



Village of New Minas
New Minas Water Commission
May 23, 2023 @ 3:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present:

- James Redmond, Commission Member & Chair
- Dave Chaulk, Commission Member & Vice Chair
- Mary Munroe, Commission Member
- Bruce MacArthur, Citizen Member

Members Absent:

- Maynard Stevens, Citizen Member

Staff Present:

- Tim Bouter, Clerk Treasurer/CAO
- Greg Messom, Utility Operator

Others Present:

- None

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:03pm, welcoming those in attendance.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

THAT the Agenda for the May 23, 2023 Water Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/ Dave Chaulk

S/ Mary Munroe

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. April 25, 2023 Water Commission Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the April 25, 2023 Water Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/ Mary Munroe

S/ Bruce MacArthur

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

- a. April 25, 2023 Water Commission Meeting

There was no business arising from the April 25, 2023 minutes.

5. Comments from the Chair:

The Chair asked the Clerk Treasurer/CAO to provide an update on a new property tax bill that has been received for the Busch Lane water tower, and potential implications for other Water Utility properties.

The following list shows the New Minas Water Utility PIDs and assessed values:

- 55321566: \$560,100
- 55201800: \$3,310,500
- 55209852: \$46,000
- 55210322: \$30,200
- 55285613: \$34,000
- 55286207: \$240,100
- 55289615: \$50,900
- 55450274: \$411,400
- 55450282: \$68,500
- 55468904: \$1,200

Section 5(h) of the Nova Scotia Assessment Act allows water utility properties to be taxed. PVSC has recently changed PID 55321566 to commercial taxable from commercial exempt. It is likely that over time many or all of these properties will be changed to commercial taxable.

Total: \$4,752,900 = \$108,700 per year @ commercial rate = \$65,200 @ 40% exempt

2023/24 Water Utility Operating Budget = \$1,146,500 → 6% increase

Motion:

THAT the Clerk Treasurer/CAO send a letter to the Mayor, Council, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Local MLA outlining the Water Commission's concerns about this new and unexpected tax situation.

M/ Dave Chaulk

S/ Mary Munroe

Motion Carried

6. Staff Reports:

a. Water Operations Report

Greg Messom provided a verbal summary of the Water Operations Report circulated prior to the May 23, 2023 Water Commission meeting.

Motion:

THAT the Water Operations Report be received as circulated prior to the May 23, 2023 Water Commission meeting and as verbally summarized by the Utility Operator.

M/ Dave Chaulk

S/ Bruce MacArthur

Motion Carried

7. Capital Projects Update:

The Utility Operator provided an update on the variable frequency drives. Staff are currently preparing tender specifications for suppliers to bid on. The goal is to tender this project in June.

8. Source Water Protection Committee:

The updated draft of the Source Water Protection Plan prepared by Billy Shaw has been circulated to the Committee, and will be discussed at the next meeting on June 7.

9. Correspondence:

None

10. Other Business:

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO informed the Water Commission that Nova Scotia Environment requires an updated System Assessment Report (SAR) for the Utility. The last SAR was prepared in 2013, and requires updating on a 10-year cycle. This project was not included in the budget. The Clerk Treasurer/CAO recommended using GL #113-241-4 (Water Operating) for the estimated \$15,000 to \$20,000 expense.

11. Public Input:

None

12. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn at 3:28pm.

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

M/ Bruce MacArthur

S/ Dave Chaulk

Motion Carried