



Village of New Minas
Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting
Monday January 11, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
Spencer Room, Louis Millett Community Centre
New Minas, Nova Scotia

Commissioners Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

- Jim Winsor, Councillor, District #8
- Maynard Stevens

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 January 11, 2020 regular Commission meeting be approved, as presented.

M/Mary Munroe

S/James Redmond

CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes from Prior Meetings:

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

M/James Redmond

S/Quentin Hill

CARRIED

Business Arising from Minutes:

None

Presentations:

None

Committee Reports:

- Beautification Group – no report
- 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 – report included in package
- Regional Sewer Committee – no report

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

M/James Redmond

S/Quentin Hill

CARRIED

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

M/James Redmond

S/Quentin Hill

CARRIED

New Business:

Citizen Appointments

The Clerk Treasurer/CAO advised that applications for the Finance & Audit Committee have been extended until January 22. Since three applicants have been received for the New Minas Water Commission, the Village Commission can proceed with this appointment process. As such, and in accordance with the Citizens Appointment Policy, the Chair and Clerk Treasurer/CAO shall meet to review applications and recommend appointments. The Chair invited comments from the Commissioners regarding the applicants being considered for appointment.

Sewer Rate Study

The Sewer Rate Study, as prepared by Stantec Consulting Ltd. was discussed. The study, which was commissioned by the Village to review its sewer rates, provides a rate analysis for the next ten years which will enable the service to be fully funded by the collected rates and implement

a capital renewal program on an annual basis. The analysis calls for an increase of 65% in rates, effective April 1, 2021 and then inflationary increases of 2.25% to 2.50% each year thereafter.

In general, the Commission felt that the study properly addressed the financing of the sewer service and, although unfortunate, an increase in rates is necessary. Therefore, the Commission has an interest in reviewing options.

The Commission directed the Clerk Treasurer/CAO to prepare an analysis of a prospective decrease in the rates for property taxes to offset the increase in the rates for sewer service. This would be based on the principle that, since rates for sewer service will increase to make the service self-sufficient, there will not be a reliance on a portion of the property tax rate to subsidize the sewer service. As well, the analysis should include an assessment of the rates for the following two categories of users:

- Ratepayers who have their own wells but use the sewer service
- Ratepayers who are serviced by the Municipality for their sewer service

The matter will be further discussed at the next meeting of the Village Commission.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from the New Minas Business Association on December 21 concerning a request to be included as a key partner in current and future committees that will directly affect Village business owners, regardless of whether the members of the group are resident in the Village. They expressed an interest to meet with the Commission to discuss parameters of how this could operate going forward.

The Commission directed the Clerk Treasurer/CAO to conduct some research into how other Villages and Municipal units in the region construct their committee relationship with ratepayers who do not live in the unit, particularly as this relationship relates to membership and participation on committees.

Public Discussion Period:

None

Adjournment:

M/James Redmond

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:38 pm.