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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2016

COMMISSION:

Martha Armstrong – Chair
Don Holmesdale – Vice Chair
John Pierce
Bruce Carter
Paul Parsons

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Hatfield – Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Diana Brothers – Warden, Municipality of the County of Kings

OPENING

Chair Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair Armstrong asked for a review of the March 10th, 2016 Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLMESDALE AND COMMISSIONER PIERCE THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 10TH, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Armstrong asked if there was any business arising from the minutes of March 10th, 2016.

Commissioner Carter advised there were grants available for edible community plants up to \$4,000. Clerk will pass this information on to Recreation staff.

Commissioner Pierce stated he would like, at a later date, to review and discuss the document from the county showing funding to the villages and towns.

Commissioner Parsons asked if the village was liable if a pedestrian is hit at one of our crosswalks. Clerk stated in Nova Scotia it is the responsibility of the driver to stop for pedestrians in both the marked and unmarked crosswalks and it is not the responsibility of the Village should an incident occur.

Chair Armstrong suggested advising the public at the upcoming Annual General Meeting that the pedestrians have a responsibility to cross when it is safe to do so, even with the use of crosswalk buttons and lights.

Commissioner Holmesdale asked if the speed sign had been moved. Clerk stated the speed sign panel had stopped working, the company was contacted and a new one was sent which arrived today and is under warranty. He reported the data collected on the old panel was lost. He stated the next location for the speed sign will be Pine Ridge Ave.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – See Reports

PUBLIC WORKS

After a discussion Commission decided the Village would send letters to those businesses and organizations that are not compliant with the County's sign bylaw. It was suggested that the sign, indicating the Steer BBQ is held the second Saturday in July, be removed and the specific date be installed yearly on the steer platform. Chair Armstrong also suggested adding landscaping to the events sign across from Rona Building Supplies.

RECREATION

Commissioner Pierce reported the committee was informed at the last Steer BBQ meeting that the Village Commission has decided to cancel Steer BBQ fireworks and reallocate those funds to the New Years Eve event.

Commission stated they would like to hold the Centennial Park bandstand dedication ceremony in June if possible during a performance by Sonlight. Clerk will advise Recreation staff.

Wastewater, Public Works, Recreation and Apple Blossom reports were received as presented.

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

OPERATIONS

Clerk reported on notable variances including an unfavourable variance for interest earned for funds on deposit since he did not know at the beginning of the fiscal year what the interest rate would be. Commissioner Pierce suggested investigating going out to market to get a better rate of return on investment or combine with the Association of Nova Scotia Villages to get a more favourable rate. Commission suggested Clerk scope out other no risk options and report back to the commission at the next meeting.

RAVENWOOD PARK – EASTLINK CELL TOWER

Clerk reported there was a motion put forth by the Committee of the Whole to recommend to County Council not to lease municipal property to Eastlink for a cell tower in Ravenwood Park, Kingston. This motion has been deferred to obtain a legal opinion and Eastlink has since withdrawn their application.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Clerk reported the projects receiving Build Canada Funding should be completed by mid to late June 2016 and the Village connection to VCFN, public Wi-Fi and security cameras by end May or early June.

Monthly Finance report was received as presented.

COUNTY UPDATE

Chair Armstrong invited Warden Brothers to provide an update from the Municipality of the County of Kings.

Warden Brothers reported on the following:

- County tax rate has been set with no increases in residential, commercial or sewer tax rates.
- The Waterville airport transfer to 14 Wing Greenwood is completed and the funds from the sale of the land to Michelin will go toward building new hangars at 14 Wing.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION POLICY

Commissioner Holmesdale stated the changes have been made to the draft policy based on recommendations from the Commission at the March 10th meeting.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLMESDALE AND COMMISSIONER PIERCE THAT THE COMMISSION ACCEPT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION POLICY AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSIONS:

COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

Clerk stated there were a few scheduling conflicts and asked the Commission if they would reconsider the monthly meeting night. After a discussion it was decided to hold the regular session meetings on the first Wednesday of the month starting after the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, May 25th. The change will be announced at the AGM.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT (MGA) REVIEW

Clerk stated, as a member of the Public Safety Working Group for the MGA, he attended a meeting to finalize proposed changes to PART X of the MGA and reported those changes will be submitted to the Review Committee this week for first review and comments.

EARTH DAY GARBAGE CLEANUP REQUEST

Clerk stated a resident has requested that a garbage cleanup take place along the abandoned rail bed on Earth Day, April 22nd. After a discussion the Commission decided it was too late to hold this event on Earth Day but suggested the following week would allow more time to organize. Clerk will contact the ATV Club and other organizations for involvement.

CORRESPONDENCE:

APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL INVITATION

Chair Armstrong stated she will attend the Valley Tea on May 25th but is unable to attend the Coronation Ceremony on May 27th or the parade on May 28th and asked the Commission if they were able to attend to let staff know.

COUNTY OF KINGS - PUBLIC MEETING FOR TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER

Chair stated there is a public input meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, May 11th at the Kingston Fire Hall regarding a proposed Eastlink cell tower to be located off of Hwy #1 behind Rona Cash & Carry. The public will have 30 days to submit written questions or concerns to the County.

MISCELLANEOUS:

VILLAGE/COUNTY MEETING

Clerk stated he would be attending the Village/County meeting on Wednesday April 20th and asked which Commissioners would be attending. Chair Armstrong stated she was unable to attend. Commissioners Pierce and Holmesdale will attend.

LEGION/LIONS DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

Clerk stated he received a silhouette drawing of the sign the Legion and Lions would like to have installed at the intersection of Park Road and Main Street and the intersection of Victoria Street and Bridge Street. Commission agreed with the style but stated they would like to see the final design of the sign.

KINGSTON/GREENWOOD MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP

Chair Armstrong stated the Kingston/Greenwood Mental Health Association was holding an event on May 6th from 10am to 3:30pm aimed at providing mental health training

courses and stigma reduction initiatives. The registration deadline is April 29th for those Commissioners interested in attending.

IN-CAMERA MEETING

Commission moved in camera at 8:40pm to discuss legal issue involving easement expropriation negotiation and returned to open session at 9:02pm.

ON MOTION THAT THE VILLAGE COMMISSION REJECT PECKFORD HOLDINGS' LETTER RECEIVED ON APRIL 8TH AND TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE BY APRIL 22ND VIA VILLAGE'S LAWYER. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLMESDALE THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:05PM. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER