



Village of Kingston
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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2020

COMMISSION:

John Pierce
Wayne Fowler
Muriel West
Brad Beardsley
Mike Bishop

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer

GUEST:

Martha Armstrong – Councillor District 4, Municipality of the County of Kings

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pierce called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and stated he was glad to be holding the meeting in person at the Village Office. Due to Covid-19 the meeting was not open to the public.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair Pierce asked for a review of the July 9, 2020 Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER FOWLER AND COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2020 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Pierce asked for any business arising from the minutes of July 9, 2020.

Commissioner West asked if the Village had received any update from Dillon Consulting regarding the design work for Balser Drive sidewalk. Clerk stated they are still working things out with the Department of Transportation.

Commissioner West asked if the plugged sewer line issue at one of the trailers on Magee Drive had been resolved. Clerk stated it was in the hands of the Department of Environment and we have not received an update.

Chair asked about the status of the crosswalk at the intersection of Maple and Main Streets. Clerk stated there has not been any work done there for a few weeks.

Commissioner Beardsley asked about the cost of the dust suppressant that was applied on the trail. Clerk stated it was \$2,700.

J-CLASS ROAD PAVING

Chair stated the County of Kings has a plan regarding J-Class road paving. He and the Clerk attended a meeting at the County with the Mayor, CAO Scott Conrod, Councillor Armstrong and County Engineer Scott Quinn. Chair Pierce expressed several of the Village's concerns at the meeting including the expected contribution of 25% from some of the Villages. One concern is setting a precedent regarding costs from Villages going forward. Another concern is that the Villages do not have any input on the J-Class road priority list. Chair also noted that of the 7 county villages, Port Williams and Canning villages do not have roads under "this" J-Class road program and they are getting their roads done at no charge to them. Three other villages, Greenwood, Cornwallis Square and Aylesford, who do not get gas tax allocated to them annually, can use County gas tax to pay for their road paving in this project. Kingston and New Minas are the only two villages that would have to use their own gas tax allocation to cover the costs.

Councillor Armstrong stated if those 3 villages did get gas tax money for their J-Class roads, the County would take it out of their future gas tax requests.

Chair stated the Village received a letter from the County of Kings asking if they would agree to their plan where the Village would be expected to pay \$67,000 over 5 years.

Councillor Armstrong explained that this plan involves a one time 10 million dollar influx of money provincially.

Councillor Armstrong advised the commission that the tender for the per kilometer price of paving closes on August 21st.

Commission agreed that if the Village has to pay, a letter should be submitted to the County stating the commission would like to have input on which streets make the list.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER FOWLER AND COMMISSIONER WEST THAT THE COMMISSION REQUEST A MEETING WITH THE COUNTY REGARDING J-CLASS ROADS FUNDING. MOTION CARRIED.

FUNDING FOR RECREATION GROUPS

Commissioner Fowler asked Councillor Armstrong if there was extra funding for recreational facilities faced with the added expense of Covid-19 cleaning requirements. Councillor Armstrong suggested sending a written request to the CAO with the financial details and he can present it to County Council.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS – See Full Reports

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

Clerk stated the panels at the lift stations were mislabelled but once it was realized, staff swapped panels and they are getting new documentation to show the difference.

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

Commission liked the new paint colours on the village office and were glad that the boom was useful for the project.

Commissioner West asked if there was a cost estimate for the new public works building. Clerk stated not yet; the quote will include overhead propane fired heat. The building will hold the 3 public works trucks, the MT6 and the float trailer.

Clerk stated he spoke with the individual who vandalized the flower pots in the village and he never acknowledged doing it, even though he was told it was captured on camera.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Clerk stated the day camp has been full 3 weeks out of 6 and that it has been a challenge this year with the Covid-19 restrictions.

Commission agreed the outdoor concerts have been quite popular and a welcome distraction during Covid-19. Clerk suggested possibly having fewer, but better, groups scheduled and really promote them.

Commissioner West stated the Nova 7arts in the park lessons on Tuesday evenings had a slow start but feels they have great potential.

