



Village of Kingston
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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2023

COMMISSION:

Wayne Fowler
Mike Bishop
Muriel West
Neil Larder
Lauren Avery

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Knickle – Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

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

OPENING

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

Resident Concerns

Mr. Roberts was concerned about who was paying for the paved aprons that were put in during the paving of the new east Main St sidewalk. It was explained by the Commission that the aprons were done during paving to prevent having to cut up the new sidewalk later when development occurs. As well, 7 of those aprons are so that public works staff has access to the sewer manholes in sidewalk.

Mr. Roberts also raised the concern that residents are struggling financially through these difficult times. He asked the Commissioners to do whatever they could to help residents, including lowering taxes, getting Property Valuation Services Corp (PVSC) to lower assessments, asking the Federal Government to eliminate the carbon tax and lower gas costs. Commission agreed to discuss these concerns at a future meeting.

County of Kings Update

1. Councillor Armstrong reported that County Council agreed to write a letter of request for a cease fire in Gaza.
2. The County has two committee citizen member openings, one on the Planning Advisory Committee and one on the Audit and Finance Committee. The applications are online. Village will share the information on our Facebook page.
3. A new long-term care home has been promised to be built somewhere between Berwick and Wolfville. Councillor advised the Commission to put a request in to MLA Chris Palmer to have the location be between Berwick and Middleton.
4. Mayor Muttart has been off due to health reasons.

5. The County did a joint feasibility study with the towns of Wolfville and Berwick for a possible aquatic centre with a possible pickleball/tennis court only, no rinks. The towns did not find it affordable.
6. To get hours extended at the Kingston library, Councillor Armstrong advised Commission to ask the library board.

Chair Fowler advised Councillor Armstrong that the Village Commission is working with Loblaws to try to have a new business, such as a restaurant, move into the Kingston NSLC store building once they move to their new location in Greenwood.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

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

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER AVERY, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Commission agreed the Santa Comes to Kingston event went well. Commissioner West enjoyed meeting the Village's business owners while hand delivering Christmas cards.

Chair Fowler offered apologies for missing both the Santa Comes to Kingston event and the last meeting due to illness but will attend the Lions breakfast.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

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

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

Sewer Backup

A homeowner on Kalley Lane filed an insurance claim for a sewer backup. Clerk has notified the village's insurance company.

Sewer Treatment Plant UV Room Flood Prevention

The one bid received for the UV Room Flood Mitigation Project tender came in at triple the budget, so the Commission agreed to defer this project to a future date.

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

Power Poles on New Sidewalk

Clerk will contact Bell Aliant once again to get the easement process completed in order to get the poles removed from the middle of the new sidewalk in East Kingston.

Christmas Decorations

On behalf of the decorating committee, Commissioner Avery thanked public works staff for installing their three garlands on the Village office building and for hanging ornaments on the top area of the evergreen tree. Commission would like to plan for some future permanent decorations, such as more streetlamps, at the west end of the village. This can be discussed during capital budget time.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Santa Comes to Kingston

Commission suggested that staff get a 'Line Closed' sign for the balloon animal line up for future events.

Santa's Drive Through Kingston

The vehicles involved will be a side-by-side with Santa, the Village truck, a fire truck, and a food bank vehicle. This is an opportunity for the community to see Santa and contribute to the Upper Room Food Bank. It will take place on Friday Dec 15th beginning at 6pm in Oakhurst Subdivision.

AED for Village Office

Clerk will get quotes for an AED for the village and library.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – See Full Report

Business Holiday Wreath Decorating Competition

Many businesses were not aware of the business wreath decorating contest or that there were to be two prizes advertised for the winner. The names of businesses that participated would go into a draw and prizes were to be a Kingsley trophy and the winning business advertised on the LED sign. All business wreaths should also be included on our Facebook page and tagged afterward.

Business Meetings

Commission would like to have designated speakers/presenters at these meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Steer BBQ

N/A

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC)

Commissioner Bishop reported they approved their budget at the meeting last night. The Village's contribution is \$4,064. Their meeting schedule will now be quarterly and, in between, there will be working groups networking with civilians.

Kingston Area Advisory Committee (KAAC)

Peckford Holdings has a zoning change application into the County for a property at the end of Mosher Street. There will be an upcoming KAAC meeting.

Audit Committee

N/A

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

Commissioner West provided the following update:

- The percentage of people without a doctor from Aylesford to Bridgetown has dropped from 30% to 19%.
- Another new doctor will soon be practicing in the area mainly as an emergency room doctor.
- Valley Regional has noticed the work of this committee and are looking into implementing the same type of committee to help recruit and retain doctors.
- Committee adopted the slogan 'Make Mid Valley Home'.
- The Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation is encouraging communities to promote anti-racism and inclusion of all ethnicities. Committee member Anne Crowell would like to make a presentation at a future Village meeting and ask to have banners hung around the Village.
- The committee members have planned various activities for the new doctors and families such as taking them to a hockey game and organizing a wreath making event.
- Committee also brought gifts to the Medical Centre in Kingston and helped new doctors settle into their new homes.
- Commissioner West made a wreath and centrepiece for Dr. Ayeni's home.
- These efforts will hopefully help to make the new doctors feel welcome and want to stay in the area.

Clerk was not able to attend the last Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation meeting.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

N/A

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

TD Insurance FOIPOP Request

TD Insurance will be sending a FOIPOP request to the office.

Leaf/Brush Bins

The cost to have leaf/brush bins last year was \$7,500 and this year it was \$16,432, due to the addition of and increase in tipping fees. The Village does not have any accessible land to dump them on.

Request for Power Bill Help

The Village received correspondence from a lady asking for assistance with her power bill. The Village advised they do not have the authority to give financial assistance but provided contacts for organizations that can. The response was copied to MLA Chris Palmer.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages

The Village of Bible Hill is asking if other NS villages are open to funding an admin staff person that could aid the board by doing research, writing letters etc., to continue in a stronger, more effective way. Salary could be based on a percentage of each village's tax revenues. Municipal Affairs may even contribute financially. Commissioners agreed they are open to funding a position.

Village Mural

The Village has received permission from the owner to have a mural painted on the west side of 565 Main Street. The owner would like to have some input on design. Staff will look into the cost of a mural for that sized wall for next year's budget.

Village Insurance – NSFM Invoice

This municipal insurance program through NSFM allows the Village to get a great rate. They are now making it mandatory for the Villages to pay an annual 2.5% fee to get a better insurance rate. Villages would like to have more support from NSFM going forward. Clerk will bring more information in January.

Christmas Lights

Staff would like the Commission to consider purchasing permanent LED lights for the village office, the library, the bandstand, and the old VIC building. These lights can be programmed to change colour which could be used for various holidays throughout the year. Clerk will get quotes and Commission can discuss during next budget.

Capital Projects

Electrical Ventilation at Treatment Plant

50% drawings have been approved.

Sewer Treatment Plant UV Room Flooding

Deferred to a future date.

New Salt Shed

The Britespan building is complete. The garage door will be installed once the steel has been galvanized and the electrical work started today.

Public Works Building

Deficiency with electrical has been resolved, just waiting for implementation. Elevation and grading issues were fixed this week in the front of the building.

Irving Parking Lot

Bike racks are ready and will be picked up tomorrow.

East Main Sidewalk

There was an overage due to more than estimated unsuitable soil underneath. Still waiting for poles in the new sidewalk to be moved by NS Power/Bell Aliant.

KN#3 Lift Station

Shop drawings have been approved.

2023-24 Projects	Budget	Tender w/ HST portion	YTD Actual	Status
East Main Sidewalk	1,200,000	502,318	507,240	C
Bridge Street Crosswalk	30,000			
Bus Shelter (and bike racks)	30,000	13,663		C

Railway Trail Paving+Irving lot paving	150,000	149,564	149,564	Z
KN#3 Lift Station Renewal	200,000	266,400	125	C
KN#2 Lift Station Panel Replacement	25,000	Deferred	Deferred	Z
STP – UV Building Renovation	95,000	31,167	20,939	T
STP – Electrical, Ventilation, Mechanical	303,500	54,000		Pre-T
Asset Management Plan	20,000	n/a		
Balser Drive Sewer Line	20,000	28,147	30,304	Z
Pumps and Laterals	20,000	n/a		
Irving Lot (less paving \$46,389)	30,000	27,583	19,826	C
PW Building Equipment	10,000	n/a	10,360	Z
Salt Shed	125,000	166,507	29,258	C
Truck #3 Replacement	75,000	68,921	68,921	Z
Disc Golf	20,000	18,500	19,280	Z
Total	2,050,000			

Year	Multi-Year Projects	Budget	Tender w/ HST portion	YTD Actual	Status
Prev	PW Building	475,000	388,700+86,300	381,976	Z
2023	PW Building Remaining	93,024	n/a	32,895	C
2008	DNR Greenspace Purchase	n/a	n/a	7,691	C

T - Tendering Process
C - Work started / Construction
Z – Finished

Finance Report

Costs have gone up considerably this year so the budget will be tight.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The Village received a request to have our speed sign placed along Main St near the Sparky St intersection. This request will have to wait until spring or when there is warmer weather.
2. The black wood panel next to the Yellow Leaf Restaurant looks unsightly and needs repainting or replaced.
3. The path, as well as the chain-link fence, behind Kingston School that leads to Peckford Holdings is unsightly. This area belongs to the school.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:25pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER