

Hebbville Village Commission
Regular Meeting
Hebbville Fire Hall, March 12/25, 7 - 9 PM

Commissioner Glen Hebb calls the meeting to order at 7PM

Roll Call: MODL, Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile
MODL, District 3 Councillor Wendy Oickle (Regrets)
Fire Chief, Doug Peveril, Hebbville Fire Dept.
Deputy Fire Chief, Pastor Emeritus: Paul Jensen
Commissioner Glen Hebb, HVC Chair
Commissioner Eric Weagle, HVC Vice Chair
Commissioner Greg Flinn
Lem Hebb, HVC (clerk/treasurer)
13 Village electors present

Agenda approved by Commissioner Eric Weagle and seconded by Commissioner Greg Flinn.

Next the minutes from the previous regular meeting, Dec.11/24 were read by the clerk. Approved by Commissioner Greg Flinn and seconded by Commissioner Eric Weagle. No business arising from the minutes.

Review of Correspondence: In light of information received Feb. 24/25 that will have an impact directly on the HVC. Re: Notice of Approved Regulations: Equity and Anti-Racism Plans for Municipalities and Villages.

Quote: “ Recognizing the vital role that municipalities and villages play in shaping the daily lives of Nova Scotians, regulations were recently approved that prescribe municipalities and villages as public bodies under the Act. Under the Regulations, municipalities and villages will be required to have plans to address systemic hate, inequity and racism by April 1, 2025.” The clerk is relaying this info. to say we are on the radar of (OEA) Office of Equity and Anti-Racism and (AMANS) Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia who will provide dedicated support to municipalities and villages over the next four years.”

Commissioner Glen Hebb suggested that since the clerk is spinning his wheels, causing a commotion and the Commissioners are ill informed at this point to drop it for now. Good idea.

Next the treasurer’s report was presented by the clerk. Currently \$6,565.89 in the checking account and the balance of \$18,500.00 is in a GIC certificate on Nov.18/24. Maturity payment amount, November 18/25. \$19,101.25

This report was approved by commissioner Eric Weagle and seconded by Commissioner Greg Flinn.

Next under old business. Commissioner Greg Flinn explains what is happening with the website initiative. Dates and times for meetings, minutes are getting entered. It is still a work in progress. The Village Facebook Page is now being used frequently and has become part of the Village communication link to the public. He also mentions the village website has a link to the PSC dam status, referencing the color code green to red to indicate level of concern. Commissioner Greg Flinn has become the Village communication director, chief editor by default and main link to the Village webmaster.

Next under old business. Decision made to table the motion to expand the commissioners from 3 - 5, from a March 13/24 Regular Meeting. Timing is not right. Plus the new regulations. Re: The Office of Equity and Anti-Racism and the Accessibility Directorate are working collaboratively to support Municipalities and Villages to meet requirements under both the Dismantling Racism and Hate Act and Accessibility Act. Commissioner Glen Hebb made a motion to table, the jump in commissioners from (3 - 5) and Commissioner Greg Flinn seconded.

The Provincial Park on the Fancy Lake Road borders the Village of Hebbville. Once again has come to Commissioner Glen Hebb's attention. Flooding events over the last few years have washed out some of the shore line and formed a berm of silt, and class A rock ahead of the shoreline. Needs care and attention. Two Officers from Dept. of Environment showed up 10 AM, March 12/25 at the Park. Commissioner Glen Hebb said what he would like to see and they said what would need to happen and how. Another Dept. Natural Resources will need to be involved as well but they agreed to assist Commissioner Glen Hebb along this route to see a local improvement.

Under New Business: Budget approval for the next fiscal year (April 1/25 to March 31/26 and Tax Rate Set (no change from \$10.00). Commissioner Greg Flinn approves and Commissioner Glen Hebb, seconds.

Under Strategic Planning Direction. The new regulations the province has taken to become more inclusive and equitable will be part of the planning direction moving forward.

Under village communique: Fire Chief Doug Peveril, Hebbville Fire Dept. takes the podium. He says the Hebbville Fire Dept. have a total of four vehicles. 1 Pumper, 1 Pumper Tanker, 1 Aerial Fire Truck, operating height 55 feet with a spray nozzle and 1 Incident Support Truck. The department is getting extra calls, more than they used to. Mutual aid assistance and calls whether they needed to be there or not is part of the 91 call outs last year. Water levels are not a concern for the Fire Dept. He stressed the proper signage (example shown) and its location is critical to the fire department's need to find the correct address and know what they are looking for. Firesmart Canada (fire prevention) presenting challenges planning for the future. Hall rental does not pay the rent and the Dept . is asked to do more things. The 50/50 draw is needed for income to keep the tax rate the same. The department is working with a \$242,000.00 budget. Trying to maintain a percentage of cost going toward new equipment. Volunteer hours are many, membership low. Question raised about paid firemen. Not enough callouts. Vision is for a Co-operative Fire Department?

Next the commissioners report: Commissioner Glen Hebb makes a honourable mention for two local men who passed last month, Jack Murphy and Aubrey McCarthy. They will be missed. He says the flood talk has been scaled back and he is building his own resilience. A few people lost their flood insurance? There is a huge question around coverage. Next meeting he will have someone to explain what is happening with insurance coverages.

Commissioner Glen Hebb has done his own calculations on water volume in the watersheds 3 lakes and knows the municipalities daily usage and has concluded if the water level could be kept lower it would better serve all? He goes on to point out that the Village residents are taxed \$.81 cents per 100, Town \$1.85 per 100, Village Commercial is \$1.47 per 100 and Town \$4.07 per 100. Commissioner Glen Hebb received an applause after saying a little about the People Trump Thing. Not stocking US products is a Canadian first and has affected his business on a positive note. Reciting a quote from Jean Chretien, a former Canadian Prime Minister. " Trump should be given a medal of honour for uniting Canada." "People needed to hear that." He said.

Commissioner Eric Weagle next at the podium. He spoke to the group about his experience and knowledge of working for the Dept. of Highways in regards with the department policies for roads, highways and ditches. He addressed shoulder height issues in regards to a four inch drop on the edge of the pavement is standard policy. He goes on to say budget cuts and limited manpower can restrict what may be accomplished. Culverts are another issue. It is a shared responsibility between the homeowner and the department. If the culvert is blocked and not causing issues to the Departments infrastructure it will be considered a low priority. Typically culverts with rotten bottoms that allow water flow do not get replaced. Ditches are designed to hold water and not be dry at all times; so, if a ditch is full, it is doing its job. Regarding bushes, if you have bush problems, they need to call the call centre in order to lodge a complaint with the Department. The Call Centre is located in Cape Breton so when a person calls they need to ensure they provide full address details so that the complaint can be directed to the correct Department Area Supervisor as many locations have the same names of roads. You are issued a notification number for every complaint so that you may call back to further investigate the Department's actions. Answering a question when asked who decides on where road paving gets done, he said paving is decided by the Head Office in Halifax.

Next our Municipal Mayor, at MODL: Elspeth Mclean - Wile, takes the podium. She said, receiving lots of calls. Also mentioned the Fire Dept. is the heart of the community, and appreciated Fire Chief Doug Peveril and Deputy Fire Chief Paul Jensens commitment to the community. Continuing to say what are our needs and challenges going to be to provide services to all communities. The impact on people's insurance and quality of life will need to be examined. Lots of things we can get done, need time and energy. Her goal is to get started on two big projects. Establishing a growth community planning group to look at water issues, water towers and economic growth, etc. Public transit for Hebbville, Bridgewater and Osprey is coming. There will be difficult conversations. Be patient. There will be meetings in May around planning and input, It is a long process with a lot to factor in.

Final questions in public input: To Mayor Elspeth. What can we do to help? Is there a growth strategy?

MODL growth is normal at 1 - 2 %. Twinning the highway has impacted growth and extensive planning will be necessary for the growth areas.

Earlier question, Is there an action plan to mitigate flooding? Fair to say at present. The PSC public notification board on Hebbville Dam status and your own resilience. Clean Earth Day mentioned. Some ditches are littered with garbage.

Question presented: Can someone live in a travel trailer on your property?

Commissioner Greg Flinn adjourned the meeting shortly before 9 PM. Clean up and conversation ongoing out the door. Thanks to everyone who participated.

For the Record

Lem Hebb, HVC (clerk/treasurer)

March 25, 2025

