

VILLAGE COMMISSION OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR MEETING
May 8, 2006
7:00 p.m.

The Regular meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held in the Civic Centre on May 8, 2006 at 7:00 p.m..

In Attendance

Dave Chaulk, Commissioner
Les Barrett, Commissioner
Dale Pineo, Commissioner
Linda Lockhart, Commissioner
Dean Hatt, Commissioner
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer

Also in Attendance:

Maynard Stevens, Resident
Dave Hudson, Resident
Gerard Hamilton, Water Systems Operator
Marvin Messom, Resident
Barb Messom, Resident
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works
Rebecca Crouse, Resident
Murray Herron, Resident
Audrey Herron, Resident
Ron Wright, Resident
Don Zwicker, Resident
Sam Milne, Resident
Bernie Lewis, Resident
Carolee Morine, Resident
Willie Morine, Resident
Travis Tibbitts, Resident
Stephen Schofield, Resident
Allan Milton, Resident
John Mroz, Resident
Rod MacInnis, Resident
Brad Milton, Resident
Blair Coldwell, Resident
Allie Craswell, Resident
Joseph Huntley, Resident
Glenda Bishop, Resident
Rod Dawe, Parks Maintenance

CALL TO ORDER – Clerk Treasurer

Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver called the meeting to order

REPORT OF THE VILLAGE ELECTION HELD MAY 3, 2006 – Clerk Treasurer

Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver gave the results of the Election of Commissioners, held May 3, 2006. The results, in alphabetical order, are as follows:

DAVE CHAULK	754
DEAN HATT	727
DOUGLAS SMITH	171
MAYNARD STEVENS	134
SHERRY SWANBURG	150

1,023 Electors voted. There was a total of 1,936 votes cast.

The Clerk Treasurer declared the two Commissioners elected to the Village of New Minas as:

Dave Chaulk
Dean Hatt

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE – Dave Chaulk

Dave Chaulk took the Oath of Office

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE – Dean Hatt

Dean Hatt took the Oath Office

WORD OF THANKS FROM DAVE CHAULK

Dave Chaulk expressed his thanks to the electors of New Minas for showing their faith in him as a Commissioner by electing him.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver then called for nominations for Commission Chair

Dale Pineo nominated Dave Chaulk for Chair.

Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver called for further nominations three more times. There being no further nominations, the call for nominations ceased. Dave Chaulk was declared the Chair of the Village Commission

Dave Chaulk took over the Chair at this time.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Chair Chaulk called for nominations for Commission Vice-Chair.

Linda Lockhart nominated Dale Pineo for Vice-Chair.

Chair Chaulk called for further nominations three more times. There being no further nominations, Dale Pineo was declared the Vice-Chair of the Village Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 10, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting held April 10, 2006 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: May 8, 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart, that the Agenda of the Regular Commission Meeting of May 8, 2006, be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

(a) Parking – New Minas Baptist Church – Update

T. Silver stated that a meeting is being organized to address questions about the terms of a possible lease.

Commissioner Hatt asked if this lot was land that was donated to the Village to be used for recreational purposes. Chair Chaulk stated that it is a lot on Commercial Street adjacent to an existing parking lot of the New Minas Baptist Church. Commissioner Hatt asked if there were any restrictions on record as to the use of this land. T. Silver stated she has viewed a deed from J. MacDonald to the Recreation Association, and there did not appear to be any restrictions in that Deed; however, she has not viewed prior deeds. Commissioner Barrett stated that he was a member of the New Minas Recreation Association when the land was deeded to the Village, and he didn't recall any stipulations.

(b) Strategic Planning – Update

Chair Chaulk stated that Kings CED had been contacted again to go over information for the process to develop a Strategic Plan. It was the Commission's desire to wait until after the Commissioner Election, and the Clerk will contact Kings CED to set up a time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Water Commission – Vice Chair Linda Lockhart

Vice-Chair Lockhart gave the report of the Water Commission. She highlighted the following points:

- The Water Commission reviewed a Water and Sewer Services Policy
- The Clerk Treasurer received a confirmation from Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure program advising the application is being reviewed
- The Superintendent's report was read and discussed
- The application for a Private Member's Bill to amend the Water Utility bylaw is before the Spring Session – Hon. David Morse will keep the Clerk updated
- The Water Commission was expecting information from Hon. David Morse's office regarding a meeting, which was held in April, but nothing has been received by the Water Commission to date.
- The Village's Engineers forwarded a proposal to the Water Commission for modeling the water system, as part of the provincial regulations compliance process
- The Clerk will present a list of outstanding water bills to the Commission for perusal at the next meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the report of the Water Commission be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

Vice-Chair Pineo gave the report of the Area Advisory Committee. He highlighted the following items from that Committee:

- Crombie Properties are applying for a Development Agreement on behalf of Boston Pizza. This was recommended to the County PAC

It was moved by Vice-Chair Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the report of the Area Advisory Committee be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

(c) Recreation Advisory Committee

Chair Chaulk advised that there was no meeting since the last Commission meeting, therefore no report.

(d) Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Barrett

Commissioner Barrett advised that the Transportation Advisory Committee met on May 4th. There was discussion with the Village's Engineer regarding a proposed Transportation Study.

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart, that, on the recommendation of the Transportation Advisory Committee, funds will be placed in the 2006/2007 Operating Budget for a Transportation Study, pursuant to the Engineer's recommendation. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart, that the Village Commission accept the recommendation of the Transportation Advisory Committee to write a letter to the Department of Transportation and Public Works expressing appreciation for their getting an early start on their road patching and crosswalk painting. MOTION CARRIED.

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

(e) Building Ad Hoc Committee – Vice-Chair Lockhart

Commissioner Lockhart stated that there has not been a meeting since the last Commission meeting; therefore, there is nothing to report. She stated that a meeting will be held shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Toulon Development – Local Cleanup

Clerk Treasurer T. Silver stated that the Commissioners had received a letter from Gary Smith from the County of Kings, with pictures showing an area which was cleaned up behind Toulon Development mall. She stated she had written a letter expressing gratitude for the efforts.

(b) Proclamation – June is Recreation Month

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the Village of New Minas declare June Recreation Month. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

The Chair declared the Public Discussion Period open

Bernie Lewis

Mr. Lewis acknowledged the clean up behind Toulon Developments, and asked if anyone has ever approached the Village to clean up on Aalders Avenue behind Wal-Mart. Commissioner Lockhart stated that the Village had initiated a community clean up day; however, only one person responded to the ad placed in the newspaper.

The Clerk Treasurer will contact the appropriate department to forward Mr. Lewis' concerns.

Glenda Bishop

Ms. Bishop asked the Commission if there is any reference in the Commission's Bylaws or policies to persons serving on the Commission while suing the Village. She asked also if the Commission has retained their own lawyers. She asked how much longer these lawsuits will continue at ratepayers' expense.

Chair Chaulk stated that he certainly hoped that the matters would be resolved soon as well and that the Commission, too, is concerned about the cost to the ratepayers. He stated he is unable to state anything further because the matters are currently before the courts, other than to say that the Village has its own lawyer for some of the issues, and for those lawsuits which are being dealt with by the Village's Insurance Company, the Insurance Company has their own legal counsel.

Ms. Bishop asked if there was a statement describing what the lawsuits are – not the details about any particulars, but some idea of what is going on.

Commissioner Barrett stated that everything is recorded at the Prothonotary's office and anyone can view it there.

T. Silver stated that also, in the November 5, 2004 Commission minutes, which are located in hard copy at the Village office, and are also on the Village's website, a list of each lawsuit is included as part of the minutes.

Ms. Bishop asked the Commissioners if they could use the Lions Club sign in front of the Civic Centre to advertise the meetings, or at least post a little sign below that sign stating the meeting dates. T. Silver stated that she would speak with the Lions Club, who own the sign, and ask if they would consider posting the meeting dates on a regular basis.

Chair Chaulk referred to Ms. Bishop's question regarding prohibiting persons suing the Commission from running for Commissioner. He stated that this had been investigated and there is no such restriction. Ms. Bishop suggested that this should be made an issue at the provincial level. Chair Chaulk agreed and stated that Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations would be an appropriate place to start.

Maynard Stevens

Mr. Stevens stated that he is a member of the New Minas Lions group and felt there would be no problem putting the Village's meeting on the sign on a regular basis. He said that's what the sign is for – community events.

Mr. Stevens suggested to the Commission that they might like to consider amending the Election Bylaw to allow advance polls.

Dean Hatt

Commissioner Dean Hatt expressed his thanks to everyone who supported him and worked so hard to help him in his success in being elected as Village Commissioner.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Lockhart, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer