



Minutes

Village of Chester Regular Monthly Meeting – July 31, 2013

Present: Brenda Mulrooney, Commission Chair; Wynand Baerken, Commissioner; Iris Tolliver, Clerk Treasurer; Billy Zinck, Commissioner; Piotr Luczak, Solicitor; Michael Heisler, Commissioner; Bill Nauss, Commissioner; Duke Chafe, Fire Chief; Dave Richardson, Deputy Fire Chief.

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Mulrooney called the monthly meeting to order at 6:59 PM and Chair Mulrooney introduced the members around the table.

2.0 Minutes from June 12/13

MOTION: Billy Zinck moved to accept the minutes from the June 12/13 meeting, seconded by Michael Heisler. Carried.

3.0 Old Business

a) Furnace at Fire Hall

A recommendation from an audit was to replace the 25 year old oil furnace at the Fire Hall.

Pricing was received from -

West Nova - \$22,064.09 (not including tax)

Superior Propane - \$29,290.00 (not including tax) with additional cost for excavation, electrical, and removal of old equipment.

MOTION: Billy Zinck Jr., moved to tender for a propane furnace, seconded by Wynand Baerken. Carried.

b) Fire Siren Update

Chair Mulrooney gave an overview of what has transpired with the Fire Siren. In the May meeting it was decided to hold off making a decision until September, so that pertinent facts could be collected concerning the use of the siren. Chair Mulrooney stated they are hoping to make a decision on the siren in September, unless more information is required.

c) Garbage Collection

Clerk Treasurer, Iris Tolliver, reviewed the process which has been taken to this point on the garbage collection issue. In December 2011 the Commission informed Municipality that they were considering full stream garbage collection and a letter was sent to Council asking that the Village not be included in any further negotiations for garbage collection. In February 2012 the Village called for "expressions of interest" and three different price quotes were received for the purpose of budgeting. In January 2013 the Village sent a letter to the Municipality

stating that the Village was requesting to be exempt from Municipal Garbage collection contract that was up for renewal in March of 2014 and requested a meeting. During that meeting the Village of Chester made clear they intended to go after their own contract. The reason was also made clear, there would be a savings to the Village of approximately \$75,000. A letter was received from the Municipality of Chester from July 29, 2013, that Council will be continuing to provide waste collection.

Chair Mulrooney stated that the Commission can continue and go forward and see what happens, or we can seek legal counsel to find out what is going on and what the Village's options are, if any. The matter was tabled until September.

4.0 Reports

a) Fire Chief's Report

Chief Duke Chafe reported that since the last commission meeting on June 12/13, there had been 23 callouts consisting of 8 alarms, 4 medical assists, 3 practices, 2 MVA's, 2 mutual aid calls, 2 structure fires, 1 truck fire and 1 electrical burning smell.

b) Report on Trucks

Clerk Treasurer, Iris Tolliver, reported that a purchase order has been issued for a 2013 custom pumper truck to be made by Fort Garry for a \$611,514.50 (taxes included). Iris Tolliver thanked Dave Kennedy for his help with this project. Iris Tolliver requested that a bylaw be written for purchasing fire equipment for the Village and she would like to have it on the October agenda.

c) Fire Advisory

Billy Zinck stated that Department registrations are happening. A letter for Incident Stress Disorders for fire fighters was received and the Advisory is awaiting Fire Association of Nova Scotia (FSANS) position on this issue.

d) Clerk Treasurer's Report

The Key fobs are in the process of being installed at the Fire Hall and it is anticipated that they will be completed next week.

An ad will be run for Crossing Guards next week to fill this position and it will be started in September, 2013.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages is holding their 9th AGM in New Minas on September 13 & 14, 2013.

Registration will need to be returned for August 30, 2013. If any commissioner wishes to go, please contact Iris Tolliver.

Grant Thornton sent the approved Audited Financial Statements and a copy was given to Scotiabank and also to Service Nova Scotia.

Ron Boudreau with Risk Management Services from Gowan, the Commission's insurance agent, was in to follow up on upgrades to Lido Pool, Fire Hall, EMC, etc.

e) Financial Report

Iris Tolliver gave the financial report for the month of June, 2013.

There are two GIC's maturing and will need to be re-invested, however some of the money will need to be used to pay for the fire truck.

There were no questions on the report

MOTION: Billy Zinck moved the acceptance of the Financial Report, Bill Nauss seconded. Motion Carried.

5.0 New Business

a) Election

Concerning the recent elections in June, there is talk that Elizabeth Heisler was a scrutineer and then nominated her husband, Mike Heisler, as Commissioner. Once it was brought to Chair Mulrooney's attention, Elizabeth Heisler was asked to refrain from counting the ballots. Contact was made to the Municipal Advisor and he stated that the Village does not have authority to have a re-election.

6.0 Correspondence

a) Bursary Winners

The Charles E. Harris/Robert Schnare 2013 bursary winners were Haley Chafe, Nathan Stevens and Hannah Stevens.

6.0 Correspondence (continued)

b) OHC Newsletter

- 1) A newsletter was received from the OHC, Health Centre. The newsletter was read.
- 2) An email was received from Angela Kitching from the Village Emporium regarding the tree on the corner of Queen and Pleasant Street.
- 3) An email was received from Gerlinda Malvar regarding the Lido Pool. She would like to see a handrail to assist people getting in and out of the pool. This will be looked into and put in the budget for next year.
- 3) An email was received from NS Municipal Finance Corporation concerning fall 2013 Debenture.

Chair Mulrooney stated business from the Agenda had concluded at 7:53 pm.

7. Questions from electors pertaining to agenda:

◆ Agi Dorken, 72 Tremont Street

- Question - would the savings from the garbage pickup be passed onto the residents or used in the Budgets? -- Chair Mulrooney responded that would be up to the residents.
- Question - the Fire Siren, is very loud and awakens family when it rings. They are not against the Fire Department but the siren is extremely loud and Ms. Dorken wondered if we knew what decibel the siren was? -- Chair Mulrooney said the decibels will be tested, and it is hoped to have all the information to find a solution at the September meeting.

◆ Nancy Hatch, Central Street

- Question --is it possible that the Municipality would consider adjusting garbage rates to incorporate the Village garbage collection -- what's going to happen to the Municipal tax rate? Chair Mulrooney stated that the Municipality would have to be asked that. Chair Mulrooney said that 1/7 of the population is in the Village and the Village is ¼ of the tax base.

Brad Armstrong, Council member for Municipality of the District of Chester, stated that he was 'curious and disappointed with the garbage thing and I would encourage you to have another meeting as you are saying a savings of \$68,000. You may save a few dollars but in the long term it may come back to haunt you. So I would

caution you and I would strongly suggest that there be another meeting because there is a lot to discuss. We are in the garbage business. Brad Armstrong stated that 'the Municipality looked after the sidewalks under their budget, and those things may not get completed in the future if the Village intends to have their own garbage contract and take it away from the Municipality. Chester is not a separate community, it is part of the Municipality and we have to stick together on some things. If we pursue the garbage, then council may not put in the promised sidewalks.'

- ◆ Helen Corkum, Highway #3
 - Mrs. Corkum's husband was the Fire Chief and when they received the pagers the Commission was reassured that the fire alarm could be done away with, once the fire fighters had pagers. Mrs. Corkum questioned what ever happened to that plan?
- ◆ Danny Nauss, Molson Drive
 - Danny Nauss stated that recently the telephone system was down and the siren was the only thing that notified fire fighters that there was an emergency. Chair Mulrooney stated that the Commission is not thinking to take it away or keep it – they are looking for input to make a decision. Chair Mulrooney stated that maybe another phone company is needed; all sides need to be looked at.
- ◆ Gloria Nauss, 21 Wilson Drive
 - Gloria Nauss mentioned that maybe a petition is needed regarding the siren, as she understands from the comments made at the beginning of the meeting that the Commission would not entertain her letter if she sent it in.
Brad Armstrong stated that with no disrespect intended, but he thanked Brenda Mulrooney for not voting and allowing the discussion to continue on the siren.
- ◆ Carol Nauss, Main Street
 - Carol Nauss stated that she resents the comments made about the sirens, and that the fire department won't respond to a call if the individual does not support the siren. Chair Mulrooney stated that she was repeating what has been reported via email/letters to the Village office. She was not saying this is happening, she is stating individuals feel that there is a possibility of it happening.

There being no further questions, Chair Mulrooney adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Brenda Mulrooney
Chair, Village Commission

Maxine Veinot
Administrative Assistant