

LAWRENCETOWN VILLAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2009

COMMISSION:

Larry Powell – Vice Chairman
Lynette Gilks
David Spears

STAFF:

Kelly Rice – Clerk/Treasurer

VICE CHAIRMAN POWELL called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

MINUTES:

Comm. Gilks made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2008 Lawrencetown Village Commission meeting as presented. Seconded by Comm. Spears. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Well Project Update

Clerk/Treasurer gave an update on the project and presented a cost for the new SCADA System for approval. After a discussion, **Comm. Spears made a motion to approve the purchase of the SCADA System as quoted by Acrotech Ltd. Seconded by Comm. Gilks. Motion Carried.** It was noted that this equipment is part of the original costing for the project.

Public Works Update

Clerk/Treasurer reported the following on behalf of the Supt. of Public Works:

- experienced 2 water leaks this month
- snowplowing is ongoing
- during the wind storm on Christmas Day, a tree fell on the power lines at the reservoir and knocked out the power for most of the day
- building a tool room at the Public Works building for storage so there will be more room in the PW Office for the SCADA System
- read water meters

After a brief discussion regarding water breaks in the Village, the Commission asked for a policy to be drafted regarding procedures when this happens.

Dept. of Transportation Update

Clerk/Treasurer reported that the Dept of Transportation had completed their evaluation regarding the safety concerns at the intersection of Prince St. and Hwy.# 1.

Their recommended, and only, solution to these concerns is to eliminate a parking spot on either side of Prince St. on the north side of Hwy.#1. This should allow for more visibility on Hwy.#1 in both directions. After a brief discussion, the Commission felt that eliminating 2 parking spaces could have a negative impact on the already limited parking in Lawrencetown and will wait to make a decision on this option.

DSWNS Guide Feature Ad Proof

Clerk/Treasurer presented the Commission with the proof for the feature ad in the 2009 DSWNS Guide. After reviewing the proof, the Commission agreed the only change would be to have the new website address included on the ad. The publication will not be distributed until the 2009 tourism season and the new Village website should be up and running by that time.

ADDITIONS:

1. Comm. Spears gave an update on the Christmas event held this year and after a discussion, the Commission decided to send Certificates of Appreciation to the sponsors of the event. It was agreed by everyone that the event was a huge success.
2. Comm. Powell suggested that a meeting should be set up with the Annapolis County Trails Society. The Commission agreed and Clerk/Treasurer was asked to try to arrange to have the group attend February's Commission meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recreation

Lynn Roscoe reported the following on behalf of the Lawrencetown & District Recreation Committee:

- received a Wellness Initiative Fund (WIF) grant from Annapolis County Community Health Board
- shinny hockey at the Youth Arena is going very well
- they have been promoting the "Kidsport" and "Jumpstart" programs for youth and would like to have some application forms available at the Village Office. The Commission agreed.

Activities/Events Planning Committee

Comm. Spears reported that he and Phil Milo are still working on the "Village Circle" project and it will be a student project at COGS in September 2009. He also stated that he would like to see a Lawrencetown Historical Society formed and for that group to look at the possibility of acquiring the old Anglican Church. The Commission agreed and Comm. Spears stated he would begin working on this project. He will keep the Commission informed of any progress.

Annapolis County Councilor Report

Councilor Roberts sent her regrets as she was unable to attend the meeting due to previous commitments.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Comm. Gilks made a motion to accept the Financial Report for December 2008 as presented. Seconded by Comm. Spears. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

HST Offset Fund

Clerk/Treasurer reported that because of the proposed changes to the Nova Scotia Power Inc. assessments, there is a possibility that the legislation could see some changes and the Villages HST Offset program could be affected. At this point in the discussions, the Villages are not being included and there is concern that the Villages could lose these monies. After a discussion the Commission decided to write 2 letters with their concerns on this matter. The 1st letter will go to the Association of Nova Scotia Villages expressing concerns and asking the association to discuss the issue with the members. The second letter is to be sent to the Minister for Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations expressing the same concerns and asking the Minister to consider the Villages in the discussions regarding any changes to the funding.

Water/Sewer Billing & Financial Software

Clerk/Treasurer stated that she would like to see the change-over to the new water billing and financial software take place as of April 1, 2009. To try to streamline this process, a new computer system can be purchased to set up the program and then once everything is on line and the year end audit is completed, the extra computer system can be used for the new SCADA System that the Village is installing. After a discussion, the Commission agreed.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

1. Lynn Roscoe asked if it would be possible for the School and the School Advisory Committee to receive copies of the Village's minutes. The Commission agreed and Clerk/Treasurer will e-mail the copies of the approved minutes to them.

As there was no further business to discuss, Comm. Spears moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

CLERK/TREASURER