



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
April 8, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
DRAFT MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

- Dave Chaulk, Chair
- James Redmond, Vice Chair
- Mary Munroe
- Quentin Hill
- Debra Windle-Smith

Commissioners Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Tim Bouter, Clerk Treasurer/CAO

Others Present:

- Kevin Davison, Kings County District 8 Councillor (via Zoom)
- Donna Randell (via Zoom)
- Maynard Stevens

1. Call to Order:

Dave Chaulk called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, welcoming those in attendance.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

THAT the Agenda for the April 8, 2024 Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/James Redmond
S/Debra Windle-Smith
Motion Carried

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. March 11, 2024 Village Commission Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the March 11, 2024 Village Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/Quentin Hill

S/James Redmond

Motion Carried

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

- a. March 11, 2024 Village Commission Meeting

There was no business arising from the March 11, 2024 minutes.

6. Comments from the Chair:

There were no comments from the Chair.

7. Public Input Specific to Agenda Topics:

There was no public input.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Beautification Committee

Mary Munroe provided a verbal summary of the written report circulated by email and draft minutes included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the written report and draft minutes for the Beautification Committee be received as included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by Mary Munroe.

M/Mary Munroe

S/James Redmond

Motion Carried

- c. Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

Quentin Hill provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Joint Accessibility Committee be received as included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by Quentin Hill.

M/Quentin Hill
S/James Redmond
Motion Carried

d. New Minas Water Commission

James Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the New Minas Water Commission be received as included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by James Redmond.

M/James Redmond
S/Quentin Hill
Motion Carried

e. Regional Sewer Committee

James Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Regional Sewer Committee be received as included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by James Redmond.

M/James Redmond
S/Quentin Hill
Motion Carried

9. Staff Reports:

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO provided a verbal summary of the following written reports included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package:

- a. Clerk Treasurer/CAO — Report included in package
- b. Manager of Municipal Operations — Report included in package
- c. Manager of Finance — Report included in package
- d. Director of Recreation & Community Development — Report included in package

Motion:

THAT the Staff Reports be received as included in the April 8, 2024 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by the Clerk Treasurer/CAO.

M/James Redmond
S/Debra Windle-Smith
Motion Carried

10. New Business:

a. Interest Rates for Overdue Taxes

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO recommended increasing the interest rate for overdue taxes from 1% to 1.5%. This would add incentive for property owners to pay their taxes on time, and would also be consistent with the interest rate charged by the New Minas Water Commission. A survey taken through the AMANS email distribution list indicated that the interest rate for the majority of municipal units across the Province ranges from 1-2% per month (locally, the Town of Wolfville is 1% per month, Berwick is 1.5% per month and Kentville is 2% per month). 1.5% per month would place the Village in the middle of the range. The Commission deferred this issue, requesting the Clerk Treasurer/CAO to report back on the interest rate charged by the Municipality of the County of Kings.

b. Strategic Planning Update

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO (with input from Debra Windle-Smith and Quentin Hill) provided an update on ongoing initiatives of the Strategic Planning Working Group. The Group met with Rob Frost from the Municipality of the County of Kings on April 4 and discussed the following:

- Overview of New Minas Strategic Plan
- Overview of Kings County Economic Development Strategy
- Responsibilities/jurisdiction
- Partnerships with Stakeholders
- Current Infill & Redevelopment Opportunities
- New Minas South

The next step will be to coordinate a meeting with representatives from the County, Province and Federal Government to discuss road and servicing extensions into New Minas South.

The Valley REN recently hosted an Open House to launch their new Site Selector Tool (Guru) on March 26th at 9am at the Louis Millett Complex. This tool can show where customers are, how easy it is to get goods to and from a place, and even how much it might cost to operate there. For businesses in the Annapolis Valley, this means they can pick the best location that makes it easier to grow their business, serve their customers well, and save money. It's a smart way to make big decisions without guessing, making sure businesses have a better chance at success.

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO will coordinate for the Valley REN to present an overview at a future Village Commissioner meeting. A longer-term objective will be to organize a facilitated session to demonstrate the development case and needs to landowners, brainstorm development potential and to celebrate the land use changes that have been put in place.

c. Crosswalk Lines (Commissioner Munroe)

Commissioner Munroe spoke about the need to standardize crosswalk markings throughout the Village, and to ensure that crosswalk lines are repainted following paving projects. The Commission requested by consensus for the Public Works Department to create an inventory of the Village's crosswalks and their current state.

11. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

12. Other Business:

There was no other business.

13. General Public Input:

Donna Randell:

- Commented on how nice the new banners look.

Maynard Stevens:

- Provided positive feedback on banners and sign at Lockhart & Ryan Park
- Mentioned that the crosswalk at Aalders is used by seniors going to Walmart
- Mentioned that other Villages should be surveyed about the interest rate for overdue taxes

14. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Dave Chaulk called for a motion to adjourn at 7:57pm.

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

M/James Redmond

S/Quentin Hill

Motion Carried