



Village of New Minas
Minutes of a Regular Commission Meeting
Monday, September 11th, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Louis Millett Community Complex (LMCC)

Commissioners Present:

Dave Chaulk, Chair
Maynard Stevens, Vice-Chair
Mary Munroe, Commissioner
Ken Pineo, Commissioner
James Redmond, Commissioner

Staff Present:

April Ernest, Clerk Treasurer
Gerard Hamilton, Municipal Operations Manager
John Ansara, Director of Recreation & Community
Development
Krista McDonald, Deputy Clerk
Rod Dawe, Head Custodian

Others Present:

Pierre Clouthier, New Minas
Scott Caldwell, New Minas

Call to Order:

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

Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was amended to include the New Minas Beautification Committee update and a discussion on Sewer charges be added under New Business. The Employee Service Awards were moved up in the Agenda to occur prior to Business Arising from Minutes.

Pineo - Munroe

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Village of New Minas Commission of September 11th, 2017 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Pineo noticed a typo on page 1 of the Minutes.

Stevens - Pineo

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of New Minas Commission on July 10th, 2017 and July 27th, 2017 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Employee Service Awards:

Chair Chaulk expressed that the Commission are very thankful for the dedication and service from the Village employees. He then presented Service Awards to Gerard Hamilton (20 years), Rod Dawe (15 years), and John Ansara (5 years). An award would be presented to Greg Messom (15 years) at a later date.

Business arising from Minutes:

- a) April Ernest gave an update on the sale of the former Civic Centre building. The property closed on August 31st. Chair Chaulk started a discussion about what should be done now that the skate park has been demolished as it was part of the property sold. John Ansara spoke about the research he has done and will continue to do to find a solution. He will bring suggestions to the next Commission meeting.
Chair Chaulk then clarified that the proceeds from the sale went towards the long-term debt held by the Village. April Ernest confirmed this and said there is about \$50,000 left remaining after the sale.
- b) Discussion was opened up on the consideration of amalgamation with Kentville. Vice-Chair Stevens said he had weighed the pros and cons and presently does not feel amalgamation is the way to go. He is not in favour of it at this time. Commissioner Pineo remarked that he is not ready to say that we should plunge into a full study. He would like to see more research and get more of the story and he is not dismissing it at this time. Commissioner Munroe stated that the process was already started before and that it would not be wise to start it up again. She then asked about the previous study the Commission had started about Town status and where that information could be found. Chair Chaulk stated that Rick Ramsay had been hired to do the previous study but that he did not complete enough of it prior to the study being halted in 2015. Commissioner Redmond said that he would like to see the Kings 2050 plan and how New Minas fares in that strategy. He also mentioned that Commercial Street will need to be paved and that will be a very expensive piece of work. Chair Chaulk would like to get more information together and come back to the discussion. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for October 2nd.
- c) April Ernest updated that the former Esso property is owned by Exxon and they do conduct lawn maintenance on the property once per month. She added that she will be contacting the Department of Environment to get more information about the status of the property.
- d) April Ernest gave an update on the investment opportunities available as our Auditor suggested. Royal Bank has investment opportunities that are locked in, whereas those offered by the Municipal Affairs Department are not. Municipal Affairs will be coming to present their investment opportunities at the next Commission meeting in October.

Committee Reports:

- a) **Water Commission Report** – Stevens, Chair, New Minas
Water Commission provided a report from the last meetings held in July & August 2017 (report attached).

Stevens-Redmond

THAT the Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

- b) **Area Advisory** – There have been no meetings since the last report.
- c) **Regional Sewer Committee** - Commissioner Stevens presented a report on the Regional Sewer Committee adding that changes to the by-laws will be coming (report attached).

Stevens-Redmond

THAT the Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

- d) **MGA Review** – April Ernest provided a copy of an email updating CAO's and Clerk Treasurers on the status of the MGA Review (attached). She explained "Natural Person Powers" as the power for a municipality to act as an individual.
- e) **New Minas 50th Birthday Celebration Committee** – Vice-Chair Stevens reported that the Committee is meeting at the end of September.
- f) **Recreation & Community Development Report** – There was a discussion about the status of the Parade of Lights as the County Fair Mall is not going to be involved this year. John Ansara commented that he is working with the mall to get their cooperation, but that the parade will be happening regardless (report attached).

Pineo-Redmond

THAT the Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

- g) **Facility Report** (report attached).

Stevens-Redmond

THAT the Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

- h) **Finance, Administration and Clerk Treasurer Report** (report attached).

Redmond-Pineo

THAT the Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

- i) **Public Works Report** (report attached).

Stevens-Redmond

THAT the Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

- j) **Beautification Committee Report** – Commissioner Munroe gave the update that the Committee has interest from others in the community. Kingstec College is interested in helping as well, the committee is discussing tree planting and talking to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal about our staff taking over maintenance and enhancement of the roundabout and the corner lot off Crescent Drive.

Munroe-Redmond

THAT the Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

New Business:

- a) **Association of Nova Scotia Villages – Appointment of Voting Delegate** It was decided that Mary Munroe should be the Voting Delegate for the Village.

Stevens-Redmond

THAT the Commissioner Munroe be appointed the Voting Delegate for the Village of New Minas for the ANSV.

CARRIED

- b) **Gardens of Grace Proclamation** – The Gardens of Grace information was reviewed. Commissioner Pineo provided a proclamation which the Village will adopt. (attached)
- c) **Sewer Charges** – Chair Chaulk opened up discussion about the maintenance of the sewer lateral up to the sewer main being the property owner's responsibility. He felt that this was not fair and wondered if changes to the bylaw should be explored. A discussion was had on revisiting the bylaw and how to go about the process to change it. There will be a follow-up at the next meeting.

Correspondence: Apple Blossom Committee

A letter from the Apple Blossom Committee proposing that the Village host the Blossom Brew Night event was reviewed (Attached). Commissioner Stevens thought that it could be included with the 50th birthday celebrations, but did not think the Village should take it on otherwise. Chair Chaulk commented that there could be issue with that type of event taking place at a municipal facility. The discussion continued that more information was needed and it would be tabled until the next meeting when such information could be available.

Public Discussion:

Pierre Clouthier congratulated the Commission on the sale of the old civic centre and remarked that he was glad to hear plans in place to replace the skate bowl. He continued on with comments about the closed storefronts in the village and that as a Village there are not enough resources to handle the retail issue. He commented that the county is not willing to take steps to fix this, but that a town like Kentville can do something. The Village would be able to tap into the power and energy that Kentville has and the Commission should pursue a study looking into amalgamating with Kentville. Chair Chaulk thanked him for his participation.

Scott Caldwell asked what the plans are for the new Municipal Planning Strategy and if the Village was going to address its concerns at the meeting being held on September 12th to review the strategy and host a Town Hall with citizens. He remarked that the Village is being left in the dark and that future growth and development in the newly expanded area of New Minas needs to be a priority for the county. He commented that the area south of the 101 should be a growth centre and that doing so would provide opportunities for growth and development.

Chair Chaulk remarked that the Commission had repeatedly told the county how they feel about the newly annexed area being zoned for future growth. They have made their position clear and cannot understand the rationale of zoning it as future growth.

Redmond

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

April Ernest, Clerk Treasurer

