Village of New Minas
Commission Meeting
October 21, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
Commission Room, LMCC
New Minas, Nova Scotia
Draft Minutes

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present:

- Jeff Lawrence, Clerk Treasurer/CAO
- Erica Dominey, Recreation Coordinator
- Cory Palmer, Director of Public Works

Others Present:

1. **Call to Order:**

   Dave Chaulk called the meeting to order at 3:00pm, welcoming those in attendance.

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

3. **Approval of the Agenda:**

   Motion:
   THAT the Agenda for the October 21, 2026, Commission Meeting be approved.

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

4. **Comments from the Chair:**

5. **Public Input Specific to Agenda Topics:**
   a. **C. Sappington** – C. Sappington highlighted the importance of playgrounds for young families and noted that her advocacy for a playground in the Douglas Street area was a key factor in her decision to run for a Commission seat. She further observed that Milne Avenue currently has two playgrounds, while the Douglas Street neighbourhood has none.

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6. New Business:

a. Request for Decision – Milne Playground RFD

E. Dominey opened the floor for questions. The Commission raised concerns regarding the lack of playgrounds in the Douglas Street area, whether a new park would see sufficient use, the overall cost of playground development, and the impact of previous delays in completing playground projects.

E. Dominey responded by outlining Administration's plan to construct a playground in the Douglas Street neighbourhood next year. She noted that playground costs have risen significantly due to updated accessibility standards, tariffs, and inflationary pressures. She also acknowledged past delays and reaffirmed Administration's commitment to prioritizing playground renewal over the coming years. She highlighted increased usage trends in recently updated parks, including Lockhart & Ryan Park and the Port Williams playground, as evidence of strong community uptake following modernized upgrades.

After discussion, the following motion was passed:

Motion:
THAT the Village Commission approve additional capital funding in the amount of $123,656 to be sourced from the Strategic Initiative Fund, for the Lonnie Milne Memorial Playground replacement project; bringing the total project budget to $188,656 inclusive of the Village's HST expense; and further, that the Commission authorize staff to proceed with the Terra Construction proposal, subject to the completion of all required procurement, contractual, and financial processes.

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

7. Closed Session:

Dave Chaulk indicated that there was a need for an in-camera session to deal with a human resource issue.

At 3:40pm, the Commission adjourned to move into a closed session.

Motion:
THAT the Commission adjourn to move into closed session.

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

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Motion:
THAT the Commission adjourn from the closed session.

M/J. Redmond
S/ D. Windle-Smith
Motion Carried

At 4:15pm the Commission reconvened the open session of the meeting.

8. Motions from the In-camera session

Motion:
THAT the Commission support the recommendations as presented in the staff compensation study by the consultant in the in-camera session.

M/Q. Hill
S/ D. Windle-Smith
Motion Carried

9. Adjournment
There being no further business, D. Chaulk called for a motion to adjourn at 4:17pm.

Motion:
THAT the meeting be adjourned.

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

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