

VILLAGE COMMISSION OF NEW MINAS
SPECIAL MEETING

June 6, 2006

2:00 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held in the Conference Room of the Civic Centre on June 6, 2006 at 2:00 p.m..

In Attendance:

Dave Chaulk, Chair
Dale Pineo, Vice-Chair
Les Barrett, Commissioner
Dean Hatt, Commissioner
Linda Lockhart, Commissioner
Brad Morse, Auditor
Doug Seamone, Engineer
Peter Pothier, Superintendent of Public Works
Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATION OF THE AUDIT

Village Auditor Brad Morse presented the 2005/2006 Audited Statements, and the contents were discussed.

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart, the Audited Statements for 2005/2006 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VILLAGE RATES, 2006/2007

Discussion took place with regard to the Village tax rates. The Clerk Treasurer presented five scenarios taking into account the reduction in Business Occupancy Assessments. This is the first year of a seven-year plan to eliminate the Business Occupancy Assessment.

Chair Chaulk objected to the Commercial Rate being only 2 cents above last year's rate. The Assessments for Business Occupancy decreased by over \$9,000,000 this year, and Chair Chaulk stated that he feels the commercial taxpayers should be shouldering the taxes, not the residential taxpayers.

Commissioner Lockhart agreed with the Chair and stated that the Commercial property owners can recover the extra taxes through the rent. T. Silver added that the Province has allowed commercial property owners to renegotiate their leases in order to accommodate this change.

Commissioner Barrett stated that, although he agreed the tax burden should be on the commercial property owners, the Commission is starting off the budget with a surplus and

doesn't need the money to balance the budget, so rather than recover the entire \$40,800 in lost BO tax revenue (3.885 cent increase over last year's Commercial Rate), a 2 cent increase would be enough.

Commissioner Pineo stated that he feels the residential taxpayers should have no obligation to make up the lost revenue from business occupancy taxes, and should be paid by the commercial ratepayers.

Commissioner Hatt felt that it would be better to phase in the tax rate increases for the commercial properties gradually, since changes in Business Occupancy Assessments will be coming over the next seven years.

It was moved by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart, that the Village Tax Rates for 2006/2007 be set at Residential – 44 cents per \$100 of Assessment, and Commercial 47 cents per \$100 of Assessment. MOTION CARRIED - 3 yea; 2 nay

2006/2007 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

It was moved by Commissioner Hatt, seconded by Commissioner Lockhart, that the Operating and Capital Budgets for the Village of New Minas for 2006/2007 be approved. MOTION CARRIED – 1 nay

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Lockhart that the meeting adjourn.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer