



Village of Kingston  
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## **KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

#### **COMMISSION:**

Wayne Fowler  
Mike Bishop  
Muriel West  
Neil Larder  
Lauren Avery

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer  
Janice Knickle – Administrative Assistant

#### **OPENING**

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

#### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Chair asked for a review of the December 14, 2023, Regular Session meeting minutes.

**ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER LARDER, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2024, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### Letter of Support for Library Funding

Letter of support for funding increases for Kingston library was prepared and will be sent out tomorrow. The Kingston Library continues to be very busy, and staff are compiling a list of personal letters from patrons expressing their appreciation for the library and all it provides.

##### Village Thank You Cards

Staff ordered 25 thank you cards and 25 blank cards with the village logo to have on hand for future use.

##### Resident Concerns

Clerk provided a detailed email response to resident Sean Roberts regarding his concerns but did not receive a reply.

## **CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS**

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

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

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report**

Commission agreed that the suggestion by engineers of combining the sewer treatment plant projects may not necessarily save money.

### **PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report**

#### Outdoor Rink at Tennis Courts

Commission asked to have "Use at Own Risk" signs installed at the tennis court rinks.

### **RECREATION – See Full Report**

#### Recreation Survey

Commission suggested staff put the survey on Facebook a few more times, distribute posters with a QR code, advertise it on the LED sign, and add it to the Credit Union Centre's Facebook page.

Commission asked if staff could take a picture of the public borrowing winter sporting equipment at the Village Office and posting it on social media. The list of equipment should also be posted often throughout the winter as a reminder.

Commissioner Avery confirmed that Annapolis County has kick-sleds to borrow and asked if staff could look into the cost of them to add to the Village's equipment borrowing list.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – See Full Report**

#### Kingston/Greenwood Business Meeting

The business meeting was not that well attended by Kingston businesses, which may have been due to the rainy weather. For the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, staff to put out reminders early on and later, with more than just social media. The Village is coordinating this effort for the businesses, but they need to be on board to make it work so they can eventually run it themselves. If the meetings are not well attended, the Village will discontinue its efforts.

#### Mural on West Side of 565 Main St

Commission would like to form an action plan for this project. Commissioner Avery knows potential artists and will start by submitting pictures/ideas.

#### Steer BBQ

- Suggestion was made to hold a family movie night (Ferdinand?) in the arena the Wednesday before Steer BBQ. A group could use it as a fundraiser and sell treats.
- There will be a new addition of a children's 1km fun run on Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Commission would like to see more grant funding from the County for this event since it may extend to 5 days. The funding amounts are a county staff decision so they should be informed that the event is now longer in duration.
- Brad Beardsley will continue as Chair for another year and will co-chair next year.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### Steer BBQ

Clerk will have community development staff provide a report going forward.

##### Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC)

N/A

##### Kingston Area Advisory Committee (KAAC)

Committee agreed to support the rezoning change for Mosher St. requested by Peckford Holdings to allow for more residential housing.

##### Audit Committee

N/A

##### Soldiers Memorial Hospital (SMH) Foundation – Dr. Recruitment Committee – See full report.

Commissioner West provided the following highlights of the meeting:

- Committee has been busy planning fun new experiences for the new doctors and their families such as skating.
- Committee will submit another grant application to help fund upcoming projects.
- New doctor is now working at the ER at Valley Regional Hospital and will also do shifts at SMH.
- Committee members will visit medical centres on Feb 14 with hot chocolate pods.
- There will be another PRAP candidate training at the Kingston Medical Centre starting February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner West invited one of the new doctors over for dinner to welcome him to the area.

##### Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

The Village of Bible Hill sent Kingston a draft letter to peruse, and it will then be sent out to all villages to see if there is an interest in funding a staff person.

## **CLERK REPORT – See Full Report**

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### Conference Table

Staff sent 4 options of tables with outlets for commission to decide on. Commission agreed on the modular style tables.

#### Alien Christmas Lights

Commission would like to have quotes for the programmable LED lights on the Village Office, the bandstand and the old Visitor Centre. This type of light allows for permanent holiday lighting that can be programmed to change colours, for various holidays. Staff would also not have to bring the boom lift/ladder over every year to put up the Christmas lights.

Contact for Alien lights also has a used cow bouncer that he would sell to the Village for \$3,400. Staff will contact owner of Bounce Kingdom to see if he would be interested in purchasing it. The Village would want to use it every Steer BBQ.

### **Capital Projects**

The tender for the electrical, ventilation and mechanical project at the sewer treatment plant is ready to go out. Commission agreed to put the tender out right away.

### **CAPITAL BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Clerk highlighted the following:

- There are two tax rates in the Village's accounting: general and sewer rate. Revenues for each are tracked separately.
- The operating reserve balance the Village uses 15%. The reserves are currently at \$233,000.
- The entire budget is 1.6 million. The tax revenue budget is at 1 million.
- The reserve total starting April 1<sup>st</sup> will be 1.45 million. The Village's contribution to reserves for 2024/25 will be \$400,000 but will expend \$303,000 in Capital expenditures. The reserve total March 31, 2025, will then be \$1,544,172. The reserves contributions would have to be higher if not for the various grants the Village receives.
- The 10-year gas tax program allocation from the County to the Village will reach the 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2024/25. The amount remaining of \$760,682 must be spent by March 31, 2025. The sewer treatment plant projects may take that entire amount.

#### Splash Pad Funding

There may be funding possibilities for a splash pad for the Village. Clerk will contact MLA Chris Palmer for possible grants/closing dates and will see if gas tax funding can be used for this type of project.

#### Highway 101 Village Sign

Commission would like to have an action plan for a Village sign to be installed on Highway 101 leading up to Kingston's two exits. Commissioner West presented the idea of having a picture of Kingsley with the words Village of Kingston.

#### EV Chargers

Clerk will check with charging companies to see if they would install and maintain EV chargers in the Village. Commissioner Larder will also check to see if there is interest from Nova Scotia Power and/or a local business.

#### Kingsley Decorating

Suggestion was made to decorate Kingsley for each season/holiday.

#### Kingston Sign

Suggestion was made to add a Kingston sign like the Toronto sign in front of the Superstore that could be lit up at night.

#### Alternate Kingsley

Staff will check with Noggins Farm in Greenwich to see where they purchased their cow statue.

#### Commission Budget Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### Winter Speed Sign Request

Resident asked commission if the Village could purchase a winter speed sign. Commission agreed the sign would be too costly, there would be the added cost of a monthly power bill and the flow of traffic in winter is slower.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

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COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

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CLERK/TREASURER