

Minutes
Regular Monthly Meeting
Video Conference
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – 7:00 pm

Attendance: Bill Nauss, Commission Chair; Nancy Hatch, Commission Vice Chair; Jo-Ann Grant, Commissioner; Michael Heisler, Commissioner; Martin Hiltz, Commissioner; Dennis Egyedy, Clerk Treasurer; Maxine Veinot, Recording Secretary; Everett Hiltz, Fire Chief

Public Gallery: Two residents

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Nauss called the January 13, 2021, regular monthly meeting, via Zoom video conference, of the Village of Chester Commission to order at 7:02 pm.

2.0 Public Forum

3.0 Review/Approval of Agenda/Additions to Agenda

- 5a - Motion #20-301 – Commissioner Hatch
- 5b - December 2, 2020 video – Commissioner Hatch
- 6b – Brenda Mulrooney, Letter – Commissioner Hatch
- 8d – Communications – Commissioner Hatch
- 8e - Pool Change Rooms – Commissioner Hiltz

MOTION #21-001: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:
The approval of the agenda with the additions of 5a, 5b, 6b, 8d, 8e.

Unanimously Carried

4.0 Review/Approval of Minutes

- a) Regular Meeting: Wednesday December 9, 2020

MOTION #21-002: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Heisler seconded:
The approval of the Minutes of December 9, 2020 Regular Monthly meeting as presented.

Unanimously Carried

5.0 Business Arising

- a) Special Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Clerk Treasurer Egyedy referred to Motion #20-299 which requires additional information why there was an “In Camera” session according to the MGA. The additional information was as follows: “in reference to the acquisition, sale, lease and security of village property”.

A Motion of Reconsideration was presented by Commissioner Hatch. The Mover of Motion #20-301, Hatch agreed and the Seconder, Grant agreed.

MOTION #21-003: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
To approve reconsideration of Motion #20-301 made on December 2nd, 2020.

Unanimously Carried

Commissioner Hatch expressed her concerns that 3.45% interest rate on the repayment of reserve funds was too high considering that the Municipal Finance Corporation rate is 1.17%.

MOTION #21-004: Commissioner Grant moved; Commissioner Heisler seconded:
To approve the original motion #20-301 and leave the interest rate of 3.45% unchanged.

In Favour: Heisler, Hiltz, Grant, Nauss
Opposed: Hatch

Carried

b) December 2, 2020 video

Commissioner Hatch requested the nine minutes in the meeting video be deleted as the commission was on a break. There was a lot of chit chat which should not be included. Commissioner Grant stated that there was no motion for a meeting recess, and we should not be editing a meeting. In the future, it needs to be explicitly stated to take a break.

Commissioners will listen to the video tonight and decide in the future if we remove 9 minutes of video recording.

6.0 Correspondence

a) VOCTADA

A letter of concern was received regarding the purchase of land for a new firehall. Commissioner Hatch prepared a response and FAQ (frequently asked questions) as a response to VOCTADA.

Chair Nauss stated there are a lot of misunderstandings and/or incorrect information in the public. Commissioner Grant agreed that we need to provide more information to the public. Commissioner Hiltz suggested that some information be put on the website. Commissioner Heisler agreed with posting on the website and perhaps a letter to the residents. Commissioner Grant suggested having a press release available which she will prepare with commission approval.

b) Brenda Mulrooney Letter

Clerk Treasurer Egyedy read the letter for the Commission.

Chair Nauss stated that when the press release and information is posted, her questions/concerns will be answered. Commissioner Hatch read her letter of response and facts that may be sent to VOCTADA and included in the information released.

Commissioners will review the information and reply to the Clerk/Treasurer by Thursday, January 14, by noon if they want to make any changes; otherwise, the FAQ will be posted.

7.0 Reports

a) Clerk Treasurer

Clerk Treasurer, Egyedy inquired if there were any questions on his report.

MOTION #21-005: Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Heisler seconded:
The approval of the Clerk Treasurer's report as presented.

Unanimously Carried

b) Financial Statement/Bank Transactions – December 2020

Clerk Treasurer Egyedy reviewed the financial statements, cheque log and bank transactions for December 2020. Egyedy stated that revenue has increased by \$12,962.44 in comparison to the same period in 2019. The fire department has \$140,649.61 remaining in their budget which must be expensed over the next three months.

MOTION #21-006: Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
To approve the Financial Statements and Cheque Log for December 2020 as presented.

Unanimously Carried

c) Fire Chief

Chief Hiltz reported nine emergency dispatches: three motor vehicle collisions, two structure fires, two alarms, one mutual aid, and one investigation. In 2020, the department responded to 102 emergencies.

MOTION #21-007: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Heisler seconded:
To approve the Fire Chief's verbal report.

Unanimously Carried

8.0 New/Other Business

a) By-Law #02-2020 – Alternative Voting

Clerk Treasurer Egyedy stated that this by-law requires second and third reading prior to sending by-law to Minister for approval. The by-law was advertised in the newspaper on December 30th, 2020 which meets the fourteen-day requirement under the MGA. Copies of the by-law are available at the office and there has been no public comments received.

MOTION #21-008: Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Hatch seconded:
To approve second reading for By-Law #02-2020 Alternative Voting.

Unanimously Carried

MOTION #21-009: Commissioner Grant moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded;
To proceed with Third and Final Reading of By-law #02-2020 Alternative Voting.
Unanimously Carried

MOTION #21-010: Commissioner Grant moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:
To approve Third and Final Reading of By-law #02-2020 Alternative Voting.
Unanimously Carried

b) Request for Decision – Employee Pay Scales

Commissioner Hatch requested deferral of this request until a Human Resources meeting. Chairman Nauss expressed concern over committing to a pay scale which was not discussed by the HR Committee. He did not want to lock-in the commission to future cost of living increases. The agreed salary with the current Clerk/Treasurer is unique and may not apply to future Clerks.

Clerk Treasurer Egyedy stated this is a reasonable pay scale in comparison to other municipalities. Attached are the pay scales for the Municipality of Chester which are much higher. Secondly, a cost-of-living adjustment is approved on an annual basis as determined by the provincial government statistics. Finally, on January 19th, 2021 will be two years since starting with the village and there has been no discussion of performance or salary.

MOTION# 21-011: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:
To Table the "Request for Decision - Employee Pay Scales" until an HR meeting is held and Pay Scales will be decided on February 10th, 2021.

In Favour: Heisler, Hiltz, Grant, Hatch, Nauss
Opposed: Nil

Unanimously Carried

A five-minute recess was called at 8:55 pm

Commission meeting reconvened at 9:00 pm

c) In Camera – Land

MOTION# 21-012: Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:
To move "In Camera" in reference to the acquisition, sale, lease, and security of village property at 9:00 pm with no invites.

Unanimously Carried

MOTION# 21-013: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:
To move "Out of In Camera" at 9:20 pm.

Unanimously Carried

MOTION# 21-014: Commissioner Hatch moved; Commissioner Grant seconded:

To approve the presentation of an "Agreement of Purchase and Sale" to the Vendor of property located at 4072 Highway 3, Chester, NS.

Unanimously Carried

d) Communication

Commissioner Hatch requested the addition of this item; however, she stated that previous discussion has addressed her concerns for communication. The topic was withdrawn.

e) Pool Changerooms

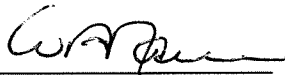
Commissioner Hiltz informed the commission that outdoor changerooms would be too large for the area on the rebuilt wharf if they were built to the accessibility requirements. The handicap washrooms meet the need for handicap changeroom and would not be required on the new wharf.

Clerk/Treasurer Egyedy stated that construction of a handicap ramp and change stalls on the wharf would be discussed during budget deliberations.

9.0 Adjournment

Next Regular Monthly Meeting – February 10, 2021 – 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Heisler adjourned the January 13, 2021 meeting at 9:28 pm.



Bill Nauss
Commission Chair



Dennis Egyedy, BPA, AMCT
Clerk Treasurer