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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL 13, 2023

COMMISSION:

Wayne Fowler – Chair
Mike Bishop – Vice Chair
Muriel West
Neil Larder
Lauren Avery - Absent

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Knickle – Absent

GUESTS:

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

COUNTY UPDATE

Councillor Armstrong provided the following update:

- County Council passed the 2023/24 budget.
- Due to many upcoming projects, there will be a significant amount of borrowing. (Councillor Armstrong was not in favor of borrowing).
- No increase in commercial or residential tax rates.
- The UARB hearing took place today for the county district boundary changes. The ruling should be announced within the next month. Kingston and Greenwood will be amalgamated into one, with the eastern boundary near Glebe Road. Military housing will be included in District 5. The next boundary review will be in 8 years time.
- In anticipation of DND giving up ownership of the 140-acre property at the west end of Greenwood (where PMQ row housing was torn down), the County has been working toward rezoning the land. DND is going through the process to determine if they want to declare the land as surplus. If/when that happens, the County will be ready to go.
- Chair Fowler invited Councillor Armstrong to the grand opening of Kingston's new disc golf course on Saturday May 13th in Ravenwood park.
- Still no word on the federal government grant for a water system in Kingston.
- Councillor Jim Winsor resigned on Tuesday afternoon. There will be a by-election to fill the position for the next 17 months until the next county election in 2024.
- Councillor Armstrong and Mayor Muttart will be at the District 4 meeting at the Kingston fire hall on April 26th.

Village resident Shawn Roberts raised questions about smart city planning and fifteen-minute cities and what it means for the Village of Kingston. Commission agreed it is an item they would like to get more educated in before commenting on. Chair Fowler offered to forward his concerns on to the federal government. Councillor Armstrong

acknowledged there are articles out there filled with misinformation regarding smart cities and fifteen-minute cities and since everyone interprets these articles differently, some lean toward conspiracy theories. Mr. Roberts agreed to draft an email with his concerns and send it to the Village, the County, the MLA and the MP.

OPENING

Chair Fowler called the Regular Session meeting to order at 7:00pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair asked for a review of the March 9, 2023, Regular Session meeting minutes.

The following sentences under MLA update should read:

- Doctors '*trained outside of North America*' are not streamlined yet to practice in NS.
- More access to pharmacists at Wilson's Drug Store in Berwick and Shopper's Drug Mart '*in Greenwood*'.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER LARDER, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2023, WITH CHANGES. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Commissioners agreed the news of a new Kingston Farmer's Market should go into the Village's May newsletter.

Commission agreed they would like to have the steer on the float this year. Going forward, since volunteers are hard to come by, it would be easier to have a permanent Steer BBQ float rather than an Apple Blossom themed float (which changes annually).

Two commissioners and Clerk will attend the District 4 Meeting at the fire hall on April 26th at 7pm. Chair Fowler and Commissioner Larder will attend the RCMP/ theft crime meeting the same night in Aylesford.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

Chair asked for any additions to the agenda. No additions.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER LARDER THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

Newsletter – Sewer Issues

Commission agreed to advise residents, in the newsletter, to first call the Village Office so staff can determine if the problem is in the Village's main sewer line or in the homeowner's line.

KN3 Lift Station Tender

The tender will be issued for the KN3 lift station retrofit within the month and will be advertised for a few weeks.

Greenwood Road Sewer

As in budget discussions, Commission agreed this was not a priority project for this year.

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

Supplies for New Public Works Building

New supplies for the new public works building were included in the capital budget.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Grant Applications

Commission appreciates all the grant applications the Rec Coordinator is submitting for various programs and equipment.

Rec Hut Door

The door at the Rec Hut will be replaced regardless of grant.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – See Full Report

Business Appreciation Event

The event is being planned for the morning of April 26th. Commission would like to attend but would like to have more information. It also may not be a suitable time for some commissioners.

Social Media

Commission agreed to have staff attend the \$750 training session consisting of two 3-hour sessions. Commission would like to see how staff manages with the training session before considering the other proposal consisting of a development fee and a monthly fee for 12 months (cost-shared with Greenwood).

Shredding Event

Commission agreed the Lions Club can submit a Festivals and Events grant application to hold a shredding event for Village residents.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Steer BBQ – See Full Report

Commissioner West provided these highlights from the March 22nd meeting:

- Paragon Golf Tournament has been approved for Friday morning July 7th.
- Foam Party has been booked and will take place late Friday.
- 5km 'Running with the Steer' will be run by Lauren Avery and other volunteers on Sunday morning July 9th.
- Afternoon Concert in the Park will be held on July 9th.
- Possible funding sources: Kings County, Province of NS, Atlantic Lotto, Valley Credit Union, and the Dairy Farmers of NS.
- Centennial Park will be designated for activities for small children.
- Kingston Legion will run the beer tent and the parade.
- Information will be included in the Village newsletter.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC)

Commissioner Bishop's term ends in May, but he agreed to continue if he is successful in staying on as Commissioner for another term.

