



Village of Kingston
671 Main Street PO Box 254
Kingston NS B0P 1R0

ph 902 765-2800
fx 902 765-0807

December 6, 2017

Commissioner D. Holmesdale
Commissioner J. Pierce
Commissioner B. Carter
Commissioner P. Parsons
Commissioner M. West

Dear Commissioner Members:

Attached for your review is the Agenda for the regular Village meeting scheduled to take place at 7:00pm on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at the Kingston Village Office.



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REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING December 6, 2017

AGENDA

1. Review of Minutes of Meeting held November 1, 2017
2. Business Arising from the Minutes
3. Consent to Agenda Items
4. Committee Reports
 - i. Wastewater
 - ii. Public Works
 - iii. Recreation
5. Finance Report
6. Discussions
7. Correspondence
8. Adjournment



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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017

COMMISSION:

Don Holmesdale
John Pierce
Bruce Carter - Absent
Paul Parsons
Muriel West

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Hatfield – Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Sgt. Jamie Greene – Kingston RCMP Detachment
Martha Armstrong - County Councillor District 4
Hubert Ryan - Resident

OPENING

Chair Holmesdale called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair Holmesdale asked for a review of the October 4th, 2017 Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER PIERCE AND COMMISSIONER PARSONS THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4TH, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Holmesdale asked for any business arising from the minutes of October 4th, 2017.

Commissioner West asked if the Village had received a response from the letter that was sent to Canada Post regarding the changes and downsizing of the Kingston Post Office, a very busy post office. Clerk stated there has been no response to date.

Commissioner Parsons stated the new left turn arrow at the intersection of Main Street and Bridge Street is working well for traffic flow.

Commissioner Pierce asked that, in future, any outgoing letter correspondence be emailed to the Commission.

The Commission had asked at the last meeting for more information on the Western Kings Family of Schools. It was confirmed that it pertains to all schools that would eventually feed into West Kings High School.

Commissioner Parsons asked how the two leaf/brush bins were working out. Commissioner West stated she and other residents have found it to be very user friendly and that it is was a positive initiative overall that has proven to be very popular. She has heard several great comments from residents who really appreciate the service. Clerk stated the leaf bin has been emptied twice so far and the brush bin has been emptied three times. Commission noted that Public Works is tamping down the bins when necessary and keeping the area very clean and that there is good signage there.

Commissioner West noticed in the last minutes that the Summer Day Camp had an unfavourable variance of \$6,100 and she wondered if the Village needs to increase the fees at the Day Camp. Clerk and Commission stated it has never been a money maker and Clerk stated that if the fees were increased it may prevent many families from being able to use the service. The increase would also put the Village on par with Greenwood's Day Camp which has much more to offer in the way of facilities. Clerk asked the Commission if it should be a breakeven item and that it is definitely something that could be looked at during budget time.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Holmesdale asked for a motion to approve the agenda items as presented.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER PARSONS AND COMMISSIONER WEST THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

RCMP PRESENTATION – Sgt. Jamie Greene

Sgt. Jamie Greene provided a comparison of statistics from September 2015/16 to September 2016/17:

- Calls for service were down except for theft calls which rose by 18%. Most of Kingston's theft calls were for the Superstore, NSLC and unlocked vehicles. He stated most of the thefts were committed by the same people as last year.
- Most of the impaired driving calls were unfounded and that it was more driver inattention.
- Received many noise complaint calls from the trailer park and the green apartment building on Main St.
- The number of ATV complaints has gone down from last year.
- Criminal records checks take up a lot of staff time since they do them daily.
- The RCMP has a field sobriety test and if the individual fails or refuses it he/she is taken back to the detachment where a Drug Recognition Officer puts them through a series of tests. There are only 1,100 Drug Recognition Officers across the country.
- There is a new instrument coming out for roadside which takes a saliva test for cannabis, cocaine and heroin.
- The July 1st, 2018 new marijuana laws will be a learning curve for them.

RESIDENT HUBERT RYAN – COMPLAINT OF NO SIDEWALK ON BALSER DRIVE

Kingston resident Hubert Ryan introduced himself and stated he has been a resident of Kingston for many years and had the following complaints:

- The sidewalk tax was instituted in 2003 and the rate was one half of 1% of your property assessment and he wondered if that percentage has changed.
- There is not enough information included on the tax bills – he would like to see a breakdown of where the tax dollars are going.
- At the first public meeting he attended for the new sidewalk area rate, he left with the understanding that subdivisions were included and that Balser Drive was a priority street for a new sidewalk.
- When sidewalk construction did take place it all went to the downtown area and subdivisions were ignored.
- It appeared that in 2008 the new sidewalk installation on Pine Ridge Ave and Westwood Street was part of the downtown beautification project - although he said he was assured by the commission this was not the case and that subdivisions would still be included for sidewalks.
- Existing sidewalks are getting resurfaced instead of new sidewalks being built.
- He wondered if the section of paved rail bed trail was paid for with sidewalk funds.
- He did not understand why Marshall Road got a sidewalk when there are no subdivisions on it and not many walkers. He said subdivisions have been paying since 2003 for sidewalks and not seeing any built.
- He would like to know if any sidewalk funds were used for any other paving in the village.
- Since the sidewalk area rate got phased into the budget he would like to see a complete statement of revenues collected for sidewalk and where the money went.
- Balser Drive should be a priority for a new sidewalk because of the young school children going to school, the elderly, lots of traffic going to the recreation area/ball fields, it is used as a main entrance into Ravenwood Subdivision, and it is used for walking by all, including dog walkers and strollers.
- Residents don't know where the sidewalk funds are going.

Clerk/Commission response:

- Clerk stated the rate for sidewalks has changed over the years, there is no percentage rate anymore and it is now included in one budget amount. The village tax rate is 30.9 cents and the amount for sidewalks varies each budget year.
- The information on where the tax dollars are going is in the budget book and the financial statements and questions can be answered anytime at the office.
- Commission is not ignoring subdivisions and actually looked at putting a sidewalk on Balser Drive a few years ago and even put out a tender for a sidewalk study at a cost of \$38,000. The study determined that a new sidewalk, which would have to meet the Department of Transportation's present standards, would cost a million dollars.
- Existing sidewalk maintenance uses a separate funding source and it does not come from new sidewalk construction funds.

- The paving on the rail bed was not paid for with Village sidewalk funds and was cost shared with the Kings County Trail Society.
- Commissioner Pierce explained that, with regard to the new sidewalk on Marshall Road, there are two subdivisions located on either side of Marshall Road and the Village took advantage of the opportunity to get the project done for '25 cent dollars'. This was due to the fact that the province built the sidewalks while they were paving Marshall Road. It cost the Village \$250,000 as opposed to the million dollars it would have cost without the province. He stated the Commission always tries to spend tax dollars as wisely and as efficiently as possible and this was an opportune time to put a sidewalk there.
- Commission explained that no sidewalk funds were used for any other paving in Kingston.
- Clerk stated there is a sidewalk reserve fund in place and that he will provide details on how the sidewalk funding has been spent.

Chair thanked Mr. Hubert and stated the Commission appreciates this valuable information, will take it under advisement and are available to answer questions anytime in the future.

COUNTY UPDATE – COUNCILLOR MARTHA ARMSTRONG – DISTRICT 4

Councillor Armstrong updated the commission on the following:

- The County confirmed that the Department of Transportation will be conducting a traffic count at the intersection of Maple Street and Main Street. She stated the last time a traffic count was done approximately 4 years ago it scored 70 out of 100 which did not warrant a traffic light. If it does warrant traffic lights the Department of Transportation will cover all costs to install the required traffic lights and crosswalks. If the numbers do not warrant intersection upgrades, then the County and Village would need to cover the costs to install the necessary crosswalk infrastructure.
- Will see what the County can do about the Kings Transit reroute request.
- She toured Kingston and district 4 with the County's new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Scott Conrod.
- Will try to get an update on the results of the final fire safety inspection at the main street apartment building in Kingston and will talk to Terry Brown about the unsightly aspect. Clerk stated there is no by-law officer at the County at the moment. Councillor Armstrong stated the new CAO is going to sit down with the managers and determine the hiring needs for the County.
- Waiting for the final revisions of the design work and specifications from the Stantec consultants for the new municipal complex.
- County has changed the way they spend their gas tax money and right now it is sitting in a reserve. The majority of councillors do not agree that the county's gas tax money should go specifically or totally to J-Class roads. The J-Class roads that were paved a few years ago, and 50% cost shared with the province, were done with gas tax funds and county reserves.
- The new RCMP building will be located across from the old bowling alley in New Minas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WASTEWATER – See Full Report

PUBLIC WORKS – See full report

Commissioner Parsons stated it tends to flood at the corner of Victoria Rd and Park Rd and that the manhole cover is higher than the road. Clerk stated Public Works staff will have a look at it and if it is a grated catch basin it would be the responsibility of the Department of Transportation.

Commissioner West wanted to know how much longer the leaf/brush bins will be left out. She also said the pine needles drop earlier and suggested a bin could be provided the end of September next year. (Will discuss further under Financial Report)

Clerk stated the request of having one of the seasonal employees work longer into the season is no longer required.

Commissioner Parsons asked if the garbage cans have been removed permanently since they are handy for people that pick up after their dogs. Clerk stated the cans are removed for Halloween and then some are put back out.

Commissioners discussed the request by Public Works to look at the east bank of the duck pond in order to consider budgeting for a textured stone retaining wall and they decided they would like to have more information, e.g. is there erosion happening?

RECREATION – See Full Report

As per recreation report indicating a need for a community badminton individual, Commissioner Pierce suggested Larry Caldwell as a possible choice.

Chair Holmesdale asked if the O2 program students will be constructing the framework for the outdoor arena again this year. Clerk will confirm with recreation staff.

Chair Holmesdale agreed to volunteer at the Santa Comes to Kingston event as well as Commissioners West and Pierce.

Clerk stated recreation staff will put the results together from the Oakhurst Subdivision green space survey and have it ready for the next meeting. Commission would like to include the results of the Oakhurst Subdivision survey, once it is completed, in the minutes of the regular session meeting.

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

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT – See Full Report

General Operations

Clerk stated through the first 7 months of the fiscal year there are some known variances to report on but that overall the year end position is expected to be favourable.

Revenues

There are no new revenue variances to report on for October.

Expenditures

Clerk stated the Parks Repairs and Maintenance budget has a favourable variance of \$7,400 and suggested some of this variance could be used to extend the leaf/brush bin service. Clerk stated the cost of the bins is estimated to be approximately \$2,500 even with the free leaf drop off. After a discussion the Commission decided to keep the bins available until Tuesday, November 14th. Staff will advertise on social media and stated the service was seen on Facebook by 10,000 people. Commissioner West asked about offering the service again in the spring. Commission will look at it at budget time.

Sewer Operations

Treatment Plant Electricity has a favourable variance of \$5,300

Monthly finance report was received as presented.

CLERK'S DISCUSSIONS:

Parade Float Replacement

Clerk stated he received a quote for a customized trailer, for parade float purposes, from Nova Millwrights and wondered if the Commission would be in favour of this purchase. After a discussion, Commission asked to see a few more quotes brought forward.

Christmas Menu – The Crossing Restaurant

Clerk stated The Crossing Restaurant provided two different menu choices at different price structures. Commission asked if staff could confirm a substitution and if coffee/tea/juice is provided and, if so, to then confirm Menu #1 for December 14th.

Legion Tax Exemption

Clerk stated there was some confusion with the Kingston Legion in that they were not asking for a tax exemption but instead wanted to appeal their annual sewer charges. They argued their sewer charges should be on par with the Kingston Lions Club. Clerk will research this further for the next meeting.

Property Tax Sales

Clerk stated there are two properties eligible for tax sale, one regardless of the recent payment made.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chair stated he received an invitation and will attend the Remembrance Day Service and Banquet at the Kingston Legion on November 11, 2017.

DISCUSSIONS:

Commission/Clerk agreed to meet November 28th at 7pm at the Village Office to discuss the needs assessment.

Commissioner West stated she received a complaint from a resident of Prince Street who said the road was pooling with water since the sewer work was done there. The resident would also like to see a dead end street sign at the road entrance. Commission advised that he contact the Department of Transportation for these concerns and Clerk will ask public works to have a look after a rainfall.

Chair Holmesdale stated the Policy and Finance Committee will meet to update the Village's Travel Expense Policy.

Commission decided to table the piano item to spring.

Clerk informed the Commission that Mike Trinacty, Trails Consultant, would like to meet with the Commission. Chair Holmesdale, Commissioners West and Pierce will attend the meeting once the date is confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER PARSONS THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:40PM. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Danny Lundrigan, Public Works Supervisor**
Date: **December 6, 2017**
Re: **Environmental Services Report**

Nov 17 resident on Balser Drive called village office about sewer blockage in his line leaving the house. Public Works staff checked manholes in the street which was running fine and were met by the resident and the plumber he called. Plumber indicated that he pushed a snake out 50 feet and hit nothing. Currently the rule of thumb is that the Village is responsible for the individual service coming from the main sewer line to the property line. Based on the plumber's information, staff called for a backhoe to dig up sewer line out by ditch (property line). Sewer was exposed and pipe was cut to access with staff's sewer rods and auger. Blockage was 3 feet out from resident's foundation and tree roots were the problem. Pipe was put back together and back filled. Plumber's snakes do not always unplug tree root blockages because solids and paper plug the hole back up when snake is pulled back out. Public Works staff questioned the plumber on this beforehand. To date there is no real policy on charging residents for work done by Village staff when problem ends up being on their property. It should be noted that many other municipalities are only responsible for main sewer line in the street and not the sewer service.

Village Office received call from resident on Kingston Heights Drive with a complaint that a sewer alarm was going off in her house. Public Works staff checked the main sewer in the street which was clear. Resident asked staff to check inside home where alarm was coming from. After a quick observation staff could see that home had a lift pump in basement to pump wastewater to our sewer line. Resident did not know they had a lift pump (bought house 1 year ago). Staff gave resident some local plumber's name to check out lift pump.

Sewer lift stations were cleaned as part of our twice per year preventative maintenance program. Cleaning stations involves removing fat build up on walls and piping inside station and also removes grit from the bottom of station and saves on impeller wear. Year end reports to the provincial Department of Environment are being prepared as well as the quarterly reporting to Environment and Climate Change Canada. Treatment plant has been in compliance with the average quarterly reporting all year.



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Danny Lundrigan, Public Works Supervisor**
Date: **December 6, 2017**
Re: **Public Works Report**

Concerns raised by commissioners about water pooling on Victoria Dr and Prince St were checked out by Public Works staff. Prince St has no storm drains or ditching, most likely because it is located on the crest of a hill. There is no indication that sewer work completed 2 years ago is contributing to any more water than was already pooling in that particular low spot off shoulder of road. Most flat areas in Kingston may pool for a period of time but eventually drain into the sandy soil beneath. The water pooling in front of the Masonic Lodge building on Victoria Drive needs a catch basin installed and connected to existing storm sewer. Existing catch basins on Park and Victoria are 50 feet away from where water is pooling. Public Works staff passed recommendation on to village office to contact the Department of Transportation.

Staff received prices from Shay Trailer Sales for 16 foot galvanized flatbed trailer with wood deck and 2 foot drop ramp at rear of trailer. Price for 16 foot trailer quoted to be built by Nova Mill Wrights is for a painted steel trailer without the wood mounted to the floor of the frame. The Shay trailer could be used to haul equipment around on if parade float material is easily removable. The sloped back end may be a deterrent for parade float. It is very hard to compare apples to apples when getting something custom built to something pre-manufactured. If trailer is just to be used for parades the cheaper of the two may make more sense especially when parade float trailer is usually stored inside (painted steel vs. galvanized).

Public Works staff acquired a budget cost for proposed retainer wall at the duck pond's east edge mentioned in last month's report. Price is for a 36 inch high 72 meter long Versa-Lok standard block wall with drainage pipe material. Material is 12 to 15 thousand dollars depending on colour and size of block with the labor cost coming in at 2 ½ times more than block (questionable). Obviously competitive pricing tender would have to go out if approved. Question brought forward after last meeting was "is there erosion". The answer is that there is some erosion along the bottom edge but overall bank is solid. Clear stone rock installed by Public Works 2 years ago is also helping prevent erosion. Office staff have provided a somewhat photoshopped picture of type of wall proposed. A wall on this side of the duck pond would also make it easier/safer for staff to trim steep bank when water level in pond is high. Wall will provide something level to walk on instead of slipping on a steep slope.

The MT sidewalk V-Plow was sent to Rick Balser's Welding to have new cutting edges installed on plow. New shoes ordered late last year will also be installed with new cutting edges. Public Works staff has been tending to sidewalks a few times, ploughing snow once and spreading sand and salt a couple of times. Winter seasonal staff started back to work this week.

Christmas lights were installed and turned on for Santa Comes to Kingston. It should be noted that the big Blue Spruce that is normally lit up is not. The top 6 feet of the tree has gone to seed and literally has no branches to hang lights from. The poor quality of this tree has been mentioned in reports over the last few years and needs to be cut down. Another Blue Spruce was planted just west of big tree 3 years ago to take the place of half dead tree. A new and different type of coniferous tree can be planted in its place in the same hole.



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Glen Abriel, Recreation Coordinator**
Date: **December 6, 2017**
Re: **Recreation Report**

PINERIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL – P.A.W.S Afterschool Program –Dec 2017

- (3) Leaders – 8-10 Pine Ridge Girls – Mondays & Wednesdays at Pine Ridge School. Program continues until Christmas Break.

SENOIRS FITNESS INSTRUCTOR 2017/18

- Helen Malo is our instructor for our Fitness Program. Averaging 25 participants.

SANTA COMES TO KINGSTON – FRI DEC 1st 6PM -8PM / NEW PARADE THIS YEAR

- Many Thanks for all the Commissioners who were able to attend and participate in the evenings activities. Donations were 250 lbs of food & \$ 175 financial. Many thanks to volunteers and residents who came out to support the evening and enjoy the Christmas season.

WEST KINGS HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT

- Working in partnership with West Kings School & AVRSB
- Met with Leo Glavine on Wednesday and Leo is scheduling a meeting with potential funders over the Christmas Holiday's before the New Year.

OUTDOOR RINK PLANNING

- Both tarps have been purchased. Public Works will be building Framework and installing water into the rink once the tarps are installed.
- New Hockey nets have been purchased as well as new smaller pond hockey nets
- Thanks to Public Works for all their leadership & expertise.

NEW YEARS EVE – SUN DEC 31ST 6PM – 8:30PM (new time) – CREDIT UNION CENTRE – FIREWORKS @ 9PM

- All Commissioners & Staff are invited to come & assist with serving hot cider & chocolate during the evening.
- A meeting was held at the Office EARLY November to discuss planning & purchases with the New Year's Eve Committee.
- Donations are steadily coming into the Office.
- Fireworks have been confirmed. With the larger amount purchased according to request for a longer display.
- Lions Club will be doing Chili again.
- New Year's Eve Mailer should be in mail boxes before Christmas.
- We are investigating the possibility of adding some outdoor games or possibly a bouncer of some sort.

PINERIDGE SCHOOL COMMUNITY VOLLEYBALL – TUESDAY EVENINGS 7-9PM

ADULT SKATING – TUESDAYS 10:30AM - NOON

- Consistently 8-10 participants.

ADULT TAI CHI –MONDAYS & THURSDAYS – KINGSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Luitgard Budd is our Tai Chi Instructor. Mondays is a beginner's class with Thursdays being an advanced class. Anyone Welcome.

ACTIVE KIDS HEALTHY KIDS 2017

- Glen is the Chair of this organization and has been working with local groups to submit their final reports.

CREDIT UNION CENTRE – FREE SKATING 2017/18

- Glen will be working with the Credit union Centre to utilize the Provincial Funding allowance for Free Facility Access. We will be organizing Free Skating during School in-service days and also over the 2017 Christmas School break.

NATIVE COUNCIL –MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

- The Native Council of Nova Scotia (Valley Region) has bene utilizing our Recreation Hut on a monthly basis to work with and mentor local parents who may be in need of some leadership and mentoring. The Recreation Hut seems to meet the needs of the group to allow for the children to play but also allow for the parents to discuss their concerns.

VALLEY AUTISM – COMMUNITY PARTNERS MEETING

- Glen attended a meeting with parents of children with autism to discuss options within the community which may be available for their children. This is one aspect of an on-going program to assist parent to better allow their children to integrate in to their communities.

FREE FACILITY ACCESS – CREDIT UNION CENTRE DEC 2017



**FREE SKATING UPCOMING AT THE KINGSTON
CREDIT UNION CENTRE**

- THURS DEC 7th AT 1:30 – 3PM

• SAT DEC 9th AT 2 – 3:45PM
(Please bring a foodbank Donation)

- THURS DEC 14th AT 1:30 – 3PM
- FRI DEC 22nd AT 12:30 – 2:30PM
- SAT DEC 23rd AT 12:30 – 2:30PM
- SUN DEC 24th AT 12:30 – 2:30PM

ARENA CLOSED DEC 25th & 26th

- WED DEC 27th AT 12:30 – 2:30PM
- THURS DEC 28th AT 12:30 – 2:30PM
- FRI DEC 29th AT 12:30 – 2:30PM
- SAT DEC 30th AT 12:30 – 2:30PM
- SUN DEC 31st AT 6PM – 8:30PM

ARENA CLOSED JAN 1st

TUES JAN 2nd AT 12:30 – 2:30PM



We strongly encourage everyone to bring their helmets. We have some helmets available, so please ask if you need one!

**ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.**

Please call prior to arriving at the rink
902-765-2516 or visit www.wkaa.ca



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Mike McCleave, Clerk/Treasurer**
Date: **December 6, 2017**
Re: **Monthly Finance Report**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THIS REPORT BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION.

Through the first 8 months of the year, there are some known variances which can be reported on. Overall, the year end position is expected to be favourable.

Revenues:

Interest earned (not interest on taxes) account is currently at \$7,600 on an annual budget of \$8,500. The village should expect interest earned to be approximately \$10,000 at year end.

General Expenditures:

The reduction of our monthly banking fees have resulted in a favourable variance of \$1,100 so far this year.

Streetlight electricity costs are currently under budget by 12% (variance \$2,000).

Village Maintenance has a favourable variance of \$31,800. Actual YTD is \$8,700, budget YTD is \$40,500. We have not (yet) received the EFR billings for the yard waste bin project.

Sewer Expenditures:

Collection Maintenance is currently under budget by \$16,400; it was previously reported to be under by \$10,300.

CLERK'S DISCUSSION

Utility and Review Board (UARB) Decision – Re: Expropriation

The UARB decision has been received by the Village. The land cost was determined to be \$35,000 and the injurious affection claim was set at \$12,000 for a total value of \$47,000.

Needs Assessment

The initial needs assessment meeting was productive. Clerk is currently contacting other villages, Department of Municipal Affairs, County, and Engage NS to see how they have dealt with similar assessments in the past. Next meeting is Monday, December 18, 2017 at 7pm.

CIBC Bank Closure

May, 2018 – branch will close in Kingston. I will contact other banks to possibly fill the vacancy in the Village. I will also be in contact with the County for their political and staff support.

Bill 10 – Municipal Government Act (MGA) Changes

Here are the big changes to the MGA that affect villages:

- Every village is now required to adopt an expense policy and hospitality policy
- Every village is now required to adopt a code of conduct
- Quarterly hospitality expense reports must be completed and posted online.
- Quarterly expense reports for village commissioners and the village clerk must be completed and posted online.
- An annual summary report must be filed with the Minister of Municipal Affairs by September 30th.

Bill 59 – An Act Respecting Accessibility in Nova Scotia

This bill deals with accessibility to buildings as well as overall accessibility to its citizens. It is wide-sweeping and will require, from the Village of Kingston's perspective, support from the County and other organizations. The act requires us to have an accessibility committee and we may work with outside organizations to create an accessibility plan. We are just learning of the requirements and I will keep the Commission updated as information is presented.

Property Tax Sales

Assessment Account # 04726464

Greenwood Rent-All 2002, 329 Main Street, Annual Taxes: \$ 901.63

Original Balance Owing: \$3,845.55

Current Balance Owing: \$2,104.85

The partial payments do not negate the requirement for tax sale

Assessment Account # 03945952

Barbara Ann Kennedy, 525 Pleasant Street, Annual Taxes: \$ 756.53

Original Balance Owing: \$1,638.63

Current Balance Owing: \$ 762.57

This property is still eligible for tax sale but the proceedings shall not commence before June 30th, 2018 due to MGA requirements (MGA Section 134 (1)).

Municipal Finance Corporation (MFC) High Interest Savings Account (HISA)

MFC has created the program with CIBC. The HISA account is managed by CIBC and has an interest rate as stated below. The funds can be deposited and withdrawn at any time.

Balance Tiers	Annual Interest Rate
\$0 to \$24.9 Million	CIBC Prime less 1.60%
\$25 Million to \$74.9 Million	CIBC Prime less 1.55%
Over \$74.9 Million	CIBC Prime less 1.50%

Trails Assessment Presentation – Mike Trinacty

John Pierce, Don Holmesdale, Glen Abriel, and Mike McCleave met with Mike Trinacty to discuss the future of the trail.

Capital Budget

Any new projects to be added to our capital plan?

- Dog park
- Retaining wall at Stronach Park
- Needs Assessment budget allocation

Capital Budget Tentative Schedule

January 3, 2018 – Regular Commission Meeting

Prioritize projects based on urgency and Village Commissioners' goals

February 7, 2018 – Regular Commission Meeting

Capital Budget Analysis and Discussion, re-organize, if necessary, any projects based on financial considerations

March 7, 2018 – Regular Commission Meeting

Capital Budget Approval, can defer to April 4, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting if more discussion is needed.



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DISCUSSIONS



Kingston / Greenwood Community Health Board

C/o Soldiers Memorial Hospital, 462 Main St. P.O.

Box 730 Middleton, NS B0S 1P0

kgchb@avdha.nshealth.ca

November 20, 2017

Honorable Kelly Regan, Minister of Community Services
Department of Community Services
8th Floor, Nelson Place
5675 Spring Garden Road
P.O. Box 696, Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T7

Dear Minister,

Re: Supportive and Affordable Housing in Rural Nova Scotia

The Kingston Greenwood Community Health Board recognizes that health is more than illness and that we need to create an environment that promotes health making it easier for people and communities to be and stay healthy. In order to achieve this, we need to care for ourselves, each other and the environment in which we live, learn, grow and play. A piece of what we need to address; to provide an opportunity for all to be healthy, is to improve access to affordable and supportive housing.

Affordable and supportive housing issues in our rural Nova Scotia communities are impacting the ability of many citizens, particularly those most vulnerable, to find suitable housing or to remain successfully housed, which in turns affects their ability to be and stay healthy. The inability of individuals and families to obtain and pay for housing, or to maintain the housing they currently have is at the root of our housing crisis. These factors are increasing pressure on an already overburdened social system. A stable and secure housing market addresses health inequities and provides greater opportunities for all to be healthy by improving: economic development, social development, health and educational outcomes, and poverty reduction.

The recent provincial commitments to affordable housing and public consultation, and the release of a new Federal Housing Strategy, give promise that works towards improving safe, supportive and affordable housing in rural Nova Scotia will be a priority. The KGCHB believes in taking action and making decisions together in order to create healthy communities. We encourage collaborative partnerships at the municipal, provincial and federal levels to ensure access to safe and affordable housing for all.

Our communities must shift from a crisis response to one that seeks to increase access to safe and affordable housing. KGCHB supports the recommendation below:

- 1) Invest in, and improve access to, housing-related supports, which enable rural Nova Scotia's to stay successfully housed in their communities;

- 2) Address non-market housing gaps by developing partnerships across private, public and not-for profit sectors that create new safe, affordable and appropriate housing infrastructure;
- 3) Ensure rural rent supplements that are attached to individuals, not property owners;
- 4) Address and amend legislation (the Municipal Government Act and Municipal Housing Corporation Act) to allow municipalities the flexibility to support the development of safe and affordable housing in their communities.

With the upcoming release of the Federal Housing Strategy, we now have an opportunity to make significant progress in addressing access to safe and affordable housing. These proposed investments are opportunities to put in place infrastructure and supports that will benefit rural communities across the province. Increasing access to safe, accessible, and affordable housing is essential to the wellbeing of our citizens and impacts not only their health, but the economic health of our communities.

Sincerely,



Lane Myers, Co-Chair ACHB

cc: The Honorable Leo Glavine (MLA Kings County)
Dan McDougall, President & CEO Housing Nova Scotia (HNSCEO@novascotia.ca)
The honorable Randy Delorey (Minister of Health and Wellness)
Mayor Peter Muttart (Mayor of Kings County)
Commissioner Don Holmesdale (Chair Village of Kingston)
Commissioner Brian Banks (Chair Village of Greenwood)