



Monthly meeting of Village Commissioners of Kings Square

Date: January 20, 2026

Present: Chair Michael Keith, Vice Chair John Foote, Commissioner Ric Hamilton, Commissioner Kevin Ernest (arrived at 8:07pm), Commissioner Doug MacLean and Clerk Judy Rafuse

Firefighters: Chief Wayne Johnstone, Deputy Chief Tom Whitman, Firefighter Vaughn Gates and Firefighter Ron Rafuse

Regrets:

Guests:

Call to Order: Chair Keith called the meeting to order at 8pm

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Add Benches, Sidewalk Plow and Transit Shelters. Commissioner MacLean made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Vice-Chair Foote seconded. Carried
- 2. Approval of previous month's minutes:** Commissioner MacLean made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated. Vice-Chair Foote seconded. Carried.
- 3. Accounts:** The bank reconciliation with bank balance, reserves and accounts receivables was presented by the clerk. Commissioner Hamilton make a motion to accept the report, Commissioner MacLean seconded. Carried.
The Accounts payable reports were presented. Vice-chair Foote moved to accept as presented, Commissioner MacLean seconded. Carried.
The Comparative Income Statement was reviewed. Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to allocate \$133, 000.00 to the vehicle replacement fund, Vice-Chair Foote seconded. Carried.
Looking ahead to budget items, quotes have been received for a heat pump and bug zapper for the village office.
- 4. Fire Department**
December Incident Report- attached
Fire Chief's Report- Chief Johnstone reported that the operating budget for the fire department has been completed and sent to the Municipality of Kings. The 2025-2026 Capital budget has been reviewed and some items will not be attainable this year due to price increases but there are still items to be purchased within the limits of the budget.
A proposal was received from Michelin regarding a 4-week Survival System training (essentially a live fire trainer housed in a trailer). The offer is to train WDFD fire fighters in exchange for

housing the trailer in our yard for a month. Other departments may also have access to this training, however would pay the instructor themselves. Michelin would also like to incorporate the WDFD Live Fire trainer in these sessions.

Chief Johnstone also noted NFPA is recommending all tires on fire vehicles be replaced after 7 years.

During a recent call, 2 fire fighters, each in their personal vehicles hit a tree and broke their mirrors. Will there be any compensation?

Building Rental Report- attached

5. **Fire Department Maintenance Report:** Building maintenance, Fire Fighter Rafuse reported that the Am Responding is not working at Station 2, there is no cell service in the building and one tablet is not working. Chair Keith noted he would take a look to see what could be done.

Truck Maintenance: parts for the ladder truck and Big Flow have been ordered. A/C parts for units 11 and 41 are needed. Unit 14 needs new front tires. Unit 12 has had inspection completed.

6. **Correspondence:** Thank you note for the support for the November 11, 2025 service at the Waterville Cenotaph was read.

7. **Business Arising from the Minutes: JAAC-** Commissioner MacLean reported on the most recent JAAC meeting. Officers of the committee were re-elected. There is a new Land Acknowledgment reading that can be used for public events. Also, it is inappropriate to ask an indigenous person to deliver the land acknowledgment.

There is also an acknowledgement for African Nova Scotians to be used at public meetings.

There is a grant available from the Province of NS for accessibility projects. The grant pays 2/3 of the project up to \$50,000. There is a new BUILT standard which includes a written plan for snow and ice removal. A presentation was received introducing a new program for a Care Coordinator to help people with disabilities to live in their own homes with support.

Building Modification: Commissioner Hamilton was unable to attend. Vice-Chair Foote reported that a decision was made as to what modifications will be made and quotes are being sought for such. The original chair of the committee has stepped down and Vice-Chair Foote is now the chair.

EV Charges: no more work done on this

Benches: 3 benches and 1 trash receptacle have been ordered

Sidewalk Plow: Allan is doing most of the plowing since Paul Rafuse hurt his back. A new cutting blade has been ordered. The front left-hand tire on the tractor is bald. They are the type that needs tire and wheel both replaced. Paul is looking for one but feels they can finish out the season with the one on the tractor. Ink Art Infusion is coming in tomorrow to take a look at a good spot to put the Village name on the tractor so we identify who is plowing the sidewalks. Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to allocate \$12,000 to Capital Reserves for a sidewalk plow, Commissioner Ernest seconded. Carried.

Transit Shelters: The shelters have arrived and are being stored at Bezanson's warehouse in Cambridge. Howard Little has been informed and they will be placed as weather permits. The

glass that broke on the shelter at the end of Randolph Rd has been ordered. It is a 6-8 week delivery.

Chair Keith received a call from the Village of Aylesford inquiring about the process to install transit shelters. Information was shared.

- 8. New Business: Increasing limit on VISA cards:** there is a will to increase the limit on our credit cards to allow for larger purchases if necessary. We are preapproved for \$10,000 for all 3 cards. The division would be \$5000 for the clerk, \$2500 for the Chair and \$2500 for the Fire chief. Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to investigate having the limits raised on the credit cards not exceeding \$10,000. Commissioner MacLean seconded. Carried.

Commissioner Hamilton recommended we explore auto pay for credit cards to eliminate interest fees.

Capital Reserves: Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to set up accounts to represent capital reserves for vehicle replacement for Fire department, equipment replacement for Fire department and sidewalk clearing equipment replacement for Village. Commissioner Ernest seconded. Carried.

Commissioner Training: Chair Keith asked if there was any interest in asking our Municipal Advisor, Jason Haughn to come deliver some training. The clerk will look up the list of training subjects and send to commissioners.

- 9. Other Business:**

10. FYI: Commissioners Only meeting, Tuesday January 27th, 2026 at 7:30pm.

11. Adjournment: Vice Chair Foote made a motion to adjourn at 9:14pm.