- County of Kings is making a template for a bus stop that includes accessibility.
- The Village can reach out to accessibility coordinator Katie MacArthur for any help applying for accessibility grants.
- The County is proclaiming May 28 to June 3 as accessibility week. This information can be added to the LED sign.

Kingston Area Advisory Committee

There is growth happening in various areas of the Village. A new business is being built on Main Street, as well as residential developments throughout the Village.

Audit Committee

N/A

Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation – Dr. Recruitment Committee - See full report.

N/A

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

Meetings are held 4 times a year and commission feel one should be in person.

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER LARDER THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON COMMISSION AWARD THE EAST MAIN STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT (2023-301) TO HOWARD LITTLE EXCAVATING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$481,673.40 + HST TO BE FUNDED TWO-THIRDS BY CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND AND THE REMAINDER BY SIDEWALK RESERVES. MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER WEST THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON COMMISSION AWARD THE HARVEST MOON TRAIL PAVING PROJECT TO DEXTER CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,325.00 + HST TO BE FUNDED TWO-THIRDS BY CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND AND THE REMAINDER BY SIDEWALK RESERVES. MOTION CARRIED.

Village Election (2 Positions) and AGM

Commissioner Larder and Commissioner Bishop are both up for re-election.

Nomination Period Thursday, May 11, 2023 – Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Nomination Day Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Advance Poll Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Annual General Meeting Thursday, June 8, 2023

Election Day Saturday, June 10, 2023

Speed Sign Location

Resident would like the Village's speed sign installed on Maple Street (for northbound traffic) prior to Pine Ridge Avenue. Commission agreed to have speed sign temporarily installed on Maple St.

Steer BBQ Post Office Box

Commission agreed to keep a separate PO Box for the Steer BBQ for another year.

NS Department of Public Works (DPW)

Clerk met with Operations Supervisor, Sergey Averin, and Area Manager, Logan Webb, to discuss outstanding issues in Kingston.

- DPW will try to get the Village's crosswalk painting and street sweeping done earlier in the year.
- DPW is aware of the poor condition of Markland Rd, especially the section of in front of the Superstore. They only agreed to grade the gravelled section of Markland Rd in front of the dental office.
- DPW's policy is they are allowed to patch potholes without traffic control if they only spend a certain amount of time in one location. Therefore, they must come back another time to fill the other holes in the same area.

443 Pine Ridge Ave

Resident is inquiring about village paying for larger portion of sewer repair. Clerk will clarify with staff and report back next meeting.

Speed Reduction East Main Street

Resident is inquiring about having the speed limit on Highway 1 reduced to our eastern boundary of the Village. DPW is aware of the Village's request to lower the speed limit.

Festivals and Community Events Funding

Two applications have been submitted, one for the Kingston Farmers Market and one for the Steer BBQ run.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON COMMISSION APPROVE THE \$1,000 FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE KINGSTON FARMERS MARKET THROUGH THE FESTIVALS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS FUNDING. MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON COMMISSION APPROVE THE \$500 FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE STEER BBQ FUN RUN TO BE HELD JULY 9TH THROUGH THE FESTIVALS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS FUNDING. MOTION CARRIED.

Capital Projects – See Report

Public Works Building

The building should be completed by the end of April. Commission will tour the building once completed.

East Main St Sidewalk Design

Tender closed on March 30th and three bids were received. The three bids were \$481,673.40, \$492,959.50, and \$564,590.00 + HST.

Village Office Exterior

On April 11th the new office windows were installed due to broken seals. Commission agreed to have staff get a quote to replace the windows in the conference room.

Irving Parking Lot Beautification

Commission asked if it would be possible to have the work completed by Steer BBQ date and if the work for the lamp standards could at least be started. Clerk will ask staff about installing lamp standards. Commission will decide on whether to put a design out to tender.

FINANCIAL REPORT – See Report

The financial year-end report indicates a \$141,000 surplus and a sewer deficit of \$28,000.

DISCUSSION:

Car Charging Stations

Commission agreed they would like to investigate getting charging stations for the Village. One possible location is the arena.

Scouts Garden

Commission questioned the future of the garden and whether the Scout group will be able to continue to maintain it. Some residents have complained there is no beautification at the west end of the Village. Commission agreed it would be nice to keep it, but it would depend on whether the Village wants to maintain it.

Library

The Kingston Library has grown in numbers, particularly since the Greenwood Library closed its doors. To expand the hours at the library, an appeal would have to be made to the County and the Province. Commission agreed to send a request to regulate/expand the hours at the library.

Poorly Paved Roads in Village of Kingston

Complaints were received about certain roads and the poor condition of the pavement. Commission acknowledges there are certain roads that are in poor shape in the Village such as Old French Road and Elm St. Unfortunately, the Village does not have a say in what roads are repaved. They are scored by the County and the NS Department of Public Works.

Liquor Store and Markland Rd

Commission agreed to have Clerk call Loblaw's to see if they are aware of the situation with Markland Road and if there is any way the liquor store could stay in Kingston.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Village of Greenwood has informally asked for help to fund the Rib Fest they are hosting this summer.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:52pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER