



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
April 14, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

- Quentin Hill

Staff Present:

- Jeff Lawrence, Interim Clerk Treasurer/CAO
- John Ansara, Director of Recreation and Community Development
- Natalie Palmer, Active Living Coordinator

Others Present:

- Julie Vanexen, MLA for Kings-South
- Christina Sappington, District 8 Councillor
- Maynard Stevens
- Barry Braun

1. Call to Order:

Dave Chaulk called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, welcoming those in attendance.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

THAT the Agenda for the April 14, 2025 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 10, 2025 Village Commission Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the March 10, 2025 Village Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/JAMES REDMOND

S/ DEBRA WINDLE -SMITH.

Motion Carried

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

- a. **March 10, 2025 Village Commission Meeting**

- i. Hemlock Wolly Agelgid Threat – Request for Decision Report

N. Palmer, Active Living Coordinator, provided a review of staff's report and recommendations regarding the Hemlock Wolly Agelgid threat.

Concerns were raised by the Commission regarding chemical treatments in the well zone protection area (Lockhart Ryan Park) and the cost to apply the spray treatment versus the cost to inject trees.

Administration committed to provide the Commission with a cost comparison of spray versus injection treatment, and to undertake due diligence regarding environmental approvals before any treatments are applied in the wellfield protection area.

Motion:

THAT the Village of New Minas Commission accept the recommendations as put forth in the Hemlock Wolly Agelgid Threat – Request for Decision Report and that a \$5,000 budget be established to be funded through the accumulated surplus to complete the work as outlined in recommendation 1.

M/ JAMES REDMOND

S/ DEBRA WINDLE -SMITH.

Motion Carried

- ii. Revised Sewer Budget Submission for Approval

CAO/ Clerk Treasurer Lawrence presented the Request for Decision Regional Sewer Budget and Village of New Minas Sewer Budget Report requesting the approval of the New Minas share of the regional sewer budget and the adjusted New Minas sewer budget.

Motion 1:

THAT the Village of New Minas Commission accept the recommendation as put forth in the Request for Decision Regional Sewer Budget and Village of New Minas Sewer Budget Report to approve the Regional Sewer budget as approved by the Regional Sewer Committee at its April 8th, 2025 meeting.

M/ JAMES REDMOND

S/ DEBRA WINDLE -SMITH.

Motion Carried

Proposed Motion 2:

THAT the Village of New Minas Commission accept the recommendation as put forth in the Request for Decision Regional Sewer Budget and Village of New Minas Sewer Budget Report and approve the sewer tab budget listed as Appendix B as part of the 2025/26 Village of New Minas budget.

M/ DEBRA WINDLE -SMITH.

S/ JAMES REDMOND

Motion Carried

6. Comments from the Chair:

N/A

7. Public Input Specific to Agenda Topics:

There was no public input.

8. Presentations

a. Happy Community and Good Neighbour Project

Barry Braun provided a presentation seeking the village's participation, both financially and through in-kind support, for a project themed Happy Community and Good Neighbour.

The Commission was generally supportive of the venture but questioned the timing, the amount of staff time required and the overall budget implications associated with implementing the request.

There was consensus from the Commission that Mr. Braun should work with staff to flush out the overall ask, and that any follow up requests should be presented during budget preparations.

9. Committee Reports:

a. Beautification Committee

Debra Windle-Smith provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the April 14, 2025 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Beautification Committee be received as included in the April 14, 2025 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by Debra Windle-Smith.

M/DEBRA WINDLE -SMITH.

S/ MARY MUNROE

Motion Carried

b. Inclusion and Access Working Group

Motion:

THAT the minutes for the Inclusion and Access Working Group be received as information as included in the April 14, 2025 Commission agenda package.

M/MARY MUNROE

S/ JAMES REDMOND

Motion Carried

c. New Minas Water Commission

- d. James Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the April 14, 2025 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the New Minas Water Commission be received as included in the April 14, 2025 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by James Redmond.

M/JAMES REDMOND

S/ DEBRA WINDLE -SMITH.

Motion Carried

e. Regional Sewer Committee

James Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the April 14, 2025 Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Regional Sewer Committee be received as included in the April 14, 2025 Commission agenda package and as verbally summarized by James Redmond.

M/JAMES REDMOND

S/ DEBRA WINDLE -SMITH.

Motion Carried

10. Staff Reports:

Interim CAO/ Clerk Treasurer Lawrence reported that the Director of Public Works had submitted his report, but was unavailable to attend the meeting due to his attendance at a conference/ training forum.

The Director of Recreation and Community Development provided a brief synopsis of the recreation report.

Motion:

THAT the Clerk Treasurer/CAO, Director of Public Works, Manager of Finance and Director of Recreation and Community Development Reports be received as included in the April 14, 2025 Commission agenda package.

M/DEBRA WINDLE -SMITH.

S/ JAMES REDMOND

Motion Carried

During the discussion, the Commission raised concerns regarding Kentville Town Council's decision to ask staff to investigate a potential change of venue for the Eave's Hollow Dog Park and requested that a letter be drafted and forwarded to Kentville Council expressing the concerns.

11. New Business:

- a. Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee – Citizen member appointment

A letter was received from Katie MacArthur, Kings County Accessibility Coordinator, requesting that the Commission appoint Jordan Waterbury as a citizen member to the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Motion:

THAT the Village of New Minas appoint Jordan Waterbury as citizen member to the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee for the remainder of a three-year term ending May 31, 2026.

M/DEBRA WINDLE -SMITH.

S/ MARY MUNROE

Motion Carried

b. Nova Scotia Ground Search and Rescue – Financial Request

A letter was received from Sherry Veinot, President of the Nova Scotia Ground Search and Rescue Committee, requesting that the Commission sponsor an advertisement space in the Wilderness Survival Guide.

The Commission discussed the timing of the request and the lack of sponsorship or advertising capacity in the budget.

The consensus of the Commission was that the group be encouraged to apply for support during the budget formulation stage in future years.

12. Correspondence:

The following pieces of correspondence were received:

- a. March 18, 2025 – Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board – Change of Name
- b. March 19, 2025 – Municipal Affairs – Letter from Minister Lohr – Code of Conduct
- c. March 21, 2025 – AMANS – Important Changes to Workers Compensation Coverage – Fire Services
- d. April 4, 2025 – Municipality of the County of Kings – Notice of Public Information Meeting

13. Other Business:

- a. Sponsorship 2025 Canadian Senior Men's Amateur Golf Championship – Kenwo – Discussion on Eligibility

The interim CAO/ Clerk Treasurer indicated that he had met with a representative from the Kenwo Golf Club Organizing Committee for the 2025 Canadian Senior Men's Amateur Golf Championship and that the representative had asked if the Commission was permitted to help sponsor the event through purchasing advertising.

The Commission directed that Mr. Lawrence look further into this issue and provide a response to the organizing committee as well as clarity around sponsorship rules to the Commission.

14. General Public Input:

Comments from the public were as follows:

Christina Sappington:

- Applauded the Commission for their efforts to save the Hemlock trees in Lockhart Ryan Park
- Confirmed that the Kings County budget had been approved
- Provided an update on Kings County planning initiatives relating to New Minas

Maynard Stevens:

- Questioned whether sections of the New Minas Source Water Plan may be relevant to the potential for spraying or injecting chemicals within the wellfield protection area to control the Hemlock Wolly Agelgid
- Indicated that, in his opinion, the Good Neighbour Community initiative may be worth investigating
- Suggested that the Village had previously sponsored a sporting event at the Wolfville curling club through advertising

15. Closed Session:

Dave Chaulk indicated that there was no requirement for an in-camera session.

16. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Dave Chaulk called for a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm.

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

M/James Redmond

S/Quentin Hill

Motion Carried