

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF August 19, 2008

PRESENT: Lewis Benedict, Kim Cogswell, Ernie Hovell, Doug Gates and Scott Leier

IN ATTENDANCE: Stanton Hancock , Phillip Porter, Robyn Whidden, ,Janet Newton, and Wayne Blenkhorn .

The Chairman, Lewis Benedict called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the July 15, 2008 monthly meeting be approved as presented. Motion Carried.

REPORTS:

Janitor – no report

Hall Trustees - no report  
Next meeting scheduled for October 2, 2008.

Fire Department- Report attached. Phillip noted that the department had responded to two mutual aid calls.

Lions- no report  
Ernie Hovell noted that the Lions have oiled their entry way.

Transportation- Stanton indicated that he had no business on transportation to report.  
It was noted that the class A gravel is still needed on Centennial Drive.

Recreation- Wayne Blenkhorn reported that the soccer program was holding its closing this evening. The ball field continues to be very busy and Wayne is anticipating a good turnout with a full agenda at the September meeting of the recreation committee.

Councilor Newton: Janet noted that there was not a committee of the whole meeting today so she did not have an update from Council. Janet expressed that Robie Carty is very frustrated with the amount of time that it is taking to acquire a building permit from the county. Janet will take the Village's desire to have Kings Transit include the Village on its bus route to the September meeting of Kings Transit. Janet has been working with Tim Cox to get a development agreement.

The Village commissioners asked that a letter be sent on their behalf to the County expressing their concern over the delay in Mr. Carty obtaining his building permit.

Gas Tax Committee: Kim Cogswell reported that the Gas Tax Committee has not met since the last Village meeting and a meeting date has not yet been set.

Secondary Planning Strategy: Robin Whidden reported that the committee is looking for public input. Their next meeting is slated for September 4<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be land use.

Water Shed Protection Committee: Scott Leier attended the meeting and noted that there were two individuals from the Department of Environment in attendance. A Dalhousie professor presented the committee with a proposal where two graduate students would do a water study for the Village as part of their graduate work. The committee reviewed the bylaws and is exploring what changes need to occur to enable the county to enforce them.

A letter needs to be sent to Brian Newcombe.

Public Works- Report attached. Stanton noted that maintenance of the fire hydrants has been performed this summer. INVOR personnel sampled wells for nitrates and pesticides. The water lines were flushed and a complaint was received about a damaged load of wash from one of our residents. The paving of the parking lot at the Community Centre should be completed within three weeks, weather permitting.

It was noted that there is a flying ant problem in the downstairs of the community centre and that Braemar Pest Control should be contacted.

Treasurer's Report- Report attached.

The cheque log and financial statements for July were reviewed.

It was moved and seconded that the bills presented be paid. Motion Carried.

Outstanding water bills were reviewed. A letter needs to be drafted requesting those with questionable overdue accounts to either make payment or provide proof of payment by means of a receipt or cancelled cheque. A notice of disconnection needs to be sent to those customers that have been delinquent in their payments. There are a couple of residences that the owners name and address need to be verified.

The interest rate that is being charged on overdue accounts was discussed. It was duly moved and seconded that the interest rate be changed to 24% per annum and that it be recorded on a monthly basis (2%). Motion carried.

The budget was reviewed and after considerable discussion it was tabled until the next meeting. The commissioners decided to hold a budget meeting to discuss outstanding concerns at the conclusion of this evening's meeting.

Business Arising from Minutes: It was noted that a letter needs to be sent to the Department of Transportation regarding the stretch of road between Port Williams and Greenwich. This letter should also be sent to Mark Parent, David Morse, Barry Barnett and Murray Scott.

It was duly moved and seconded that the advertised position of Clerk/ Treasurer be offered to Laura Wightman and that the position of Administrative Assistant be offered to Geneve Newcombe. Motion carried. Kim Cogswell and Ernie Hovell will follow up with these two individuals to review the terms of reference.

The pothole on High Street still needs attention.

Old Business:

It was duly moved and seconded that the Lafarge contract be accepted for sidewalk repair and that additional funds be allocated to repair the sidewalk on Main Street. Motion carried.

It was questioned if there are grants available to assist with sidewalk maintenance. It was suggested that this is an area that the new Clerk can investigate.

New Business: Several suggestions to help improve the Village website were received, they included adding photos of the commissioners, having a calendar of events, including a counter to see how many hits the website receives, making the Village contact information more prominent and having a link to the Fire Departments web page. The commissioners were in favor of all of these suggestions with the exception of individual photos.

There was some discussion on how the public is notified when the water lines are flushed. It was suggested that instead of an ad in the paper that a Village wide mail out occur as well as having the local radio stations broadcast it as a public service announcement.

It was suggested that the Village build an email bank for residents. Residents could be informed of this new initiative via a comment line on water bills, our website or through Sylvia's column in the Advertiser.

The topic of installing showers in the fire department was raised. Phillip Porter said the fire fighters are undecided if they wish to have showers available. Wayne Blenkhorn noted that from an EMO point of view they would be a good addition.

#### Correspondence-

A letter from Allen Sheito requesting that Kings Transit offer a stop in Port Williams and offered the Port Bistro as a location.

Letters with copies of insurance were received from the Lions Club and Girl Guides of Canada.

Information on the Association of Municipal Administrators Fall Conference.

Municipality of Kings Activity Report – a new house and renovation for residential totaling \$329,860.

The Valley Communications report.

A letter from NS Municipal Finance Corporation re fall 2008 debenture funding.

An invitation to attend the Union of NS Municipalities Conference.

A brochure from the Union of NS Municipalities on Women in local government.

A list of volunteer dates from Recreation Nova Scotia.

A letter from Wayne Blenkhorn requesting that Kings Transit offer service to the Port Williams area.

A letter from Laurie Perrin requesting that Kings Transit offer service to the Port Williams area.

An email on upcoming activities from Kings CED.

An email from Matt Josdal looking for participation and financial help in a documentary on food production.

An application for membership renewal from the Association of Nova Scotia Villages. The question was raised if any of the commissioners would be interested in serving on this board. Doug Gates volunteered to let his name stand for nomination. It was duly moved and seconded that the Village renew its membership. Motion carried.

A letter was received from Wayne Blenkhorn expressing concern over patrons of the Alpha Chiropractic business parking on the sidewalk. The Commission agreed to send a letter of concern to Alpha Chiropractic and cc it to MacKay Real Estate. There was also discussion on who has authority over the sidewalks. Clarification needs to be obtained on this issue.

A copy of the annual report of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library was received.

A training calendar from Safety Nova Scotia was received. This information needs to be passed on to Stanton.

A suggestion was received that information on EMO measures be included on our website. It was requested that Wayne Blenkhorn do a write up that we could post.

It was noted that the Canada flag on the Fire Department needs to be replaced.

Phillip Porter requested \$300 from the Village to be used for fire school. It was duly moved and seconded to approve \$300 from the Village to be used by the Fire Department for fire training school. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the meeting UPON MOTION being made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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Lewis Benedict, Chairman

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Geneve Newcombe,  
Interim Village Clerk