Commissioner West suggested advertising in the newsletter that the village is looking for a group that would be willing to decorate the village with pumpkin people or in another creative way. Commission agreed the groups should be approached rather than advertised for in the newsletter.

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

CLERK / TREASURER REPORT

GENERAL OPERATIONS

There are a few items which can be reported on.

Revenues

Clerk reported that due to Covid-19 restrictions, Summer Day Camp revenues are down considerably - \$6,200 vs. \$16,800 budgeted. Recreation revenues will be down this year

but expenses will be down also. Interest Earned (bank account interest) is higher than budgeted due to low budgeting and carrying a high bank account balance.

Clerk advised the Commission that it is expected there will most likely be a zero or negative assessment change (residential and commercial) due to Covid. If assessments are down, revenues will be down, which may require the village to increase taxes or cut services.

Expenditures

Steer BBQ, Apple Blossom, and Senior's Picnic have all been cancelled due to Covid-19. Summer day camp expenditures are currently \$2,800 with a budgeted \$7,800 annual amount. Crossing Guard expenditures are nil, budgeted \$4,900 for months of April-June.

PW Building Update

Clerk reported the building design is complete and that Able Engineering has suggested using ICF construction as opposed to wood construction. It would add 10% to the building cost but would require up to 50% less energy to heat. Commission agreed to move forward with ICF since long-term operating costs are more of a concern than the 5-10% upfront cost.

Trail Paving / Dust Control

Dust Control has been applied to the trail.

Kingston Advisory Committee

Two properties in Kingston are requesting either a zoning change or a development agreement.

1. 1518/1520 Bridge Street – Owners are planning to build a new garage with a business and a loft upstairs.
2. 768 Main Street

Clerk stated he is waiting for the County on a timeline for a meeting.

Wastewater Lean-to

Clerk stated the initial price on the treatment plant lean-to was higher than budgeted.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER FOWLER AND COMMISSIONER WEST THAT THE VILLAGE COMMISSION INCREASE THE BUDGET TO \$12,000 FOR THE LEAN-TO AT THE TREATMENT PLANT. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk will consult with staff to see if it is a priority or if it could wait until next year and will advise commission.

Approved Capital Projects 2020-21 (Budget / YTD Actual Amounts)

- Water Drilling Study	\$50,000	\$17,661
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Clerk reported the engineer at the county has not been able to contact a landowner for more drilling possibilities. Clerk also re-sent the list of other possible landowners.

- Library Renovation	\$500,000	\$7,453	
- KN5 / KN12 Lift Station Panels	\$40,000	\$32,817	
- SCADA System	\$135,000	\$45,900	
- Main Street Easement Renewal	\$60,000	\$32,780	
- Balser Sidewalk Design	\$10,000	\$8,448	
- Main/Maple RRFB Crosswalks	\$15,000		
- PW Building	\$250,000	\$700	
- Ravenwood Dugouts	\$13,000	\$5,006	(Complete)
- Village Office Exterior Repairs	\$5,000	\$3,360	
- Recreation Storage Shed(s)	\$9,000	\$7,440	(Complete)
- Wastewater Lean-to	\$5,000		
- Tow-behind Boom Lift	\$40,000	\$38,291	(Complete)

DISCUSSIONS:

Clerk reported the local Aikido instructor has approached the Village looking for a space that would be suitable for his classes during the Covid-19 restrictions.

Chair asked why the province is allowing municipal elections and will not allow village elections during Covid-19. Commission agreed to contact the Association of Nova Scotia Villages and present the idea of approaching the province as a group regarding elections.

Commissioner West asked about having bins for the fall leaf pickup. Clerk will contact EFR to make sure the village is able to get bins for this service.

Commissioner West asked about the status of the request to having the speed zone reduced on either end of the Village on Main St. Clerk stated it takes time for the Department of Transportation to process the request and verify the need.

Commissioner West asked what is being built on Westwood Street. Clerk stated a small options home is being built there.

Commissioner Beardsley asked about having a duck crossing sign on Bridge Street by Stronach Park entrance. Clerk reported it is the responsibility of the Department of Transportation.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER FOWLER AND COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY
THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:52PM. MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER