



Village of New Minas
Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting
Tuesday April 14, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
Meeting Held By Teleconference
New Minas, Nova Scotia

Commissioners Present:

- Dave Chaulk, Chair
- Cheryl Manzer, Commissioner
- Mary Munroe, Commissioner
- James Redmond, Commissioner

Staff Present:

- Ian Morrison, Clerk Treasurer/CAO

Others Present:

- None

Call to Order:

Chair Dave Chaulk called the meeting to order at 10:01 am, welcoming those in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda:

THAT the Agenda for the April 14, 2020 regular Commission meeting be approved, as presented.

M/Mary Munroe

S/Cheryl Manzer

CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes from Prior Meetings:

THAT the Minutes for the March 9, 2020 regular Commission meeting be approved as presented.

M/James Redmond

S/Mary Munroe

CARRIED

Business Arising from Minutes:

None

Presentations:

None

Committee Reports:

- Beautification Group – no report
- Clerk Treasurer/CAO – report included in package
- Finance – report included in package
- New Minas Water Commission – no report
- Operations – report included in package
- Recreation & Community Development – report included in package
- Recreation & Community Development Advisory Committee – no report
- Regional Sewer Committee – no report

THAT the reports for Clerk Treasurer/CAO, Finance, Operations, and Recreation & Community Development be accepted as presented.

M/James Redmond

S/Mary Munroe

CARRIED

Ms. Munroe commented that the New Minas Walking Map that was prepared by the Recreation Department and posted online, was well-received.

New Business:

Budget Discussion

The Operating Budget for the fiscal year April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021 was formally presented. The budget details had previously been reviewed by the Commission at telephone meetings held on April 6, 8, and 9.

THAT the Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 be accepted, as presented.

M/James Redmond

S/Mary Munroe

CARRIED

Election of Village Commissioners

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO presented a process, for consideration of the Commission, on the method to administer the balloting for the upcoming election of the Village Commission. The election will feature two seats being elected for three-year terms and one seat being elected for a one-year term, the latter election necessitated to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Ken Pineo.

Whereas there exists a vacancy for a seat on the Village Commission with a term of one year remaining and there is an election for two seats on the Village Commission scheduled for June 24 with terms of three years each; and

Whereas the Municipal Government Act, in Section 411, specifies a vacancy need not be filled until the next annual meeting or the election held in accordance with the nomination and election by-laws of the village immediately following the next annual meeting if it occurs within six months of the next annual meeting unless the Minister or the village commission determines otherwise; and

Whereas the Nomination & Elections By-law in Section 5 (f) specifies a single ballot shall be held and a single ballot paper shall be used at an election even if there is more than one vacancy in the office of Commissioner. The names of all candidates shall appear on the ballot papers in alphabetical order by last name. An elector may vote only once for each office to be filled and may vote only once for any candidate and these conditions shall appear on the ballot papers;

Therefore, be it resolved THAT the Commission deems it expedient to fill all three positions or seats concurrently and in accordance with the Nomination & Election By-law of the Village; THAT in addition to the procedures set out in the Nomination & Election By-law of the Village, the two candidates who secure the most votes are elected for a three-year term; THAT the candidate who secures the third most votes is elected for a one-year term.

M/Mary Munroe

S/James Redmond

CARRIED

Correspondence:

A letter from Jessica MacDonald was presented. The letter, dated March 10 and addressed to the Chair of the Village Commission, presented support for the creation of an off-leash dog park in New Minas. The Commission asked that John Ansara, Director of Recreation & Community Development, look further into the matter.

A letter from Laura Mosher, Manager, Planning & Development Services for the Municipality of the County of Kings was presented. The letter advises that the four names submitted by the Village Commission as citizen appointments for the New Minas Secondary Strategy Planning Group were rejected on the following basis:

- Lack of clear criteria for the appointment process
- Lack of diversity among the recommended appointees
- Lack of the presence of a business owner
- Presence of family members within the group
- The process utilized to identify the appointees

Specifically, the names of the citizen appointments that were submitted were John Bourgeois, John Owen, Mark Redmond, and John Sutcliffe. The names of the three Village Commissioners that were submitted, and subsequently ratified were Dave Chaulk, Mary Munroe, and James Redmond.

In general, the members of the Village Commission expressed annoyance and disappointment in the decision that has been taken by Municipal Council. Furthermore, disappointment was

expressed in District #8 Councillor, Jim Winsor, for not advocating on behalf of the Village Commission. The Clerk Treasurer/CAO was directed to promptly formulate a draft response to the letter for review of the Commission and, subsequently, for issuance to the Municipality.

Public Discussion Period:

None.

Adjournment:

M/James Redmond

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 am.