

**VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**JUNE 27, 2005**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas Committee of the Whole was held in the Civic Centre on Monday, June 27, 2005 at 7:00 p.m..

**In Attendance**

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

**Also in Attendance**

Diane Burns, Resident  
Todd Jones, Resident  
Maynard Stevens, Resident  
Blake Curry, Resident  
Ron Wright, Resident  
Mark Redmond, Resident  
Don Zwicker, Resident  
Kelly Patton, Resident  
Pierre Cloutier, Resident  
Scott A. Callaghan, Resident  
Allan Milton, Resident  
Stephen Schofield, Resident  
Rod MacInnis, Resident  
Paulette Hersey, Resident  
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works  
Brent Fox, Reporter for the Advertiser

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Pineo, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 30, 2005 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 13, 2005 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the minutes of the second Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 13, 2005 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED**

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – June 27, 2005**

**It was moved by Vice-Chair Lockhart, seconded by Commissioner Barrett that the Agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 27, 2005 be approved with the following addition: under ‘OTHER ITEMS’ add “Proposals for Legal Services”. MOTION CARRIED**

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Goals and Objectives – Update Chair Chaulk

Chair Chaulk advised he had spoken with the president of the New Minas Rotary Club with regard to having someone from that group sit on a new committee, if the Village so wishes, to consider a wellness facility for the community. He stated that the Rotary Club is willing to have someone from its membership do this. The Commissioners felt that a meeting should be set up for September to begin these talks.

(b) Cooperative Parking Area – New Minas Baptist Church

Chair Chaulk referred to the letter from the New Minas Baptist Church dated May 9, 2005 in which the Commission was asked if they were interested in providing an area for co-operative parking.

**It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that it be recommended to the Village Commission to begin talks with the New Minas Baptist Church to develop a portion of Village-owned land for a parking area. MOTION CARRIED**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The New Minas Fire Department’s Role/Obligation to the Village of new Minas – Commissioner Swanburg, and (b) The Village of New Minas’ Role/Obligation to the New Minas Fire Department – Commissioner Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg stated she had asked to have this placed on the agenda and had hoped that the Clerk would have been able to provide information on the roles and responsibilities and the obligations that the New Minas Fire Department has with the Village, and vice versa. The Clerk advised that she had placed the Villages section of the MGA and documentation she had located in the Village files. She stated the Villages section of the MGA gives authority for Villages to provide an extensive list of services for fire and emergency protection to the Village residents. She stated the “Responsibilities and Functions” report in the Commission packages outlines the Fire Department’s obligations to the Village ratepayers.

Commissioner Swanburg stated she was looking for information such things as:

- Is the Fire Department owned by the Village of New Minas?
- Is the Fire Department required to provide information to the Village of New Minas?
- Is there a “signed agreement” between the Village of New Minas and the New Minas Fire Department?

The Commissioners were advised that the Fire Department is not owned by the Village; it is actually run by and almost totally funded by the Municipality of the County of Kings. There is no signed agreement between the Village and the Fire Department. Commissioner Swanburg asked why, then is the Village administering the Grant from Kings County; why aren't the bills going to the County for payment. Vice-Chair Lockhart stated that the bills have always been paid by the Village, and the County has provided the grant. Commissioner Barrett asked why, if the County has the responsibility of the Fire Department, would the Village of New Minas even be involved. It was stated that many Fire Departments are owned by Towns and Municipalities and some are not. The Clerk stated that it would seem logical that because the Village of New Minas is a level of government, has it's own tax rate, expends and collect its own funds, that it would have made practical sense, at the time of inception of the Fire Department, to have the Village carry out certain functions as provided for in the Act. This is common in municipal units which do not have a paid Fire Department.

Commissioner Swanburg stated she would like to set up a meeting with Chief Redmond to hear his thoughts and ideas on the relationship between the Village and the Fire Department. She sees this as an opportunity to work out the differences which have been in the forefront lately.

**It was moved by Commissioner Swanburg, seconded by Vice-Chair Lockhart that a meeting be set up with Chief Redmond to discuss how the relationship between the Village and the Fire Department can be enhanced. MOTION CARRIED.**

(c) Termination of Employment Policy – Commissioner Swanburg

Commissioner Swanburg stated she has some things to discuss with regard to the Termination of Employment Policy and how certain positions will be dealt with given the upcoming season change. The Chair advised that the policy can be discussed, but if individual positions or staff are being discussed, there must be an in camera session for this purpose.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

### Commissioner Dale Pineo

Commissioner Pineo stated he was asked by Mr. Gordon Morse to report that \$2,000 has been raised so far for Fire Fighters Honoraria.

### Blake Curry

Mr. Curry asked what the process is for the Commission to hire a solicitor, and what has taken place so far. The Clerk advised that the Village's Solicitor had submitted her resignation effective May 31<sup>st</sup>. An advertisement had been placed in the local paper in mid-May requesting proposals, and none were received. She then sent individual letters to local law firms requesting proposals and from those letters, two proposals were received. Tonight, the Commission will go In Camera to discuss the proposals received. Mr. Curry asked if the Commission will have to make a recommendation to the Village Commission to accept a proposal at a regular meeting, and he was advised that this is the case.

### Pierre Cloutier

Mr. Cloutier asked if there was any reason the lawyer resigned. Chair Chaulk stated that it was felt that it came as the result of a conflict in certain lawsuits.

### Blake Curry

Mr. Curry asked about the progress of the skateboard park. The Clerk advised that the Rec Director is in the process of obtaining quotes for a Geo Technical study, which is required for the project. Things are moving along on schedule.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### (a) Termination of Employment Policy

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Swanburg, that the meeting to In Camera. MOTION CARRIED**

### (b) Proposals for Legal Services

Commissioner Swanburg and Vice-Chair Lockhart declared an interest in this item and removed themselves from the discussion

**It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Commissioner Barrett, that the meeting go out of the In Camera Session. MOTION CARRIED**

**It was moved by Commissioner Pineo that the firm of Waterbury Newton be hired to be the Village's Solicitors. There being no seconder the MOTION WAS LOST**

**It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, that the firm of Burchell MacDougall be hired to be the Village's Solicitors. There being no seconder the MOTION WAS LOST**

The Clerk was requested to investigate the procedure to be taken when the Commission has a reduced quorum, and is faced with the inability to vote because a motion is not seconded. Subsequently, whether the Chair can step down as chair and, in the absence of a Vice Chair for conflict of interest reasons have the Clerk Treasurer perform the duties as Chair. Furthermore, whether the Vice-Chair can take the part of the Chair in this instance and leave due to conflict of interest when the vote is taken. She will report to the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of Commissioner Barrett, the meeting adjourned.**

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**Dave Chaulk, Chair**

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**Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer**