

**LAWRENCETOWN VILLAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2011**

COMMISSION

Brian Reid – Chairman
Dave Spears – Vice Chair
Lynette Gilks
Dianne Moore
Jaki Fraser – Sends Regards

STAFF

Kelly Rice – Clerk/Treasurer
Dave Allen – Supt. Public Works

CHAIRMAN REID called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

MINUTES:

Comm. Gilks moved the minutes for April 7, 2011 be accepted as presented. Seconded by Comm. Moore. Motion Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

1. Chairman Reid reported that he had spoken with NSDTIR regarding the paving of Lawrencetown Lane and he was told that at the present time, Lawrencetown Lane was not on their list for paving.
2. Chairman Reid stated that the Website project is progressing and the Village now has the codes needed to manage the content of the site. Hopefully the minutes will be posted a bit quicker than before.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Rate Study – Update

Clerk/Treasurer reported that the hearing was held on April 27 and from that hearing there were seven undertakings for the Water Utility to act on and submit to the NS UARB by May 11, 2011. At the hearing the Commission requested that the rates be “smoothed in” over three years rather than one large increase and 2 small ones. The UARB will consider this request during their deliberations.

ADDITIONS:

1. Meadows Subdivision – Chairman Reid stated that the subdivision was under new ownership and he had spoken with the new owners regarding the concerns over the condition of the road. The new owners stated they would be willing to work with the property owners to upgrade the road and suggested the property owners get together and

submit a proposal to the subdivision owners for their consideration. It was clear that the property owners will have to take the lead on this project.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Not Available, April & May Financial Reports will be presented at the next regular monthly meeting of the Commission.

Comm. Spears made a motion to “write-off” the balance of the outstanding water accounts deemed uncollectible - \$ 490.30 - as prepared by the Village’s Municipal Auditor. Seconded by Comm. Moore. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Works

Supt. of Public Works reported the following:

- quarterly STP report was completed and sent to Dept. of Environment (NSDEL)
- bi-annual inspection of the water treatment plant and independent sampling throughout the distribution system was completed by NSDEL
- Supt. attended the MPWWA Conference in Halifax
- spring clean-up continues
- Supt. attended water treatment training in Moncton
- implementation of new data logging procedures for the STP to comply with environmental requirements

Recreation

No report available.

Activities/Events Planning Committee

Comm. Spears stated that the plans have been finalized for the Lawrencetown Wall of Honour celebration, taking place on Thursday, June 2, after the AGM.

Annapolis County Councilor Report

No report available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annapolis County Winter Activity Challenge

Clerk/Treasurer reported on behalf of Cathy Lowe, Lawrencetown Team Representative, that Lawrencetown received the highest honours for the Challenge. We received the award for :
“Community with the Most Overall Participants” &
“Community with the Highest Overall Total Hours”

Comm. Moore also stated that Lawrencetown had the highest attendance for the wrap-up festivities.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **Liberal Caucus Office** – Clerk/Treasurer read a letter concerning the Provincial governments’ announcement that they would not be honouring the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Union of NS Municipalities regarding the mandatory payments on province-wide services. After a brief discussion, the Village will discuss this issue with the County and support them in any way they request.
2. **LED Street Lighting** – Clerk/Treasurer read a letter from the Union of NS Municipalities expressing concern that the Province is going to be requiring that all street lighting be converted to LED lighting systems in the future without discussing the cost to the Municipal Units to comply with the requirements. The Commission will continue to monitor this issue.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:

1. Resident Scott Lowe stated that the sidewalk sweeping had caused an extremely high amount of dust in his home and that the next time this happens, he will take a sledgehammer to the equipment.
2. Berend Pietersma stated that he felt the \$2,000.00 hook-up fee for water and sewer for a new building was extremely high and wanted an explanation as to why the cost was so high. Comm. Moore explained that the hook-up fee for the water was set by the NS UARB at \$1,200.00 and after a review of costs the Commission set the cost for sewer hook-up at \$1,200.00 also. If both water and sewer are connected at the same time the cost is \$2,000.00. Mr. Pietersma wanted it reflected in the minutes that he felt the rates were “too high”. After a discussion, the Commission will consider looking at the hook-up fees.
3. There were comments that the signs located at the Village boundaries are still down. It was explained that the signs belong to the NSDTIR and it was reported to them by the Supt. that the signs were down. Supt. will follow-up with NSDTIR.
4. There were concerns by a couple of residents that a Village employee was sweeping the school parking lot on Saturday and they wanted to know why an employee was being paid on the weekend for work that should be done during normal working hours. The Commission explained that the sweeping of the school parking lot was something that the Village did every year as a courtesy to the school as this is an area the children use to play. The reason it is done on Saturday is because it is safer to do it when the children are not on the premises.
5. There was a question regarding the Public Works position being filled. Commission explained it has not been permanently filled.
6. There were concerns that an outside contractor was used instead of Village Staff, to cut down the eaves trough that fell down in the wind storm. The Commission explained that the Supt. was away on course and the eaves trough had to be taken down because it posed a hazard to anyone coming into the office.

As there was no further business to discuss, Comm. Gilks moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

CLERK/TREASURER