

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2008
7:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the New Minas Village Commission was held on February 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m..

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

Also In Attendance: Gordon Silver, Resident
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works
Don Zwicker, Resident
James Redmond, Fire Chief and Resident
Mark Redmond, Resident

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Dave Chaulk

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: February 18, 2008

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Stevens that the Agenda be approved with one addition: “*New Business – Annapolis Valley Businesses Environmental Committee*”. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Commission Meeting January 14, 2008

It was moved by Vice-Chair Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, that the minutes of the Regular Commission meeting of January 14, 2008 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION – Marlene Clements – Civic Numbering

The Clerk Treasurer advised that Ms. Clements was unable to attend this meeting (which had been re-scheduled because of inclement weather on February 11) due to another commitment. She stated Ms. Clements will attend the March Commission meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Water Commission Report – Commissioner Maynard Stevens

Commissioner Stevens read his Water Commission Report (attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the report of the New Minas Water Commission be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

b) Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Hatt advised the Area Advisory Committee had not met.

c) Recreation Advisory Committee – Vice-Chair Dale Pineo

Vice-Chair Pineo read his Recreation Advisory Committee Report (attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Vice-Chair Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Hatt, that the Recreation Advisory Report be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Vice Chair Pineo reminded everyone of the upcoming Sentimental Journey Dance and the Winter Carnival, scheduled for next week, and urged everyone to attend. He also advised those present that New Minas entered a team in the Municipal Curling Challenge this past weekend, and took second place.

d) Transportation Advisory Committee – Commissioner Dean Hatt

Commissioner Hatt advised the Transportation Advisory Committee had not met.

e) 40th Anniversary Committee – Commissioner Maynard Stevens

Commissioner Stevens read the report of the 40th Anniversary Committee (attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Vice-Chair Pineo that an amount of \$3,000 be placed in the 2008/2009 Budget for the Apple Blossom float.

MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Stevens stated that the added expense is required this year because the Village is celebrating its 40th Anniversary and special plans are intended for the float. Pre-approval is required because items must be ordered now in order to be here in time to decorate the float.

It was moved by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Vice-Chair Pineo that the report of the 40th Anniversary Committee be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

a) Annapolis Valley Businesses Environmental Committee

Vice-Chair Pineo advised he had attended a recent meeting of the Annapolis Valley Businesses Environmental Committee. He said there were two main points discussed at the meeting. The first was regarding disposal sites for electronic equipment. Mr. Stephen Wisecraft gave an overview of the upcoming procedures for disposal of computers, etc., and Vice-Chair Pineo found this very informative and helpful.

The second item discussed at the meeting was the changes for the recycling and garbage procedures in this area. He stated that on April 1, 2008, garbage will no longer be accepted by Valley Waste in green (black) bags (with the exception of one bag for personal items), but must be distributed in blue bags, while recycling materials must be in clear bags.

Chair Chaulk thanked Vice-Chair Pineo for attending this and many other meetings on the Village's behalf.

b) Letter to Commission re Fire Department

Chair Chaulk stated that the Village Commissioners have received a letter from Chief James Redmond, in which Chief Redmond commented on items pertaining to the operation of the New Minas Volunteer Fire Department, and the funding for the Department provided by the County of Kings (Chief Redmond's letter attached to original minutes). Chief Redmond was invited to speak to the Commission.

The following points were made by Chief Redmond, with various comments from Commissioners:

- Kings Partnership Steering Committee was formed in 2005 (County and Towns in Kings County – not Villages), and a Fire Services sub-committee formed.
- New Minas Fire Department is owned by its membership and run by a Board of Directors (some FDs are owned by the Municipal unit, like Kentville and Wolfville)
- Chief Redmond feels that the funding for New Minas Fire Department and some other non-town Fire department are not receiving an equitable share of funding, compared with some of the Towns in Kings County. Chief Redmond feels that it is unfair that ratepayers in New Minas are paying for items for Town-owned Fire Departments that are not included in the funding for New Minas.
- New Minas Fire Fighters volunteer on a continual basis to raise money for such things as air packs, jaws equipment, vehicle for fighting grass fires, camera, sports events, etc., etc.). Kentville FD, for example, does not require their volunteers to fund-raise for any operating or social items; these items are included in the County's grant.
- Kentville FD receives 58% of their overall budget from County ratepayers.
- Several Town FDs have part-time paid staff
- New Minas' fire alarms increased 22% in 2007 over 2006, and at this point in 2008 the alarms have increased by 9% over 2007.
- Response time in New Minas has been clocked at 4.5 minutes.

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2008

- Chief Redmond feels that there were concerns that some Towns would withdraw services if funding requests were not met by Kings County
- Commissioner Barrett pointed out that the Fire Department can raise its area rate instead of fund raising. Chief Redmond explained that the area rate is meant to take care of capital not operating expenses.
- The assets of the NMFD are owned by the members and controlled by the Board of Directors. If for some reason the Fire Department can no longer run the operation, the assets are turned over to the Village Commission.
- New Minas Fire Department fire fighters are required to dedicate an enormous amount of time fund-raising just to keep the operation afloat. This time could be better spent training.
- Recruitment in all volunteer fire departments is an issue.
- Commissioner Barrett asked if amalgamation wouldn't be a good alternative. Chief Redmond stated that in his opinion this would serve no purpose, and mentioned the fact that ambulances have to park at the Big Stop in New Minas so eliminate travel time through Kentville.
- Commissioner Barrett stated that if the Village owned the Fire Department, it could "go to bat" for more money, but the NMFD is owned by the members. He stated that as a result, it should be up to the local County Councillor to make the pitch for the Fire Departments in his/her district.
- Chair Chaulk stated that even though the Village Commission has no jurisdiction to speak on behalf of the New Minas Fire Department, as a Commissioner and resident of New Minas, he feels the Commission should be concerned if the Fire Department is getting the short end of the stick in the funding from the County. He stated at this point, it certainly appears there may be some inequities, and he feels it would be irresponsible of him as a Commissioner to sit back while the future of our Fire Department is in question.
- Vice-Chair Pineo stated that it wouldn't be the first time the Village has had concerns about inequities in funding, and agreed that the Commission should at the very least express their concerns. He stated that he feels this is the Commission's fight from a political point of view, and the citizens of New Minas would require they do this on their behalf.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Hatt that the Chair write a letter to the County of Kings outlining the Commission's concerns of the inequity in funding for the New Minas Volunteer Fire Department. MOTION CARRIED

Commissioner Barrett stated it was not his intention to suggest this is the Village Commission's fight, but the letter would be to support the request for funding.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Peter Julian, MP Burnaby-New Westminster**

A letter was reviewed from Peter Julian, MP, Burnaby – New Westminster looking for support of Hon. Julian's private member's motion M-38 for phasing out PBDE levels in everyday items. The Commission requested the Clerk to acknowledge Hon. Julian's letter.

b) International Association of Fire Fighters – phase out of PBDEs

A copy of a letter from the International Association of Fire Fighters to the Hon. Peter Julian supporting Hon. Julian's private member's motion M-38 to phase out PBDEs, was viewed by the Commissioners.

c) Apple Blossom Festival – Booster Club; Alliance of Kings Artists; Valley Voices a Chapter of Harmony, Inc.

Funding requests were received from the Apple Blossom Festival Booster Club, Alliance of Kings Artists and Valley Voices a Chapter of Harmony, Inc. for 2008/2009 Budget. These items are referred to the Budget Committee for consideration.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mr. Mark Redmond – Resident

Mr. Redmond asked if the Commission had an update on the Home Depot development application. Clerk Treasurer Silver stated that just today she had spoken with Mr. Scott Quinn, Project Engineer for the County of Kings, who advised her that things were moving along and there didn't seem to be any items from the County's perspective that would delay the progress. The Federal Department of Fisheries and the Provincial Department of the Environment are working with the developers as well to hopefully enable the Terrain Group to sign the paperwork in time for Home Depot to move on with their development plans.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer