



Village of New Minas
Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting
Tuesday October 13, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
Spencer Room, Louis Millett Community Centre
New Minas, Nova Scotia

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

- John Ansara, Director of Recreation & Community Development
- Ian Morrison, Clerk Treasurer/CAO

Others Present:

- Maynard Stevens

Call to Order:

Chair Dave Chaulk called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm, welcoming those in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda:

THAT the Agenda for the October 13, 2020 regular Commission meeting be approved, with the addition of "Thunder in the Valley" 4x4 Rally.

M/James Redmond

S/Cheryl Manzer

CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes from Prior Meetings:

THAT the Minutes for the September 14, 2020 regular Commission meeting be approved as presented.

M/James Redmond

S/Cheryl Manzer

CARRIED

Business Arising from Minutes:

None

Presentations:

None.

Committee Reports:

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

THAT the report for Beautification Group be accepted as presented.

M/Mary Munroe

S/James Redmond

CARRIED

Ms. Manzer advised the Commission that she would be in contact with representatives of the New Minas Business Association to solicit input into the timing of placement and removal of the Christmas banners.

Mr. Chaulk enquired about the \$32,000 capital allotment for Beautification Projects. Specifically, whether the projects approved by Beautification Group under that allotment should be ratified by the Village Commission. A budget which outlines the planned expenditures of the Beautification Group will be presented with the report at the next meeting of the Village Commission.

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

M/James Redmond

S/Cheryl Manzer

CARRIED

THAT the report for the Regional Sewer Committee be accepted as presented.

M/James Redmond

S/Mary Munroe

CARRIED

THAT the report for the New Minas Water Commission be accepted as presented.

M/James Redmond

S/Cheryl Manzer

CARRIED

New Business:

Citizen Appointments

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO presented the Citizen Appointments Policy, which was ratified by Village Commission on March 9, 2020. This Policy governs appointments to the Finance & Audit Committee, New Minas Area Advisory Committee (which is in abeyance), and the New Minas Water Commission. The Commission previously discussed an appointments process to coincide with the Annual General Meeting. Since the Annual General Meeting is planned for Monday November 9, the Clerk Treasurer/CAO recommended that the Village commence advertising for citizen appointments to the Finance & Audit Committee and the New Minas Water Commission.

Mr. Redmond enquired whether appointments for a Source Water Protection Committee should be included as part of this process. The Clerk Treasurer/CAO advised that this item would be a discussion item at the next meeting of the New Minas Water Commission, at which a presentation on a Source Water Protection Plan will be held and discussed.

“Thunder in the Valley” 4x4 Rally

The matter of the “Thunder in the Valley” 4x4 Rally, held on October 10 & 11 in the Jones Road sandpit area, was raised by Ms. Munroe. Discussion ensued on the event, since it was held without securing an exemption under Section 9 of the Municipality’s Noise Control By-law (By-law #84).

The procedure for the process of securing an exemption for this By-law is for Municipal Council to consider an exemption upon receipt of a recommendation from the Village Commission (Section 9 (2), By-law #84). However, the Village Commission issued a recommendation against holding the rally and the exemption was, therefore, not granted by the Municipality. The organizers of the event elected to proceed with the event.

The position of the Village Commission was primarily based on a concern around the lack of social benefit which is presented by large gatherings of this nature and scope in this time of COVID-19 and the resulting affect of noise on the community at a time when residents in their homes are somewhat limited in their mobility, also due to the presence of COVID-19. The Clerk Treasurer/CAO was directed to draft two letters for consideration by the Commission, prior to issuance. The first letter would be directed to the event organizers outlining the Commission’s disappointment with the holding of the event. The second letter would be directed to the Municipality outlining the Commission’s disappointment with the aforementioned event proceeding without the exemption, under By-law #84, having been secured and enquiring about future steps to address this.

Correspondence:

None.

Public Discussion Period:

Mr. Stevens enquired whether the Village had updated its Sewer By-law to ensure compliance with that of the other partners participating in the Regional Sewer Committee.

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO advised that an updated Sewer By-law, which has been modified for this purpose, was accepted by the Village Commission at the March 9, 2020 meeting, following Second Reading of the By-law.

Adjournment:

M/James Redmond

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:42 pm.