendor is even refusing to pay the fee, but is still allowed to operate, and this infuriates him.

Councillor Smith then spoke on the issue of funding for the New Minas Fire Department. He stated it is his opinion that Kentville Fire Department deserves more funding than New Minas Fire Department because 48% of Kentville's fires were in the County. He also said that Kentville answers twice as many calls as New Minas, and should receive more money.

Commissioner asked Councillor Smith where he had received his information, and stated the figures were not accurate. Councillor Smith stated that all the information came from Valley Alarms and all the calls were recorded from that source to which Commissioner Redmond (being New Minas Fire Department Fire Chief) advised is not the case. Commissioner Redmond stated that even without the accurate number of calls, New Minas Fire Department (and other County Fire Departments) are not being treated fairly. Councillor Smith stated that New Minas FD wants the same amount of money as Kentville, and that's not right, to which Commissioner Redmond adamantly stated is not the case. NMVFD simply wants to be given funding based on the same formula as Kentville and Wolfville.

Chair Chaulk reiterated Commissioner Redmond's statement and reminded Councillor Smith that the Village's letter asked for an equitable funding formula, not the same amount of money. Councillor Smith stated he really didn't know all the details, and wasn't really sure about all that. He said he must have been misinformed about the numbers, but he sure feels that Kentville Fire Department deserves everything it gets.

Chair Chaulk respectfully asked Councillor Smith to not make statements in a public meeting without knowing the facts.

Don Zwicker – Resident – stated that Kings County always treats New Minas like second-class citizens, and he feels that the only way to solve these problems is for New Minas to have town status.

Councillor Smith – stated he is not against this Council (Commission) or the Fire Department. He said he is well aware of how they feel about the County, but "we have to work together". Councillor Redmond stated that was the intention of the Village's request to be treated equitably and the only way everyone can feel they are working together is to be treated fairly.

ADJOURNMENT

On Motion of Vice-Chair Pineo, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer