



Village of New Minas
Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting
Monday September 9, 2019 @ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, Louis Millett Community Complex
New Minas, Nova Scotia

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

- Stirling Bishop
- Scott Conrad, CAO, County of Kings
- Trish Javorek, Director of Community Development, County of Kings
- Scott Quinn, Director of EPW, Lands & Parks Service, County of Kings
- Maynard Stevens
- Jim Winsor, District #8 Councillor

Call to Order:

Chair Dave Chaulk called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcoming those in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda:

THAT the Agenda for the September 9, 2019 regular Commission meeting be approved as presented.

M/Redmond

S/Munroe

CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes from Prior Meetings:

THAT the Minutes for the June 10, 2019 regular Commission meeting and the July 8, 2019 regular Commission meeting be approved as presented.

M/Redmond

S/Munroe

CARRIED

Business Arising from Minutes:

N/A

Presentations:

1. New Minas Land Use Planning Framework

Scott Conrod, CAO, County of Kings and Trish Javorek, Director of Community Development, County of Kings, presented the framework for Land Use in New Minas, in particular, the development of lands located south of the 101 highway.

General discussion ensued. The studies conducted by SNC Lavalin will be available in approximately one month. The budget for next steps in the process is based on an application for approximately \$100,000 from Provincial Capital Assistance Program. The remaining funding would be split between the County of Kings (74%) and the Village (26%). No decision on the funding application has been yet rendered by the Province. The County will also be actively identifying other sources of funding which may support the cost of the various studies.

The options surrounding the structure of an Advisory Committee, the composition of which would be a decision based on the recommendation of the Village of New Minas, were discussed. The Village could elect to use the existing Area Advisory Committee or a modified committee. Once determined, the recommendation of the Village would be accepted by the County. A planner would be assigned to guide the committee through the various procedural steps in the process.

The Chair thanked Mr. Conrod and Ms. Javorek for the presentation.

2. Sewer Treatment Plant Odour

Scott Quinn, Director of EPW, Lands & Parks Service, County of Kings, presented a report on the odour that emanated from the Regional Sewage Treatment Plant, located in New Minas, earlier this summer.

General discussion on the report ensued. Other jurisdictions in the province are experiencing similar issues with their treatment plants. Possible contributing factors are population growth and climate issues.

The Chair thanked Mr. Quinn for the presentation.

Committee Reports:

- Area Advisory Committee – no meeting
- Beautification Group – verbal report
- Clerk Treasurer & Administrative & Finance – report included in package
- Public Works & Water Report (& Building Maintenance) – report included in package
- Recreation & Community Development – report included in package
- Regional Sewer Committee - no report
- Water Commission – no report

Commissioner Munroe presented the report of the Beautification Group. The Lions Club has donated a bench unit that will be placed in front of the LMCC. One trash receptacle has been ordered with a decision on subsequent units pending. Purchase of 70 banners for placement on light poles is planned for the fall. Funding for 35 of the banners has been secured from the Province with the remainder being funded by the Village. The banner designs were circulated for feedback.

The following items were discussed by the committee:

- Possible use of students from the NSCC Kingstec Campus Horticulture program
- Recommendations concerning unsightly signage being placed on power poles and posts
- Repair to entrance signs to the Villages (from east and west on Commercial Street)
- Street sweeping
- Unsightly premises in the Village

There was general consensus that the banner initiative should proceed as planned and that businesses in the community should be encouraged to coordinate their own beautification efforts with those of the Beautification Group.

The Chair advised the Commission that he has been in receipt of a letter from Mr. Saunders commending the efforts of the Beautification Group.

THAT the report for Beautification Group be accepted as presented.

M/Munroe
S/Redmond
CARRIED

THAT the reports for Clerk Treasurer & Administrative & Finance, Recreation & Community Development, and Public Works & Water Report (& Building Maintenance) be accepted as presented.

M/Pineo
S/Redmond
CARRIED

New Business:

N/A

Correspondence:**ATM Follow-Up**

The Clerk Treasurer reported that the only options for debit and credit payments at events being held in the LMCC is either a portable debit/credit unit or a private label bank machine, which would be maintained by the Village. A bank machine provided by a chartered bank is no longer an option. Staff will continue to consider options for this.

Governance Workshop Update

The Clerk Treasurer presented a memo, dated September 4th, regarding an education session for the Commission and relevant staff members. The Clerk Treasurer wrote to Jason Haughn, Municipal Governance Consultant and subsequently met with him. A workshop of governance content for Commissioners and relevant staff is being planned for October or November.

Lily & Associates Ltd.

A letter, dated August 12th, was presented from Lily & Associates Ltd. for lease of 50 acres of Village property located on the dykelands for the purposes of crops. The Clerk Treasurer was directed to gauge whether this type of an initiative would affect the well water infrastructure of the Village located in that area and to correspond with the Solicitor to determine whether the Municipal Government Act would permit such use and/or under what conditions use could occur.

New Minas Children's Centre

The Clerk Treasurer presented a memo from Scott MacKay, County of Kings that advised the Committee of the Whole (County of Kings) to consider the request of the New Minas Children's Centre for a tax exemption. This was presented for the information of the Commission. The Clerk Treasurer was directed to enquire whether the recommendation has been accepted by County Council.

Response from Jason Haughn Re: Official Agent

The Clerk Treasurer presented a response, dated September 4th, from Jason Haughn, Municipal Advisor, regarding the enquiry raised by Maynard Stevens at the meeting of the Commission on July 8, concerning use of an official agent. In his letter, the Municipal Adviser opined that there is nothing in either the Act or the Village's By-laws to preclude the use of an official agent for the purpose identified by Mr. Stevens.

Response from Mitchell Conrad re: Asphalt Paving Projects

The Clerk Treasurer presented a response from Mitchell Conrad, Department of Transportation and Infrastructural Renewal, regarding the letter sent to him, at the direction of the Commission, regarding the quality of recent paving projects in the Village.

Public Discussion Period:

- Maynard Stevens complemented the Village on the success of Celebration Days.
- Maynard Stevens asked whether the Commission would consider amending the Election By-law to reflect the role of an official agent. The Commission committed to reviewing the matter.
- Maynard Stevens enquired why the LMCC was not designated as a comfort centre during the recent tropical storm Dorian (September 14). Commissioner Redmond responded that the New Minas Fire Hall has been designated as the primary comfort centre and the LMCC would be used for overflow. The designation of comfort centres is a decision made by REMO. He advised that approximately 25 persons made use of the comfort centre.
- On behalf of County Councillor Jim Winsor, the Clerk Treasurer informed the Commission that there will be a Constituent Meeting for constituents of District #8, hosted by Jim Winsor and Mayor Peter Muttart on Wednesday September 11 @ 7:00 pm in the LMCC.
- The Commission thanked the New Minas Volunteer Fire Department and all first responders for their efforts during the recent tropical storm Dorian.

Adjournment:

M/Redmond

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:48 pm

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Ian Morrison, Clerk Treasurer