



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
June 8, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest
4. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. May 11, 2026, Village Commission Meeting
5. Presentations:
 - a. RCMP – Inspector William Collier
 - b. Municipality of Kings, Alice Jacobs, Planner - Application to Rezone – 130 Cornwallis Avenue
6. Business Arising from Minutes:
 - a. May 11, 2026, Village Commission Meeting
 - a. Flower Cart Group Presentation – Lease status
 - b. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Land Divesture – Ravine Easement
7. Comments from the Chair
8. Public Input Specific to Agenda Topics
9. Committee Reports:
 - a. Beautification Committee – Draft minutes included in package
 - b. Finance & Audit Committee – No meeting since last report
 - c. Access and inclusion Working Group – No meeting since last report
 - d. New Minas Water Commission – Draft minutes included in package
 - e. Regional Sewer Committee – No meeting since last report
10. Staff Reports:
 - a. Clerk Treasurer/CAO – Report included in package
 - b. Director of Public Works – Report included in package
 - c. Manager of Finance – Report included in package
11. New Business:

12. Correspondence:

- a. Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs – Response to ANSV – Request to Amend the Assessment Act – Village Water Utilities**
- b. Minister of the Department of Emergency Management – Advance Notice of Financial Implications associated with the Implementation of the Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection**
- c. MADD Advertising Request**

13. General Public Input

14. Closed Session

- a. Impact of Potential Development on Water and Sewer Infrastructure**
- b. Personnel**

15. Adjournment



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4. Minutes



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
May11, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
Motions

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present:

- Jeff Lawrence, Clerk Treasurer/CAO
- John Ansara, Director of Recreation and Community Development
- Cory Palmer, Director of Public Works

Others Present:

- Christina Sappington
- Maynard Stevens
- Julie Vanexan

1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Call to Order:

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

3. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

THAT the Agenda for the May 11, 2026, Commission Meeting be approved.

M/J. Redmond
S/ Q. Hill
Motion Carried

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. April 13, 2026, Village Commission Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the April 13, 2026, Village Commission Meeting be approved.

M/J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

5. Presentations:

a. The Flower Cart Group

Mike Schroeder, Community Inclusion & Employment Navigator with The Flower Cart Group, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an inclusive bird gardening proposal.

After a discussion, there was consensus from the Commission to support the proposal and provide the use of the land conditional upon the Flower Cart Group maintaining the site.

Motion:

THAT the Commission authorizes the Clerk Treasurer/CAO to enter into a ten-year lease, with an option to renew, on behalf of the Village Commission with the Flower Cart Group for the land requested in their presentation, conditional upon the Flower Cart Group being responsible for all site maintenance

M/J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

6. Business Arising from Minutes:

7. Comments from the Chair:

There were no comments from the Chair

8. Public Input Specific to Agenda Topics:

9. Committee Reports:

a. Inclusion and Accessibility Working Group

J. Ansara provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft notes for the New Minas Inclusion and Accessibility Working Group be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/Q. Hill

S/ D. Windle-Smith

Motion Carried

b. New Minas Water Commission

J. Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Water Commission be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/J. Redmond

S/ D. Windle-Smith

Motion Carried

c. Regional Sewer Committee

J. Redmond provided a verbal summary of the draft minutes included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

Motion:

THAT the draft minutes for the Regional Sewer Committee be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

10. Staff Reports:

a. CAO/ Clerk Treasurer

CAO/ Clerk Treasurer Lawrence provided a brief synopsis of the CAO/ Clerk Treasurer Report.

Motion:

THAT the CAO/ Clerk Treasurer report be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/D. Windle-Smith

S/ J. Redmond

Motion Carried

b. Public Works

The Director of Public Works provided a brief synopsis of the public works report. Additional points discussed included:

- That the water and sewer studies were received highlighting areas where significant upgrades will be required and that we are still waiting for information regarding options and associated budgets.

Motion:

THAT the Director of Public Works report be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/D. Windle-Smith

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

c. Finance

Motion:

THAT the Manager of Finance report be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/ J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

d. Recreation and Community Development

The Director of Recreation provided a brief synopsis of the recreation report as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

Following the presentation, J. Ansara responded to questions indicating:

- No designated time period exists for day camp preferential booking for New Minas residents, but that this has not been an issue in the past.
- Day camp subsidies are only available to New Minas residents.
- The disk golf tournament was well attended.

Motion:

THAT the Director of Recreation report be received as included in the May 11, 2026, Commission agenda package.

M/ Q. Hill

S/ D. Windle-Smith

Motion Carried

11. New Business:

- a. Briefing - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Divestiture of Ravine Easement – Initial Notifications & Process Overview.

J. Lawrence spoke to the recent announcement of the intention of the AAFC to divest itself of the Ravine and provided a summary of the communications to date and possible next steps.

After a discussion, the consensus of the Commission was the Village should work with the Town of Kentville and source out if there is a business case for the Village to acquire the divested lands that lay within the boundary of New Minas.

- b. Discussion – RCMP Public Meeting

J. Lawrence stated that he had received several emails from Commissioners indicating that the Village should facilitate a public meeting whereby the RCMP could present to the Community.

After a discussion, the consensus was to see what RCMP Inspector William Collier thought regarding the idea when he presented to the Commission in June.

12. Correspondence:**13. General Public Input:**

- **Councillor Christina Sappington** – C. Sappington spoke to:
 - The Village/ Municipality meeting that recently took place with the next meeting being in September.
 - The regional sewer and the engineering report looking at long term options which is to be received this summer.
- **M. Stevens** - M. Stevens spoke to:
 - The Flower Cart presentation and asked a question as to whether Acadian period flowers would be planted.
 - A thank you to the recreation department for allowing him the opportunity to play Santa Claus for the last 25 years (M. Stevens indicated that he would be retiring from the role.)

14. Closed Session:

Dave Chaulk indicated that there was a need for an in-camera session to deal with personnel matters.

At 8:00pm, the Commission adjourned to move into a closed session.

Motion:

THAT the Commission adjourn to move into closed session.

M/Q. Hill

S/ D. Windle-Smith

Motion Carried

Motion:

THAT the Commission adjourn from the closed session.

M/ J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried

At 8:23pm the Commission reconvened the open session of the meeting.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, James Redmond called for a motion to adjourn at 8:24pm.

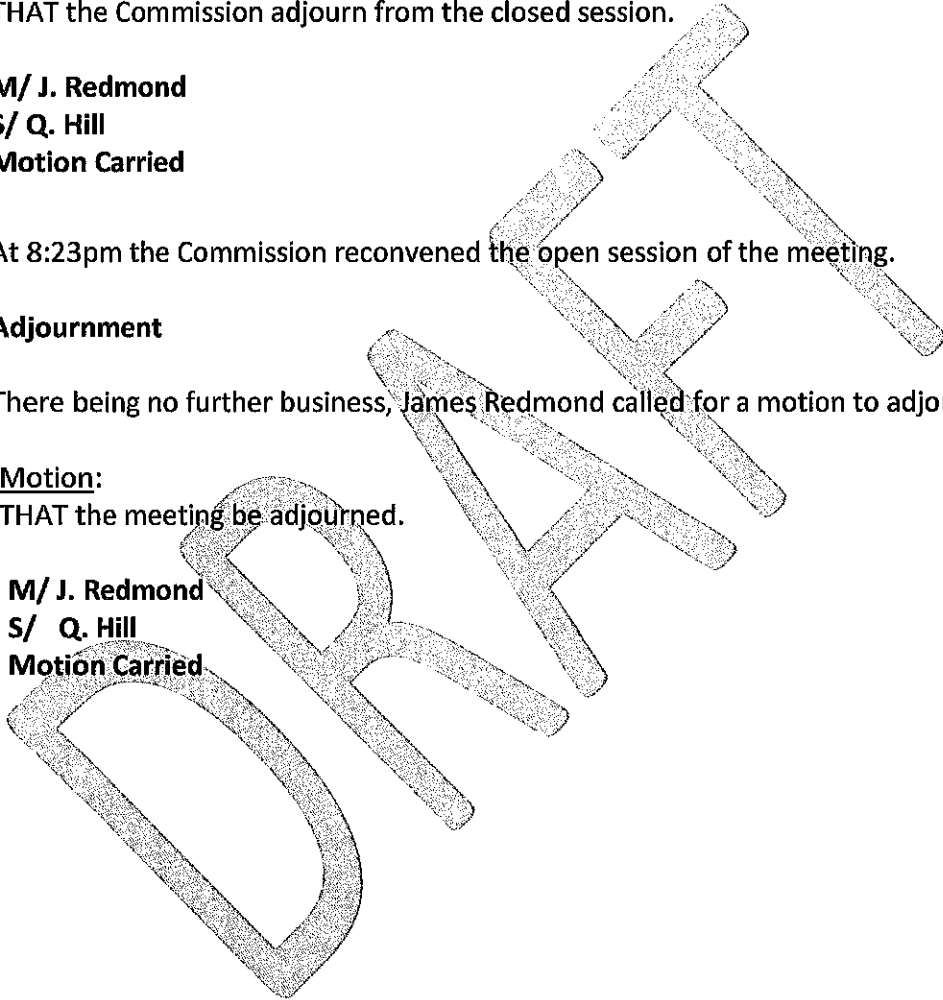
Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

M/ J. Redmond

S/ Q. Hill

Motion Carried





Village of New Minas
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5. Presentations



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

Municipality of the County of Kings Report to the New Minas Village Commission

Application to rezone a portion of the property located at 130 Cornwallis Ave (PID 55206247), New Minas, from the Residential Multi-unit (R4) Zone to the institutional (I1) Zone.

File: 26-11

DATE: June 8, 2026

Prepared by: Planning Services

Applicant	Jane McDonald
Landowner	Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge
Location	130 Cornwallis Ave (PID 55206247), New Minas
Lot Area	~ 179,902 Sq.ft (4.13 Acre(s)), Rezoning area: ~ 41, 382 square feet (0.95 acres)
Designation	Residential Designation
Current Zone	Residential Mixed Density (R3) Zone and Residential Multi-unit (R4) Zone
Surrounding Uses	Residential, Commercial and Institutional uses
Proposal	To rezone the portion of the property zoned Residential Multi-unit (R4) to the Institutional (I1) Zone to permit an internally lit sign
Reason for rezoning	The subject property has split zoning. The majority of the property is zoned Residential Mixed Density (R3), while a small portion on the south side is zoned Residential Multi-unit (R4). The property is developed with a place of worship (church). The applicant has indicated that the existing church signage is inadequate and not visible from the corner of Cornwallis Avenue and Lockhart Drive. The applicant is proposing to erect a new internally lit sign on the R4 portion of the property. While the R4 Zone permits signs, it does not permit internally lit signs. The proposal is to rezone the R4 portion to the Institutional (I1) Zone, which would permit the proposed internally lit sign.
Enabling Policy	Policy 5.3.3 of the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) enables Council to consider rezoning land from one zone enabled in a designation to another enabled within the same designation. The property is located within the Residential Designation, and both the Residential Multi-unit (R4) Zone and the Institutional (I1) Zone are enabled within the Residential Designation; as a result, Council is able to consider this rezoning.

Appendix
Maps

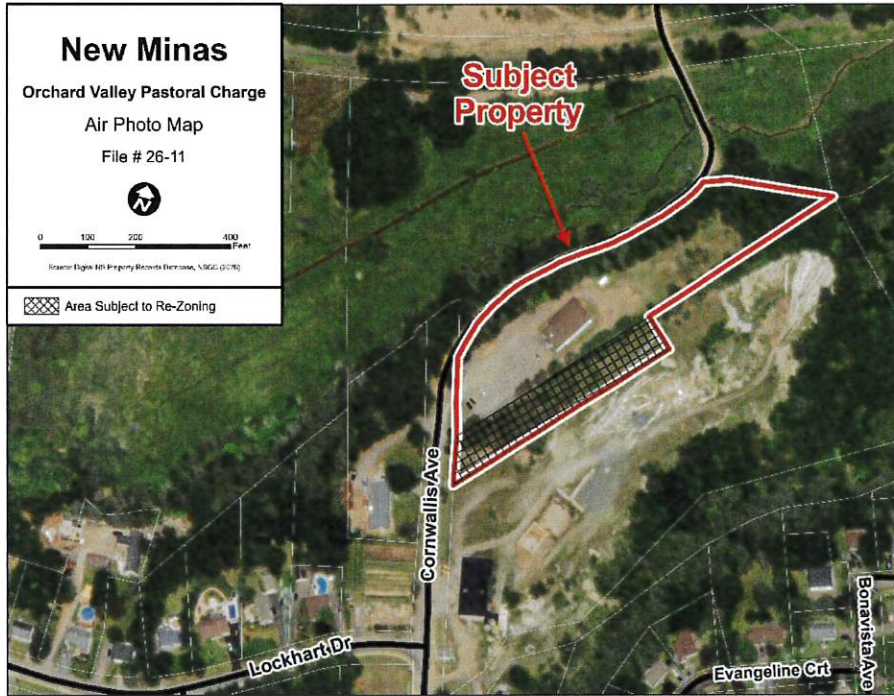


Figure 1: Aerial Map

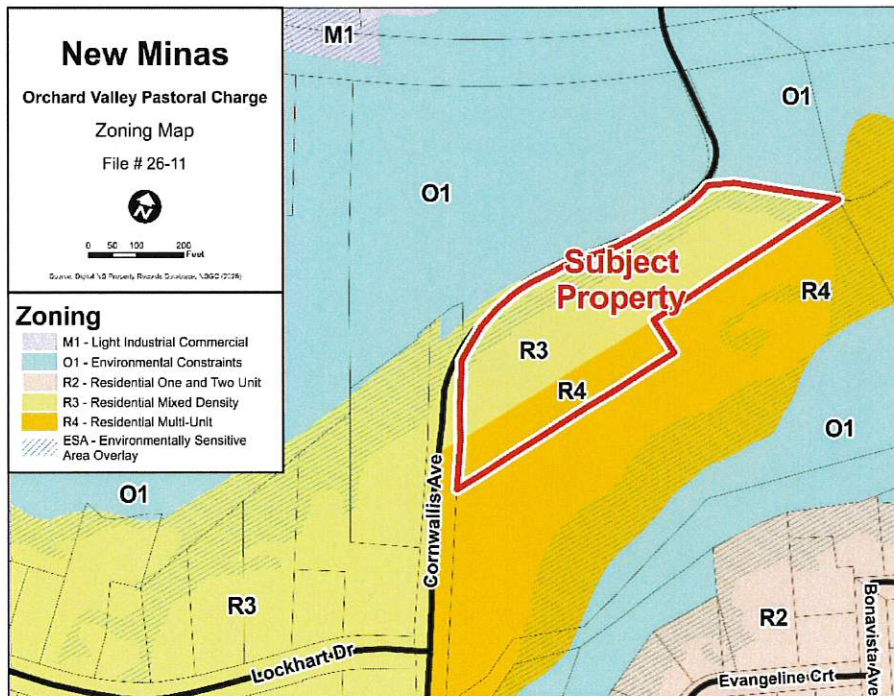
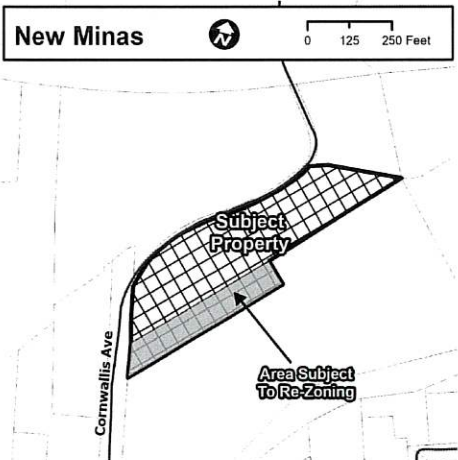



Figure 2: Zoning Map

Land Use By-law Map Amendment/Rezoning

130 Cornwallis Ave (PID 55206247), New Minas

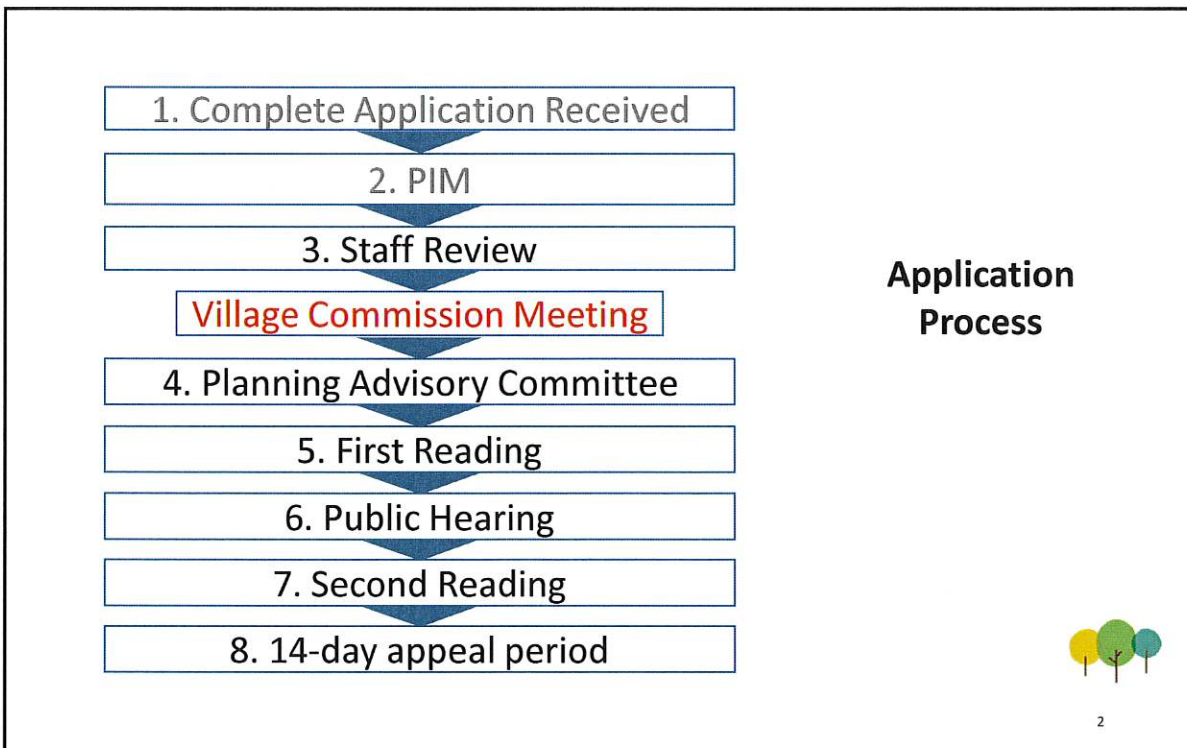


Meeting: New Minas Village Commission
Date: June 8, 2026
Presenter: Alice Jacob, Planner

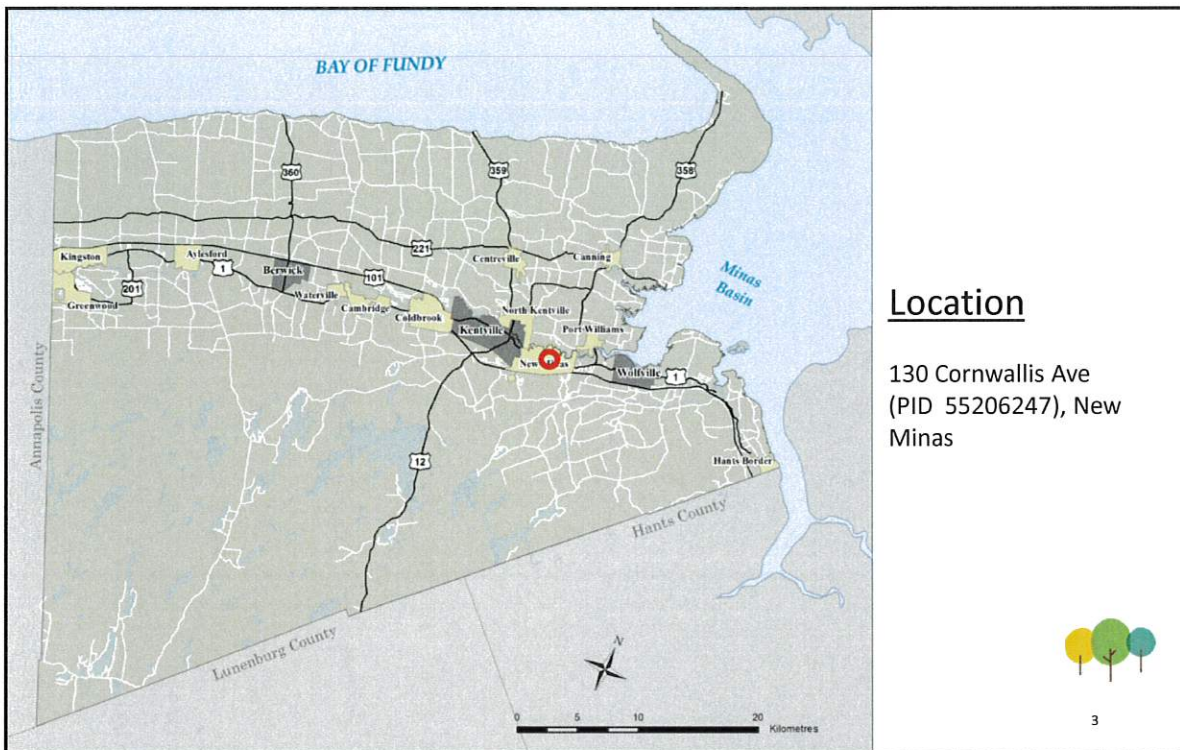


MUNICIPALITY of the COUNTY of KINGS

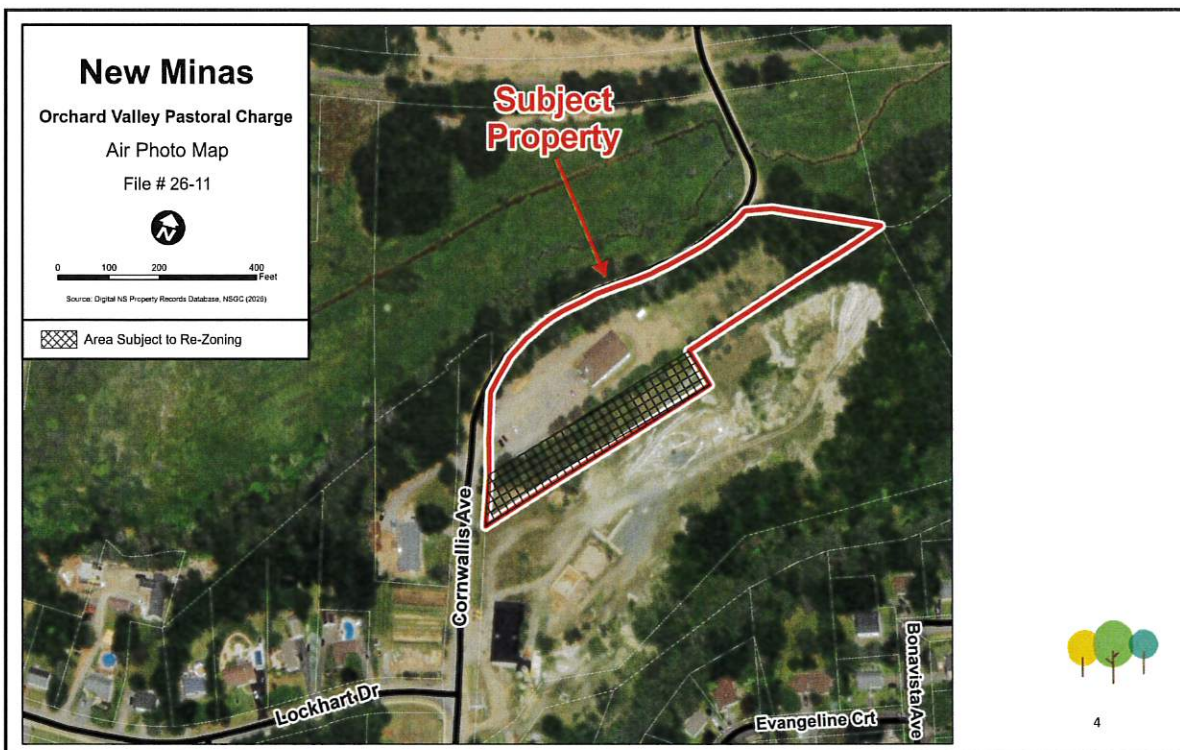
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Proposal

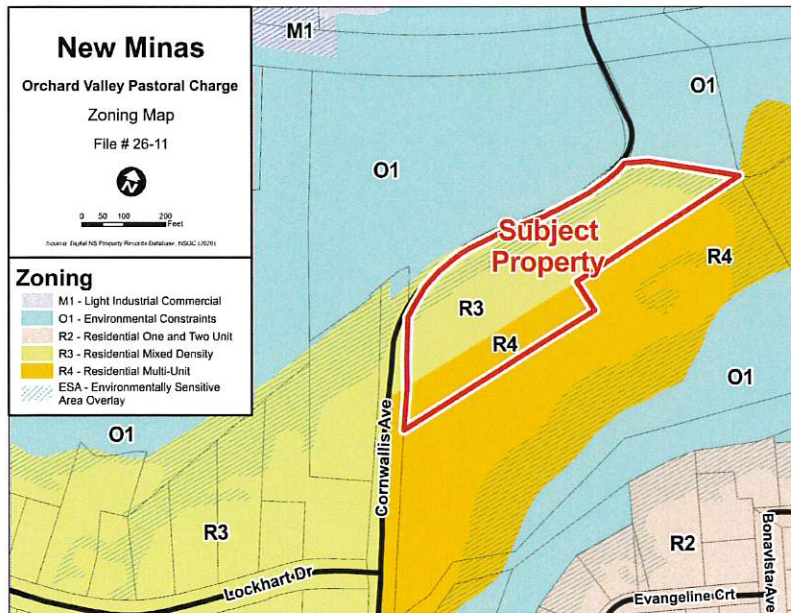
- Applicant intends to replace the existing sign with an internally lit sign
- Property is split zoned: Residential Mixed Density (R3) and Residential Multi-unit (R4)
- Proposed sign to be located on the R4 portion of the property
- R4 Zone permits signs but does not permit internally lit signs
- Request to rezone R4 portion to Institutional (I1) Zone
- I1 Zone permits internally lit signs



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Zoning



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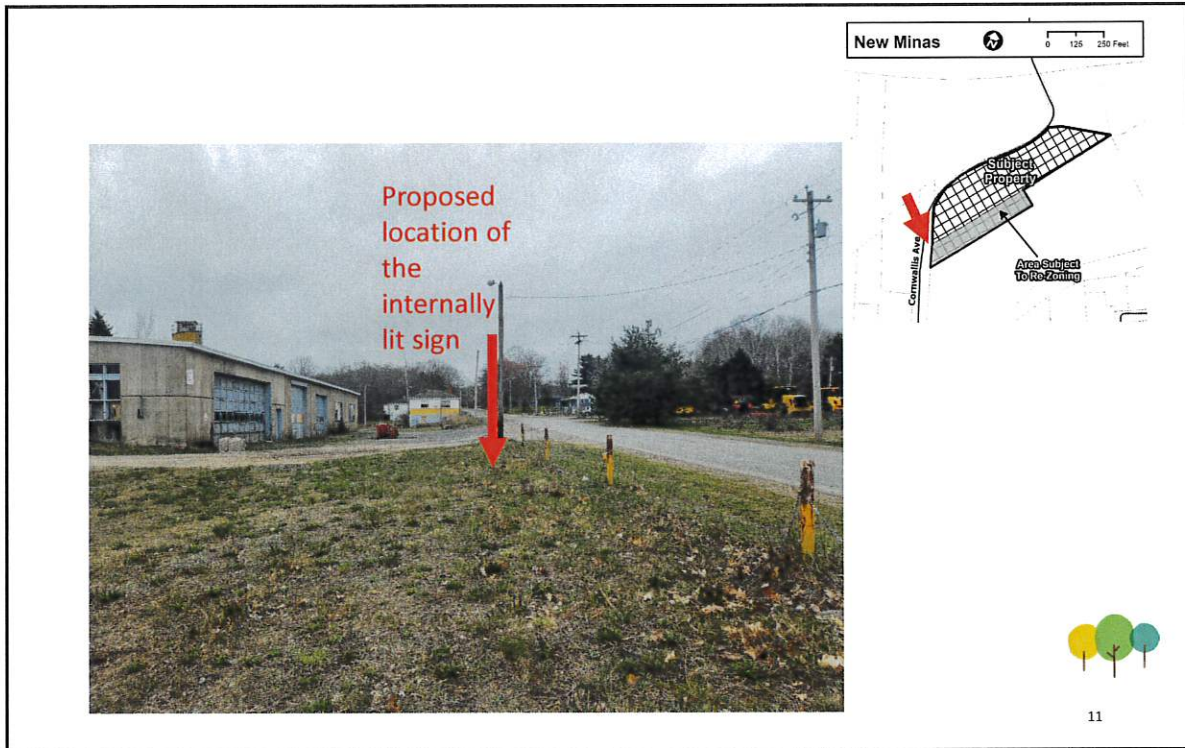
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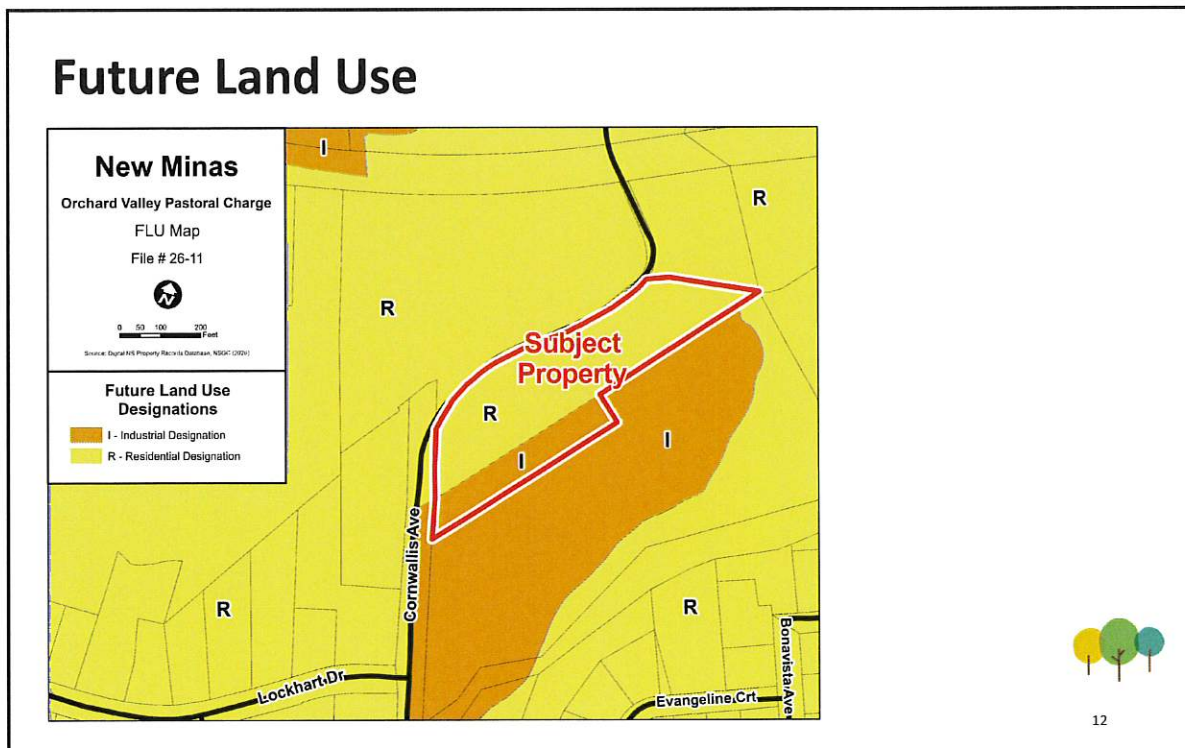
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Enabling Policy

- **Policy 5.3.3** - enables Council to consider rezoning land from one zone enabled in a designation to another enabled within the same designation.
- The Residential Multi-unit (R4) Zone and the Institutional (I1) Zone are both enabled within the Residential Designation
- Council is able to consider the rezoning



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Questions and Comments



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6. Business Arising from the Minutes



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
May 8, 2026@ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
AGENDA

9. Committee Reports



Village of New Minas
Beautification Committee
May 20, 2026 @ 10:30 AM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present:

- Debra Windle-Smith, Commission Member & Chair
- Mary Munroe, Commission Member
- Linda Martin, Citizen Member
- Michelle Coleman, Business Representative
- Cory Palmer, Director of Public Works
- Erica Dominey, Recreation Coordinator

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

- Jeff Lawrence, Clerk Treasurer/ CAO

Others Present:

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:38am.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

THAT the Agenda for the May 20, 2026, Beautification Committee Meeting be approved with the addition of a community concern (Prospect Road litter) under new business.

M/ C. Palmer

S/ M. Coleman

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. April 1, 2026, Beautification Committee Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the April 1, 2026, Beautification Committee Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/ M. Munroe

S/ C. Palmer

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

a. April 1, 2026

i. Bench Dedication Policy

D. Windle-Smith provided a history as to how the policy has evolved. There was consensus for the Chair to bring the policy forward to the Commission.

ii. Prospect Park Update – Anchor Rock

C. Palmer questioned if there were still funds available to complete the work in the new fiscal year.

J. Lawrence indicated that the commitment had been made and that there would be money in the budget to complete the work.

5. Comments from the Chair

D. Windle-Smith commented on the success of the butterfly garden project and the partnership with the Blomidon Society.

6. New Business

a. Budget

J. Lawrence asked about Committee priorities for budget.

Consensus was for the following projects to be brought forward:

- i. Founding Fathers Park Conceptual Plan \$8,000
- ii. Prospect Park Anchor Rock \$5,500

b. Prospect Road Garbage Concern

L. Martin brought forward a community concern about garbage accumulation near the guardrail on the lower portion of the road.

C. Palmer will investigate:

- i. If the garbage was within the street and sidewalk right-of-way
- ii. If a garbage receptacle could be installed in the area.

J. Lawrence recommended that residents be encouraged to contact MoK enforcement if they notice a large amount of garbage accumulating on a private property.

6. Next Meeting Date:

July 15, 2026.

7. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn at 11:40am.

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

M/ C. Palmer



Draft Village of New Minas
New Minas Water Commission
May 26, 2026 @ 3:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

- Jeff Lawrence, Clerk Treasurer/CAO
- Cory Palmer, Director of Public Works

Others Present:

- None

1. Call to Order:

The Vice 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 26, 2026, Water Commission Meeting be approved with the addition of meeting time added to the New Business section of the agenda.

M/ M. Stevens

S/ D. Chaulk

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. April 28, 2026, Water Commission Meeting

Motion:

THAT the Minutes for the April 28, 2026, Water Commission Meeting be approved as circulated.

M/ D. Chaulk

S/ B. MacArthur

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

- a. April 28, 2026, Water Commission Meeting
 - i. Source Water Protection Committee Meeting Date – May 28 at 2pm

5. Comments from the Chair:

The Chair indicated that he had no additional comments.

6. Staff Reports:

- a. Water Operations Report
 - C. Palmer presented an overview of the key points from the Water Operator’s Report.

Motion:

THAT the Water Operations Report be received as circulated prior to the May 26, 2026, Water Commission meeting and as verbally summarized by the Director of Public Works.

M/ B. MacArthur
S/ M. Stevens
Motion Carried

7. New Business

- a. Meeting Time

After a discussion regarding future meeting times for water commission meetings, there was consensus on the following:

- I. The meeting time should be moved from 3pm to 1pm.

Motion:

That should the committee terms of reference (ToR) allow for a change in meeting time, the Village of New Minas regular meetings will be scheduled going forward for the 4th Tuesday of every month except August at 1pm.

M/ D. Chaulk
S/ B. MacArthur
Motion Carried
(M. Stevens voted no)

- II. The Chair will determine, based on the agenda, whether there is sufficient material to warrant holding the monthly meeting. If not, the Chair will have the authority to cancel the meeting.

(Note: If a meeting is cancelled, the monthly Director’s Report will still be circulated to all committee members by email.)

8. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence

9. Other Business

10. Public Input:

There was no public input.

11. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn at 3:25pm.

Motion:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

M/ D. Chaulk

S/ B. MacArthur

Motion Carried



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
May 8, 2026@ 7:00 PM
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New Minas, Nova Scotia
AGENDA

10. Staff Reports

Information Report

To: Village Commission

By: Jeff Lawrence, Clerk Treasurer/CAO

Meeting Date: June 8, 2026

Subject: Monthly Report — Clerk Treasurer/CAO



Monthly Report — Clerk Treasurer/CAO

Highlights of the Past Month:

- The budget will be ready to go to the Commission the week of June 8th.
- Worked with the Manager of Finance and the auditor to see the audit through to completion.
- Working through the Village Commission election process for the first time.
- Prepared recommendations for the Commission regarding admin and recreation organization structure

Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

In the past month, I attended the following regularly scheduled meetings:

- Individual meetings with Department Heads
- Beautification
- Water Commission

Other Notable Meetings:

- Met on multiple occasions with department heads and staff in preparation for the budget
- Held discussions with solicitors and met with staff regarding ongoing HR issues
- Met with CAOs/ Clerk Treasurers of Port Williams and Kingston and Kings County senior staff regarding village water utility taxation.
- Meeting with recreation team regarding department priorities and reporting

Professional Development:

- N/A

Outlook for Next Month:

The planned focus for the next month will be as follows:

- Finalizing and seeking approval for the budget
- Ensuring that the staff have the resources to implement the budget
- Continue work on the election
- Ensuring year end reporting requirements are completed and, where required submitted
- Preparing for the AGM scheduled for June 23rd
- Building continuity plans for recreation
- Attending Commission and Committee meetings
- Attending Department Head meetings (collective and individual)

Sincerely,



Jeff Lawrence

Clerk Treasurer/Chief Administrative Officer

902-681-0430 | cao@newminas.com

Village of New Minas

9489 Commercial Street

New Minas, NS B4N 3G3

newminas.com

Recreation Coordinator Report – May 2026

May was a busy month for the Recreation Department as we continued planning for summer programming while supporting several important community initiatives.

Community Programming & Partnerships

- Recent provincial budget cuts have resulted in several community partners losing funding for programs that help fill gaps in recreation and wellness services.
- The Centre of Lifestyle Studies at Acadia University has also experienced funding reductions, and the *Active for Life* program is expected to end in April 2027.
- Meetings have been scheduled with neighbouring municipalities and community partners to discuss ways to support these programs and prevent further service gaps.
- Discussions are ongoing with the Kings County Family Resource Centre regarding opportunities for collaboration and support.

Summer Day Camp Preparation

- Senior staff attended leadership training through Valley Recreation and will participate in additional inclusion-focused training in early June.
- A review of our operations identified gaps in documented emergency procedures. While staff have always responded appropriately to situations as they arise, formalized procedures for incidents such as lockdowns, missing campers, and other emergencies are not currently in place.
- The RCMP will be assisting staff in developing emergency response protocols and training to ensure programs are safe, consistent, and well-prepared for a variety of situations.

Apple Blossom Festival

- Commissioner Debra Windle-Smith represented the Village at Opening Ceremonies.
- The Village hosted two successful Apple Blossom Festival events at the Louis Millett Community Complex:
 - Food Truck Party
 - Battle of the Bands, which showcased talented local high school musicians and drew an impressive crowd.
- The Village also entered a float in the Grand Street Parade featuring New Minas native and 2026 Parade Marshal Mae Batherson, accompanied by members of the Valley Wild Female Hockey Association. The float was awarded 3rd place in the theme category.

Programs & Staffing

- Both after school programs are full for next year. Staff retention remains strong, with many returning staff members committed for next year, providing continuity for participants and families.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erica Gillis
Recreation Coordinator

Active Living Project Briefing- May 2026

Submitted an Active Communities Fund grant application requesting \$14,990 to support several active living initiatives, including:

- **Development of a complete community bike fleet and safety equipment inventory**
- **Installation of outdoor community message boards**
- **Purchase of PlayBox recreation equipment**
- **Creation of cycling route and infrastructure mapping resources**

Cycling Programs and Events

Held the first of two planned Bike Tune-Up and Cycling Skills Pop-Up events. Key outcomes included:

- **20 bicycles serviced**
- **Traffic garden activities for children to practice cycling skills**
- **RCMP participation providing helmet fitting and cycling safety education**

To support future programming, completed:

- **Hop-On cycling program training modules**
- **Bicycle maintenance training**

These certifications will support bike-related programming within the Afterschool Program and summer day camps.

Community Inclusion and Accessibility

- **Successfully completed the final Memory Café session for the 2025–26 fall/winter season. Programming will resume in Fall 2026.**
- **Chaired the Access and Inclusion Working Group meeting on May 21. Discussions focused on developing a five-year project prioritization framework to guide future accessibility and inclusion initiatives.**
- **Working with Municipality of the District of Kings IT staff member Chad West to explore opportunities to improve accessibility within the Commission Room and for virtual meeting participation.**
- **Currently coordinating a SHIFT Partnership Gala scheduled for June 12 to celebrate the launch of the organization's new logo and brand identity.**

Staff Development and Training

- **Day camp staff training sessions are underway. Ongoing work with Erica includes reviewing and strengthening internal training processes, with particular attention to safety protocols and staff preparedness.**

Professional Development and Networking

- **Attended the Valley South Shore Conference held May 6–7 in Yarmouth, providing opportunities for regional networking, partnership development, and knowledge sharing related to community development and recreation initiatives.**

**Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Palmer
Active Living Coordinator/**

Monthly Report — Manager of Finance

Summary:

The Finance Department is still busy however, as Morse Brewster Lake was in and are working on the 2025/26 Audit it did reduce some of the Finance Departments workload. The PST claims are almost ready to be uploaded to Service Nova Scotia sometime this week for rebates and then both the HST Offset report, and the Federal and Provincial GIL paperwork will be submitted for their rebates.

Once the tax rates are set for taxes the 2026/27 the tax notices will be sent out.

Current Tasks/Projects:

- All the 2025/26 bank reconciliations are complete; along with Aprils.
- Fourth Quarterly Due to/from and HST, is complete, refund is in the bank.

Budget Update:

Property Taxes	Unapproved Budgeted	Collected Year to Date May 31
• Residential	\$1,444,101	\$24,845.04
• Commercial	\$938,067	\$1,111.40
• Resource	\$8,570	\$1.21

Sewer	Unapproved Budgeted	Collected Year to Date May 31
• Usage Charges	\$776,000	\$207,123.05

Water	Unapproved Budgeted	Collected Year to Date May 31
• Metered Sales	\$857,000	\$202,632.80
• Sprinkler Service	\$4,999	\$1,132.93

Professional Development Summary:

Outlook for Next Month:

- Bank reconciliations
- Accounts payable
- Invoicing and receivables
- Payroll (bi-weekly)
- CRA remittance, Union fees and Pension
- RBC Pension
- PAD, tax and water

Information Report

To: Village Commission

By: Cory Palmer

Meeting Date: June 8, 2026

Subject: Monthly Report — Director of Public Works



Monthly Report — Director of Public Works

Staff Update:

- Both the water position and laborer position have been posted, and applications are being reviewed as they come in. Interviews will be scheduled the week of June 8. We have some good candidates for both positions.

Current Projects/Work:

- Park maintenance:
 - All the parks have been weeding and bark mulch put down. We have the roundabout to finish up.
 - Mowing and trimming are being completed each week.
 - At Golfview and Meadow Terrace, the playground berms were flattened out and hydroseeding with a covering of hay. The playgrounds will be more accessible for walkers and strollers.
- Lockhart Ryan Park:
 - Activities are in full swing. All the fields are being used except for soccer fields 1 and 2 which still has fresh sod. The sod is growing well, and the fields will be back in use June 8 week. All major field maintenance will be scheduled in the fall going forward unless something happens over the winter.
 - Drainage work on the small baseball diamond was completed. Some of the pipes were filled with mud and could not drain. The pipes were taken out and cleaned, then wrapped with filter fabric and covered with drainage stone.
 - The back stop on the small field was repaired to improve player safety.
- Crosswalk
 - The crosswalks across company entrances have been completed. We reached out to MOK and the Department of Public Works of Nova Scotia to ensure all the lines painting in New Minas are assigned to an entity. We are waiting to hear back from the province.
- Water
 - Hydrant flushing started on June 2 and should be completed by June 12.

Long-Term Projects:

- Water and sewer upgrades are required to meet the needs of some of the new developments.

Information Report

To: Village Commission

By: Cory Palmer

Meeting Date: June 8, 2026

Subject: Monthly Report — Director of Public Works



Professional Development:

- Greg and Steve completed fall protection training on June 4. All employees now have completed fall protection training.
- Greg, Tim and Jason will be attending MPWANS equipment training at Old Orchard on June 18.
- Some employees require the following courses to stay up to date on their training:
 - First Aid – 2
 - Confined Space Generic – 1
 - Lift Training – 3
 - Traffic Signer – 1
 - Traffic Control – 3
 - Trenching and Excavation – 1
 - Transportation of Dangerous Goods – 3 (online course)

Outlook for Upcoming Months:

- Get water and laborer position filled.
- Hydrant Flushing.
- Training for new and existing employees.
- Field and park trimming and mowing. Preparing for the opening soccer tournament on June 12 – 14.
- Flowers will be planted June 8 and 15 weeks.
- Schedule repairs on parks and sidewalks.



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
May 8, 2026@ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
AGENDA

11. New Business



Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
May 8, 2026@ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
AGENDA

12. Correspondence



NOVA SCOTIA

Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • novascotia.ca

May 12, 2026

Brian Banks
President, Association of Nova Scotia Villages
Via Email: president@ansv.ca

Dear Brian Banks:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your request to amend the *Assessment Act* to ensure that all regulated water utilities, including those owned by villages, are exempt from commercial taxation. I understand your concerns about the financial pressures for villages relating to taxation of water utilities.

Department staff have conducted a preliminary analysis, and it is our understanding that Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) recently corrected several individual village water utility accounts during a review to align with the classification outlined in the *Assessment Act*. These changes were applied on an individual basis and did not represent a broader reclassification of property types.

As you know, PVSC independently administers property assessments under the *Assessment Act*, including classification and reclassification of properties for assessment. Information on PVSC's assessment and appeal process is available at [Nova Scotia's Property Assessment and Tax System | Property Valuation Services Corporation](#).

I understand that PVSC has been in communication with the villages that have filed appeals to provide more information on the changes that were made as part of the review. I trust all parties can work collaboratively to develop a solution that is fair, equitable and sustainable for the communities involved.

Thank you for sharing your perspective on this matter. We remain committed to ongoing policy improvement to support affordability for Nova Scotians, and your input will be considered should a future review of the *Assessment Act* be undertaken

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. MacDonald".

Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Mitchell Bell, CAO, Village of Bible Hill

PNS-66818/lv/fk



Association of Nova Scotia Villages

c/o 67 Pictou Road
Bible Hill Nova Scotia B2N 2R9
Tel: 902.893.8083 | Email: president@ansv.ca

March 27, 2026

via email

Hon. John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Department of Municipal Affairs

RE: Legislative Amendments Needed to Ensure Fair Assessment Treatment of Regulated Water Utilities

Minister MacDonald:

I am writing to you on behalf of Villages that operate water utilities to request that the Province of Nova Scotia amend the Assessment Act to ensure that all regulated water utilities – regardless of whether they are operated by Towns, Villages, or Municipalities – are treated consistently and exempt from commercial taxation.

This request has become critical following PVSC's administrative reclassification of Village-operated water utility properties from commercial-exempt to commercial-taxable status. This change will impose tens of thousands of dollars in new taxation on Village utilities, despite no change in the nature, purpose, or operation of these public, non-profit services. Town-owned utilities may remain exempt, creating an inequitable two-tiered system with no basis in legislation or regulatory practice.

Villages are uniquely vulnerable to this shift. Unlike municipalities, villages do not have access to revenue tools such as the deed transfer tax and must rely almost entirely on utility rates and limited reserves to fund water infrastructure.

Adding to the financial challenges, the Province's 2026–27 Budget has also eliminated several longstanding municipal infrastructure programs – including PCAP, FRIIP, MIP, and GRID – further reducing the tools available to rural communities to manage capital pressures. These combined factors make the new assessment burden even more impactful and directly counter to the Province's stated commitment to affordability.

Provincial Direction on Utility Affordability

The Province has repeatedly and explicitly emphasized that rising utility rates are unacceptable and that regulated utilities must avoid relying on rate increases to manage cost pressures. This direction has been reinforced through multiple interventions before the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) and the Nova Scotia Energy Board.

Interventions in Water Utility Rate Applications

The Province has taken an active role in multiple water-utility rate cases – including the 2025 Halifax Water and 2025 Village of St. Peters applications, along with several other rural utilities – pressing the Board to curb rate increases and enforce stronger cost-control measures.

Interventions in Nova Scotia Power Rate Applications

The Province has taken an equally strong stance on electricity rates. In 2025, Premier Tim Houston publicly condemned Nova Scotia Power’s proposed rate increases and committed the Province to intervening in the regulatory review, stating that the increases would create hardship for Nova Scotians. As reported by CBC, the Premier “is taking his public condemnation of Nova Scotia Power’s proposed rate increases one step further, saying his government will intervene in the regulatory review of the utility’s proposal.”

Taken together, these interventions reflect a consistent provincial stance: rates must remain **affordable**, and utilities must avoid **avoidable or excessive cost pressures**.

Conflict Between Provincial Policy and PVSC’s Reclassification

Classifying regulated water utilities as commercial-taxable directly contradicts the Province’s own affordability mandate. Village utilities cannot absorb this new tax burden, and the resulting costs will inevitably be passed on to residents through higher water rates – precisely the outcome the Province has repeatedly intervened to prevent in other regulated utility contexts.

While municipalities may choose to exempt Village utilities from taxation, this is an inconsistent, discretionary, and temporary approach that varies across the province. Only the Province can ensure a fair, uniform, and durable solution.

Requested Legislative Amendments

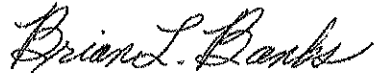
To align assessment policy with the Province’s affordability objectives and to eliminate the inequities created by PVSC’s administrative reclassification, we respectfully request that the Department of Municipal Affairs initiate amendments to the Assessment Act to:

- Classify all regulated water utility properties as exempt from commercial taxation, regardless of ownership structure;
- Align assessment policy with the Province’s stated affordability mandate and its demonstrated interventions in utility rate applications; and
- Restore the longstanding status quo and eliminate the inequities created by PVSC’s administrative reclassification.

This change would not disrupt existing municipal revenue streams. The revenue at issue has never previously been collected and declining it would simply maintain the historic and equitable treatment of regulated water utilities.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your officials to discuss this matter further and to work collaboratively toward a long-term solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian L. Banks".

Brian L. Banks

President

c: ANSV Directors
Village Clerk and Treasurers



Emergency Management Office of the Minister

Suite 601-1871 Upper Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 1S8 • Telephone 902-424-5620 • Minister.EmergencyManagement@novascotia.ca

May 8, 2026

David Mitchell
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
Via email: david.mitchell@bridgewater.ca

Dear David Mitchell and NSFM Members:

Recently, my team had the pleasure of connecting with many of you at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Spring Conference in Yarmouth (April 29- May 1). We deeply value the diverse perspectives of our municipal partners and have been listening intently to your feedback and questions. This ongoing dialogue will continue to help shape how we will strengthen fire services, together.

On May 2, 2026, my colleague, Minister John A. MacDonald, sent a letter to Mayor David Mitchell, President of the NSFM. This letter provides notice of any provincial legislation, regulation, or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities. This letter provides advance notice of these changes for the **fiscal year 2027-2028** and beyond.

With the introduction of the *Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services*, the Department is providing one-year notice that all municipalities – whether they oversee fire services or not – will be required to:

- conduct a fire protection service review to ensure municipalities and fire service providers make evidence-based decisions about the services they provide to their community,
- ensure that local firefighter competencies, training, and personal protective equipment meet the service standard required by the fire protection service review, and
- participate in a common records management system.

These requirements **will not take effect this fiscal year** (2026-2027). Over the next three years, my team will be working closely with our municipal and fire service partners to support the design and completion of fire service reviews beginning in 2027-2028 and to develop regulations and standards.

To establish the groundwork for fire service reviews our first steps – to be completed this year - will be to design and roll-out an online risk-based assessment tool to gather information and facilitate decision-making about fire protection service levels that are aligned with recommended training and assets requirements.



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This tool will be provided free of charge to all municipalities and fire service providers in Nova Scotia. Training and support to use the tool will be provided by DEM.

To clarify, the tool and the fire protection service review are not separate requirements. At this time, the Province does not anticipate any significant expense to be accrued by municipalities as result of using the tool to inform fire service reviews which will be required in the next fiscal year.

In addition to standing up the new Office of the Fire Commissioner, this year's focus builds on the Province's ongoing commitment to strengthen the fire service sector through:

- access to specialized firefighter training and the certification process,
- education/training for municipal elected officials,
- procurement support,
- mutual aid and service agreement templates,
- design and roll-out of the online risk-based assessment tool, and
- the new Fire Records Management System.

Meaningful change requires planning and collaboration. That is why your continued input is essential. We look forward to continuing to work with you to create a better model for fire services in Nova Scotia. Please reach out to firemodernization@novascotia.ca if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Honourable Kim Masland

Minister of the Department of Emergency Management

- c. Honourable Minister John. A MacDonald, Department of Municipal Affairs
Executive Deputy Minister, Paul LaFleche, Department of Municipal Affairs
Associate Deputy Minister, Valerie Pottie Bunge, Department of Municipal Affairs
Juanita Spencer, CEO, NSFM
Victoria Brooks, Chair, Association of Municipal Administrators (AMANS)
Jeff Sunderland, Executive Director, AMANS

Dear Village Commission,

I am hoping to add my request to the agenda as correspondence for an upcoming meeting or go through due process. Please accept this email as our official sponsorship advertising request. We hope to have the Village of New Minas join us for our East Coast Edition in support of MADD Canada. Thank you for your time and consideration. Together, we can make a lasting impact and help prevent impaired driving. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

The MADD Message Yearbook is an annual publication dedicated to raising awareness and funds for MADD Canada's vital programs. These programs include life-saving educational seminars in schools, designed to reach young and new drivers with critical information about the dangers of impaired driving. MADD Canada's School Presentation is a powerful dramatization about the tragic consequences of impaired driving. The video ends with testimonials from real-life victims who share their heartbreaking stories with the audience. MADD Canada's School Presentation targets students in grades 7 through 12. (https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__maddyouth.ca_school-2Dprogram&d=DwIDaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_Cdp gnVfiiMM&r=r6CXXKQn88wUW1EKzF6RP8T3-QzuAPkXE7cLYucs jHTQ&m=NOt4VbMq3qBq3PzDRmoFplGTjf-WmWQYE92SFc1F-RW63l30DhEbYlay7vwKy4W9&s=yclySFUj2oK9kiins0fOaYH4ND3SFam4ULVSN37AAQ&e=)

By placing a sponsorship ad, your company will:

- *Demonstrate Leadership: Showcase your commitment to public safety and community well-being.
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To learn more, view a recent edition, or explore our sponsorship ****RATES****, visit https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.maddmessage.ca&d=DwIDaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_Cdp gnVfiiMM&r=r6CXXKQn88wUW1EKzF6RP8T3-QzuAPkXE7cLYucs jHTQ&m=NOt4VbMq3qBq3PzDRmoFplGTjf-WmWQYE92SFc1F-RW63l30DhEbYlay7vwKy4W9&s=VoySgAVabkAvkBMg3s_mg1EDQE-u3SgOE6WKVi3m3CQ&e=. Your support is critical in making this publication a success, and we truly couldn't do it without the generosity of community leaders like you.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss sponsorship further. You can contact me via email or at 1-866-767-1736.

Sponsorship Advertising Rate/Size Chart.

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Yours truly,

Stacey Biekx

T: (866) 767-1736

E: message@maddmessage.ca

W: [https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_www.maddmessage.ca&d=DwIDaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_Cdp gnVfiiMM&r=r6CXKQn88wUW1EKzF6RP8T3-QzuAPkXE7cLYucs jHTQ&m=NOt4VbMq3qBq3PzDRmoFplGTjf-WmWQYE92SFc1F-RW63l30DhEbYlay7vwKy4W9&s=VoySgAVabkAvkBMg3s_mg1EDQE-u3SgOE6WKVi3m3CQ&e=)

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