



Minutes
Village of Chester
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 9, 2013

Present: Brenda Mulrooney, Chair; Iris Tolliver, Clerk Treasurer; Bill Zinck, Vice-Chair; Wynand Baerken, Commissioner; Mike 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 7:00 pm with Chair Mulrooney welcoming everyone to the meeting.

2.0 Minutes from August 31, 2013

MOTION: Mike Heisler moved, Bill Nauss seconded, the acceptance of the September 11, 2013 minutes, with the addition to Committee Selection – RCMP Advisory being “that we are not able to place anyone on this Committee at this time but we are looking into it”. Carried.

3.0 Old Business

a) Fire Siren Update

Commissioner Bill Nauss searched out sirens and talked to TOA Canada. A representative will be coming to the Village in October and will look at the needs and will then recommend the type of siren needed.

b) Garbage Collection

Chair Mulrooney reported that she and Iris Tolliver met with Warden Webber and Erin Beaudin, of MODC, to find out about the letter they sent to the Village re garbage collection. With the savings of the Village having their own garbage collections, the services provided for collection could be enhanced. For example, weekly garbage pickup for hot months, extra larger 3 stream recycling for tourists, boats, etc. The garbage committee of VOC has met and a letter has been sent to MODC stating the VOC's wishes for garbage collection and extra services at no extra costs. Also the Garbage Collection committee directed to go to tender for costs for the collection as the last time it was to get quotes for budget purposes only. Warden Webber said he was agreeable to giving enhanced services but it might not include weekly garbage collection. The MODC Garbage Collection contract is up the end of March, 2014.

c) Electric Car Recharging in Chester (location)

Commissioner Wynand Baerken reported that there are still questions to be answered prior to deciding on location.

4.0 Reports

a) **Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Duke Chafe reported that since the last Commission meeting on September 11, 2013, there have been 7 callouts consisting of 2 alarms, 2 motor vehicles accidents, 1 mutual aid call to Lunenburg, 1 car fire, and 1 practice.

b) **Report on Fire Truck**

Iris Tolliver stated that she received an email from Brad Petrie, which she read to the Commission.

c) **Fire Advisory**

Bill Zinck stated there was nothing to report.

d) **Clerk Treasurer Report**

Iris Tolliver reported that the Holiday Light Exchange has contacted us again to host light exchange. This year the lighting will be at Lordly Park; Iris Tolliver has asked Carol Nauss if she is interested in hosting this event; awaiting a reply.

Propane tanks at Fire Hall are installed and there have been comments that they are not that aesthetically pleasing. Request to have lattice work installed. Superior Propane will be contacted to see what work could be done.

Nova Scotia FOIPOP (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy) "Right to Know Week" has asked the Village to sign on by way of proclamation or resolution to proclaim Sept 23 – 28, 2013 as "Right to Know Week". It was asked to make it retroactive, as there is a challenge Municipalities.

MOTION: Bill Zinck moved, Bill Nauss seconded, that the Village of Chester support the principles of openness, transparency and accountability within the public sector and that the Village of Chester will abide by these principles on an everyday basis and the Village supports the International Right to Know Day celebrated across Canada September 23 -28, 2013. Carried.

e) **Financial Report**

Iris Tolliver reviewed the Financial Report. Also in the Commissioners package is a 'year-to-date' report to give the Commissioners the progress of the budget.

There were no questions on the report.

MOTION: Bill Zinck moved, Mike Heisler seconded, the acceptance of the Financial Report. Carried.

f) **ANSV AGM**

Chair Mulrooney reported that the AGM for the Association of Nova Scotia Villages was held last month in New Minas. Chair Mulrooney also reported on the discussion of Commission versus Clerk Treasurer. It came down to Commissioners set policies and procedures and take on initiatives and then hand them over to Administration to carry out.

Presenters were Bell & Grant; Bible Hill, who presented their manual on positions and responsibilities of Commissioners and Office staff and MGA that they give to Commissioners; FOIPOP act; ISO program and Municipal Governments; and then the Annual meeting was held.

5.0 New Business

a) **Lighthouse on Quaker Island**

Commission Baerken reported that the Coast Guard is re-evaluating the necessity of Lighthouse's on Island and on shores and the same for Bell Buoys.

A discussion was held on the Lighthouse and cost involved, leasing, buying the areas.

Iris Tolliver will send a letter to the present land owner and inquire about the lighthouse.

b) Speed Limit in Village

Chair Mulrooney stated that the Province owns the streets, and therefore the Village cannot control the speed limit, but a letter could be written to ask the limit be lowered in the Village.

MOTION: Wynand Baerken moved, Mike Heisler seconded, that a letter be sent to the Province asking for the speed limit be reduced to a 30 kilometer zone in the Village. Carried.

c) Staff Hiring

Iris Tolliver asked Gloria Nauss to clarify what the question was at the last meeting. Ms. Nauss stated that she questioned how Paul Mulrooney came to hold the position. Iris Tolliver stated that there were 2 advertisements in the Lighthouse Log and Bulletin/Progress Oct 4 & 7, 2011, and April 11 & 13, 2012. Iris Tolliver will email the ads to Gloria Nauss. Iris Tolliver stated that two other handymen were hired who left prior to Paul being hired. This position is a budget item. The Commission hires the Clerk Treasurer, and the Clerk Treasurer hires all other staff. Iris Tolliver stated that Ms. Nauss is welcomed to come to her office anytime and ask these questions. Iris Tolliver stated she is open to discussing any concerns she may have.

d) Lake Rescue Boat

Wynand Baerken stated that this was discussed before; there is a 24' aluminum boat available to purchase. Would the fire department be interested to see if it would fit, and is the necessity still there, and would funds be available- approximately \$25,000? Fire Chief Leo Chafe said the necessity is still there, and Chief Chafe will have it assessed.

e) Demographic Study for Chester

Chair Mulrooney stated that this study had been started a couple of years ago, called the census. It was never completed as the questions were 'uncomfortable – personal' and that some residents did not want to answer. This study would help the Village offer services, to know what the structure is. How many children do we have, what are their ages, how many elderly, how many homes are empty in the winter months, etc? The best way to complete this would probably be on foot, and ask more general information and that we are looking for age and time of year we have residents here in the Village.

Iris Tolliver will find out what EDM would say the next step would be and bring it back to the next meeting.

6.0 Correspondence

a) An email was received from Jeanie Eisner re female "firemen" not being an acceptable term. Gender neutral is important to equality. Chief Chafe stated that females are now called fire fighters.

b) IWK Community Grant information was received and the application deadline is November 15, 2013. Wynand Baerken will look into this grant.

MOTION: Bill Zinck moved, Mike Heisler seconded, to accept the correspondence. Carried.

Chair Mulrooney stated business from the Agenda had concluded at 8:10 pm.

Questions from electors pertaining to the agenda:

- Danny Nauss requested if a PA system could be purchased as some of the members present have a problem hearing the whole conversation.
- Michael Mulrooney stated he was concerned about the garbage contract. Chair Mulrooney stated that the Village is going to get today's prices so that the Village knows what the cost would be for similar service.

Mr. Mulrooney said he would like the Commission to get enhanced service with the \$70,000. Iris Tolliver stated the budget for recyclables for weekly collection in the summer is \$12,500.

Questions from electors pertaining to the agenda: (continued)

- Gloria Nauss asked if the electric car charging system for Chester is really necessary. Commissioner Baerken stated that at present there are no electric cars in Chester, but in a few years, with the green movement, it is hoped there will be many. Also it means that people with electric vehicles, who now have a radius of 200 – 300 kilometers, can stop in Chester and recharge their vehicles therefore increasing shopping at the Village stores. Nova Scotia Power is willing to give us the charging station free of charge and then the Village provides the location. This station can be set up as a user pay system.

There being no further question, Chair Mulrooney moved the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Brenda Mulrooney
Commission Chair

Maxine Veinot
Administrative Assistant