

**Minutes  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
In-Person at 27 Pleasant Street  
Zoom ID: 935-442-9176 Password: 301715  
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 – 7:00 pm**

**Attendance:** Nancy Hatch, Commission Chair; Mike Dockrill, Commissioner; Michael Heisler, Commissioner; Martin Hiltz, Commissioner; Dennis Egyedy, Clerk Treasurer; Maxine Veinot, Recording Secretary

**Public Gallery:** Greg Conron, Cody Stevens, Blake Corkum, Carol Nauss, Mike Mulrooney, Dave Foley, Bill Zinck Jr.

**1.0 Call to Order**

Commission Chair Hatch called the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Regular Monthly meeting, via Zoom, of the Village of Chester Commission, to order at 7:01 pm.

**2.0 Public Forum:** Carol Nauss, Main Street

Mrs. Nauss informed the Commission that the Municipal Heritage Society has applied for a \$50,000.00 grant to update the Lordly Park Area in several areas. Garden Party on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and Mrs. Nauss asked for \$10,000.00 funding from the Village Commission. July 9<sup>th</sup>, a formal tea will be held to celebrate the Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee at Lordly House, a grant for \$4000 was received to cover costs. In August, there will be a yard sale for anyone to participate at the Train Station.

**3.0 Approval of Agenda/Additions to Agenda**

Additions: 6 (e) MOC Correspondence – Public Hearing  
8 (e) Assessment Increase Correspondence  
8 (f) MOC Fire Service Agreement Extension  
10 In Camera – Fire Service Agreement

**Motion #22-039:** Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:  
The approval of the agenda with the addition of 6(2), 8(e), 8(f), and 10.

Unanimously Carried

**4.0 Review/Approval of Minutes**

a) Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2022

**MOTION #22-040:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:

The approval of the Minutes of March 9, 2022, Regular Monthly meeting as presented  
Unanimously Carried

b) Human Resources Committee Meeting, March 28, 2022

**MOTION #22-041:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:

The approval of the Minutes of March 28, 2022, Human Resources Committee meeting as presented.

Unanimously Carried

Chair Hatch spoke of recommendations needed to be approved from the Human Resources Committee meeting.

**MOTION #22-042:** Commissioner Dockrill moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:

The approval to increase the Administrative Assistant's hourly wage by 4.1%, Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index Increase for December 2021 and to set the Clerk Treasurer's salary for 2022-23 at \$74,424.64.

Unanimously Carried

**5.0 Business Arising: Nil**

**6.0 Correspondence**

a) Platinum Jubilee Program

Clerk Treasurer Egyedy reported that the grant application made by the Village was denied for fireworks funding.

b) Chester Heritage Society

Chair Hatch stated that Carol Nauss requested funding for Canada Day. It will be discussed during budget deliberations for 2022/23.

c) Ray Cambria - Resident

Commissioner Hiltz stated that he understands where Mr. Cambria is coming from and will take it under advisement. Commissioner Dockrill stated that a lot of assessments are capped. Chair Hatch noted that she will take the information in Mr. Cambria's letter under advisement as well.

d) Municipal Affairs – Minister Lohr

A letter was received from Minister Lohr on the passing of the late Bill Nauss.

e) MOC – Public Hearing

Clerk Treasurer, Egyedy stated that the letter was for a Public Hearing April 21, 2022 on amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategies – Early Engagement with Abutting Municipalities.

**MOTION #22-043:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Heisler seconded:

To approve the correspondence as presented.

Unanimously Carried

## 7.0 Reports

a) Clerk Treasurer

Re: Clerk/Treasurer Resignation

Municipal administration has been my career choice for the last 28 years from Nova Scotia to New Brunswick, Alberta, and Iqaluit, Nunavut. I have enjoyed much success and satisfaction in developing community arenas, water and sewage systems, libraries, residential development, parks, and playgrounds, and finally fire department stations. However, the greatest satisfaction I gained has been the staff and councils working together for their community.

During my last 3 years with the Village of Chester it has been a challenge to progress in a positive atmosphere. My success here includes the eradication of Knotweed at the firehall, a new wharf at the Lido pool, a new website and Facebook page, organized commission minutes and resolutions, village policy updates, and communication with Municipality of Chester staff.

The fire department dream for a new station is falling short due to interference. Recommendations on land purchasing, a new fire services agreement, a firehall fund and budget cuts have been neglected from discussion. It is my responsibility to provide sound advice and direction to community leaders, whereas the direction has come from community groups.

I take pride in preparing a sound and responsible annual budget, monthly financial statements, bank reconciliations, sound annual audits. After 3 years of criticism, salary justification, vacation requests, no performance review, no cost-of-living allowance, and employment contract versus employee policy it is the time to concede defeat and move out.

Therefore, as of April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 it will be my last day with the Village of Chester Commission.

**MOTION #22-044:** Commissioner Dockrill moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:

To accept Egyedy's "Letter of Resignation" and the Commissioner meet in the next couple of days to discuss the letter.

Unanimously Carried

Egyedy continued to report on the Request for Proposals for the demolition of the Windjammer Motel. The RFP closes on April 25, 2022, at 1:00 pm, and will be opened publicly. The new reserve fund accounts have been created – General Government: \$67,653.88 and Fire and Emergency: \$115,194.45, 37% and 63% respectively. Other funds were amalgamated into one reserve, Lido Pool \$121,124.58: and Fire Apparatus \$959,639.68. The EHS fund of \$10,085.18, will mature on May 22, 2022.

The rising cost of fuel was addressed by last years Flower Basket Care contractor, and he indicated that there will be an increase this year to the contract.

**MOTION #22-045:** Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:

To accept the Clerk Treasurer's report as presented.

Unanimously Carried

**MOTION #22-046:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Heisler seconded:  
To advertise a call for Proposals on the Flower Basket summer maintenance.

Unanimously Carried

b) Financial Statement/Bank Transactions – February 2022

The monthly financial statements and bank reconciliation were reviewed by the Clerk Treasurer.

**MOTION #22-047:** Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:  
To approve the March 2022 Financial Statements and Bank Transactions as presented.

Unanimously Carried

c) Fire Chief

Deputy Chief Stevens reported eighteen emergency dispatches: two (2) Mutual Aids, one (1) debris fire, two (2) alarms, ten (10) medicals, two (2) motor vehicle incidents, one (1) vehicle fire. In-house training on small equipment and pumps were held last month. On June 11, 2022 there will be a thank-you event to thank all the fire fighters and community members who helped with extinguishing the Playhouse fire.

**MOTION #22-048:** Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:  
The approval of the Deputy Fire Chief's report as presented.

Unanimously Carried

d) Committee Reports

No Reports

## 8.0 New/Other Business

a) Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan

The commission reviewed and discussed the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan which involved Commissioner Hiltz participation in the development. Egyedy stated that the Accessibility Directorate requires all communities and Villages to have an Accessibility Plan. The village needs a Motion to accept the plan and post it on our website.

**MOTION #22-049:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:  
To approve the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan as the Village of Chester guidelines to promote Accessibility in the Village.

Unanimously Carried

b) Draft Budget and Mill Rates 2022/23

Clerk Treasurer Egyedy reviewed the budget papers. After a brief discussion it was decided that a COW meeting should be held to discuss budget meeting.

**MOTION #22-050:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:  
To hold a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the Budget 2022-2023, on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 1:00 pm.

Unanimously Carried

Commissioner Chair Hatch will meet with Deputy Chief Stevens and Deputy Chief Conron to solicit feedback on the proposed fire budget prior to the committee meeting.

c) Elections and Annual Public Meeting

Nomination Day, Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 9:00am to 5:00pm

Annual Public Meeting, Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 6:30pm

Advance Election Poll, Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 11:00am to 7:00pm

Election Day Poll, Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 9:00am to 7:00pm

**MOTION #22-051:** Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:

To approve the Nomination Day, Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Annual Public Meeting, Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 6:30 pm; Advance Election Poll, Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 11:00 am to 7:00 pm; Election Day Poll, Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Unanimously Carried

d) Truck Replacement #551 – RFP

Fireman, Blake Corkum presented a list of equipment specifications for the replacement of Tanker #551.

**MOTION #22-052:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:

To issue a Request for Proposals for a replacement of Tanker #551 based on the equipment specifications prepared and submitted by Chester Volunteer Fire Department.

Unanimously Carried

e) 2 Percent Assessment Increase

Discussion was held on the 2% Assessment Increases for non-resident owner, that Premier Houston and the Provincial Government is putting in place.

**MOTION #22-053:** Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Hiltz seconded:

To send a letter opposing the 2% assessment increase to Premier Houston and MLA Danielle Barkhouse.

Recorded Vote:      In Favour – Commission Chair Hatch  
                             In Favour – Commissioner Heisler  
                             Not in Favour – Commissioner Hiltz  
                             Not in Favour – Commissioner Dockrill  
                             **Tie Vote – motion not passed.**

**MOTION #22-054:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:

To approve Chair Hatch writing a letter to Premier Tim Houston and MLA Danielle Barkhouse opposing the 2% assessment increase and distributing it to the Commissioners for their review and comments prior to mailing.

Unanimously Carried

f) Fire Agreement Extension

**MOTION #22-055:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:  
To extend the Fire Services Agreement until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Unanimously Carried

**9.0 Commission Roundtable**  
No Report

**10.0 In Camera Session**

**MOTION #22-056:** Commissioner Hiltz moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:  
To go In-Camera at 8:26 pm to discuss the Fire Services Agreement.

Unanimously Carried

**MOTION #22-057:** Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:  
To go Out of In-Camera at 8:45 pm.

Unanimously Carried

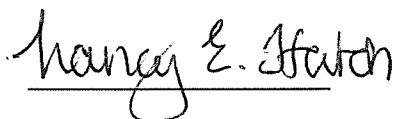
**MOTION #22-058:** Commissioner Heisler moved; Commissioner Dockrill seconded:  
To approve holding a meeting with MOC to discuss the proposed fire agreement  
pending their dates to meet.

Unanimously Carried

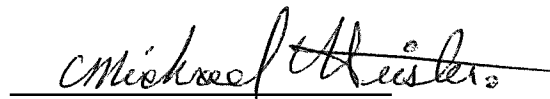
**11.0 Adjournment**

Next Regular Meeting – May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 7:00 pm

Commissioner Heisler adjourned the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting at 8:48 pm.



Nancy Hatch  
Commission Chair



Michael Heisler  
Vice Chair