



Minutes

Village of Chester Regular Monthly Meeting – May 8, 2013

Present: Brenda Mulrooney, Bill Zinck, Michael Heisler, Wynand Baerken, Tom Mulrooney and Iris Tolliver

Regrets: None

Additions to the Agenda

The minutes from **April 10, 2013** were circulated and reviewed. **Billy Zinck moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Tom Mulrooney.**

Old Business

Garbage Collection

Village Resident Ray Cambria opened his presentation by stating he was opposed to the Commission doing waste collection in the Village, based on three concerns. His first concern involves determining the true cost savings while considering related costs such as the special pick ups, improper sorting, and curbside inspections. Second concern involves enforcement as it relates to problematic areas. The Village has no by laws or by law staff. His final concern he referred to as the common good. As residents of the village, we are residents of the Municipality. He feels that the Municipality makes tough choices in terms of who gets what services and at what cost. He referred to the Lido Pool whose cost is maintained solely by the Village residents, many of who do not even use the pool. He suggested that the reason that non-residents are not charged to use the pool is because the Lido is part of the common good of the Municipality.

Chair Brenda Mulrooney thanked Mr. Cambria and acknowledged his concerns. She assured him that a thorough analysis would be done before any action was taken. The preliminary figures are budgetary only. She reminded him that only the cost for the collector would be affected and that the Village would still be paying taxes for the related costs he referred to.

Reports:

➤ **Fire Chief's Report**

Since the last commission meeting on April 10, we have had 1 practice and 7 callouts consisting of 2 controlled burns, 1 mutual aid call, 1 MVA, 1 powerline problem, 1 chimney fire and 1 medical assist.

Thank You,
Duke Chief
Chester Fire Chief

➤ **Truck Report**

Nothing to report.

➤ **Fire Advisory Report**

Nothing to report.

➤ **Clerk Treasurer Report**

Village Commissioners Training

On Saturday, June 15, Service NS and Municipal Relations is hosting a Village Commissioners Training Seminar. The presenters will be Paul Wills and Mark Beck. Itinerary. Any who are interested in attending, please see Clerk.

Career Centre Employment Solutions

I have been contacted by the Employment Solution Society to rent space to them. They are a non-profit organization funded through the Canada-Nova Scotia Labor Market Development Agreement under the direction of Employment Nova Scotia. They offer 3 levels of free service, self-serve, registered and specialized and outreach services to those who are unemployed or underemployed

Signage at Office

I have received comments that the signage for our office here is not adequate. I would like to have permission to address the small overhead sign outside, and also signage on our main door. Because the doors look like a home and not an office, a couple people have been confused as to how to find us.

Weekly Garbage Collection

The weekly green bins program for this summer will begin on June 11 and run through to Sept 10. I will be putting out a special newsletter to inform residents, as well as posting notices outside our office and on the web site.

Public Washrooms

The public washrooms are open. The hours they will be opened are 8:00am to 8:00 pm for now. Our summer student will be starting on Monday. He will be getting things ready for the pool to open. The swim program will start on June 24th. I am working to have the pool ready, but not opened, by the second week in June. That will ensure the water has a chance to warm up a little for the kids who are in the first session. The pool will be opened for public swim until 9:00 pm and then the gates will be locked. In previous years, the gates have not been locked at night, but that will change this year.

Siren at Fire Hall

I have been asked to have the Commission explain the purpose of the siren at the Fire Hall and what the real value is to have it sound with every fire call. This has been an ongoing concern for some of the residents in the Village, particularly those living in close proximity to the hall. I did take the initiative to call Scotia Business Centre to see if ringing a Siren is the norm and I was told that only 4 stations that they dispatch do. (approximately – she did not look up any information). She did say that none of the stations in urban areas sound a siren even if they have one on their station.

The Fire Chief responded that the siren only sounds between the hours of 7am and 11pm. He then gave what he referred to as three valid reasons for using the siren. First that it alerts residents that fire trucks are going to be moving through the village, second that it alerts families their husband/wife have gone to a fire call and third that the odd time that a fire fighter does not have his pager and happens to be in the Village, he will be alerted to the call.

It was pointed out that the majority of fire fighters do not live in the village and so would not hear the siren. Commissioner Tom Mulrooney pointed out that this issue goes back 20-30 years when past Fire Chief Fred Corkum was Chair of the Village Commission. The Commission was reluctant to provide cell phones and pagers for the members of CVFD. They reconsidered when the fire fighters said that with pagers and cell phones, there would be no need for the siren. Mr Corkum was in favor of discontinuing the use of the siren. Chair Brenda Mulrooney questioned whether the siren could be better used as a warning system to alert residents of an impending disaster. There is presently no such system in the village.

Commissioner Baerken pointed out that for residents who live nearest the fire station, the siren is more of a concern, especially where there is sickness or anxiety issues in the home.

Commissioner Tom Mulrooney motioned to terminate the siren for the purpose for which it is currently used. Commissioner Baerken seconded the motion. A show of hands revealed two were in favor and two were against. Chair Mulrooney thought since there was still some hesitation concerning the termination of the siren, it should be tabled until more feedback could be gathered.

Financial Report

A report of the activity since the last meeting was given by the Clerk/Treasurer. A balance of the bank accounts was read. There were no questions. ***Bill Zinck motioned to accept the report as given, seconded by Mike Heisler. All were in favor.***

New Business

2013-14 Budget

The final budget was presented to the Commission. The Village tax would be up slightly to 7.84/100 assessment, the Fire rate would be 6.94/ 100 assessment for a total Rate of 14.78/100 assessment. The rate is up 1 and a quarter cent over last year's rate.

Bill Zinck moved to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Mike Heisler and all were in favor. The budget was approved.

Correspondence

Service Canada Our application for the grant for our summer student lifeguard has been approved.

NS Municipal Finance Corp A copy of the matured debenture for the loan to build the EMC building was received.

Scotiabank A copy of our investment portfolio was received.

Question from electors pertaining to the agenda

Ray Cambria had no question, but he offered suggestions on the Fire Siren and expressed his displeasure over the tax rate.

Ben Wiper asked if there was any room made in the budget for WiFi in the village and was told there was not.

Danny Nauss had no question, but expressed his concern about losing the Fire Siren.

Danielle Barkhouse asked if the cost for a Crossing Guard was included in the budget and was told that there is a budget to pay for a crossing guard this September, before and after school, but not at lunch time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45

Brenda Mulrooney _____
Chair

Iris Tolliver _____
Clerk/Treasurer