



Monthly meeting of Village Commissioners of Kings Square
Date: March 17, 2026

Present: Chair Michael Keith, Vice Chair John Foote, Commissioner Ric Hamilton, Commissioner Kevin Ernest, Commissioner Doug MacLean and Clerk Judy Rafuse

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

Regrets:

Guests:

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

1. **Approval of Agenda: Commissioner:** Commissioner MacLean made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Commissioner Ernest seconded. Carried.
2. **Approval of previous month's minutes:** Vice-Chair Foote made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Commissioner Hamilton seconded. Carried.
3. **Accounts:** Clerk Rafuse presented the bank balance and noted the GIC in the amount of \$250,000 matured February 13 and the interest gained was \$6363.01. This amount, plus another \$145,000 was reinvested in a 1 year GIC.
Commissioner MacLean made a motion to accept the bank reconciliation, Vice Chair Foote seconded. Carried.
The Accounts Payables for the month were presented. Commissioner Ernest made a motion to approve the payables, Commissioner MacLean seconded. Carried.
The Comparative Income Statement was presented noting there were several areas over budget, however there are some that are under.
The 2026/2027 budget was presented for approval. Commissioner MacLean made a motion to approve the budget for the coming year, Vice Chair Foote seconded. Carried.

4. Fire Department

February Incident Report- attached

Fire Chief's Report- Chief Johnstone reported he had a call from a county councillor asking if the department is ok with the Fire Modernization Plan as presented? For the sake of the group, the Chief gave an overview of the plan stating fire departments had been sent surveys to fill out

from the province and Fire Service Association of NS. These surveys may or may not have been filled out. The audit of the Fire School also had an impact. There have been several meetings with feedback offered. Some aspects of the plan have been retracted and fire departments may or may not have to participate. There are still a lot of unknowns and questions yet to be answered.

Building Rental Report- Banquet Hall 21 paid rentals, 7 free. Banks room 13 paid, 7 free and the kitchen at 3 rentals.

5. **Fire Department Maintenance Report:** A new reciprocating saw needs to be ordered. Cannot get batteries for the old one.

Tanker- valve leaking and needed a seal replaced. Pat Ricketts replaced at no charge as he had just repaired the same a week earlier.

Air Packs are having some issues, not sure if the batteries are corroded. The alarms keep going off.

Building Maintenance: letters being made for new name on the building.

Correspondence: N/A

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes: JAAC-** A meeting was held and a presentation was made by Department of Opportunities. The government is changing the way it funds some things. 3 hospitals will be closed including the Rehab Centre in Waterville. Clients will be offered That may include shared space; clients could go into homes with families. There are items to work out including accessible transportation, sign language needs, braille signs. Applications are open for the Hourglass Awards. (see full report attached)

Building Modification Report: An open meeting was held for anyone outside the committee to attend. There were an extra 3 or 4 members in attendance. An additional \$40,000 will be requested, from the Fire Department, to incorporate the Fitness room into the new bunker room and add 3 feet to the width of the new addition. Commissioner Ernest asked why the change is needed. The new lockers being brought in are larger and the idea is to get them off the apparatus floor for safety reasons.

Commissioner Hamilton stated if the fire department votes against the additional monetary ask, the village commission should mandate the work be done as presented.

Station 2 Communications- IAR- nothing has been done however the screen was moved and it seems to be working. Coverage for cell phones will need a booster. Quotes received are \$2000. Commissioner Hamilton asked if there could be something in the IAR program that can be changed.

Bus Shelters: Frames are up but the glass is not in yet. There was damage to one of the roofs. A new one is being sent to us.

Benches: benches are here. Chair Keith talked to Derek Mills about putting one at the entrance of Woods Subdivision where they had one previously placed. There was some concern about the sign for the subdivision and the state of the garden.

Training: Jason Haughn has given us dates for governance training. April 21, 22 or 23.

Consensus is for April 23. Clerk Rafuse will contact Jason and set up.

Job Descriptions: Chair Keith has found some older ones. Clerk Rafuse will work to update them.

- 7. New Business: Community Enhancement Policy-** Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to accept the policy, Vice Chair Foote seconded. Carried.

Fax Line in Radio Room- Commissioner Ernest made a motion to cancel the fax line in the radio room for lack of use. Commissioner Hamilton seconded. Carried.

- 8. Other Business:**

- 9. In camera:** Commissioner Ernest made a motion to enter in-camera at 9pm. Commissioner MacLean seconded.

Commissioner Ernest made a motion to come out of in camera at 9:15pm, seconded by Commissioner MacLean. Carried.

- 10. FYI:** Commissioners Only meeting March 24, 2026 at 7pm

Next Village Commission Meeting: April 21st, 2026 at 8pm

- 11. Adjournment:** Vice Chair Foote made a motion to adjourn at 9:16pm