



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Agenda

Date: December 8, 2021  
Time: 3:00 pm  
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

---

	Pages
1. Call To Order	
1.1. Amendments to Agenda	
1.2. Approval of Agenda	
1.3. Approval of Minutes	
1.3.1. June 23, 2021	1 - 2
2. Business Arising	
3. Discussion / Information Items	
3.1. Bylaw C-11 Respecting Intrusion, Robbery and Fire Alarm Systems - Davidson	3 - 11
3.2. APD Training and Development - Pike	12 - 13
4. Reports	
4.1. Chief's Report - Pike / Hunter	14 - 22
5. Next Meeting	
6. In Camera	
6.1. Approval of In-Camera Agenda	
6.2. Approval of In-Camera Minutes	
6.2.1. October 20, 2021	
6.2.2. June 23, 2021	

6.3. MGA 22 (2) (c) - Personnel Matters

6.4. MGA 22 (2) (h) - Public Security

6.5. MGA 22 (2) (h) - Public Security

7. Adjournment

**Town of Amherst  
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
Minutes**

**Date:** June 23, 2021  
**Time:** 3:00 pm  
**Location:** Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Members Present** Commissioner Sandy Fairbanks, Chair  
Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Sheila Christie  
Commissioner Steve Wells  
Commissioner Roy Pettigrew  
Commissioner George Baker

**Members Absent** Tim Hunter, Deputy Chief

**Staff Present** Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police  
Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk  
Kimberlee Jones, Municipal Clerk

---

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this was a virtual meeting held via Zoom.

**1. Call To Order**

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

**1.1 Amendments to Agenda**

**Moved By Commissioner Baker**

**Seconded By Commissioner Christie**

**To amend the agenda to move item #2 In Camera to the end of the agenda.**

**Motion Carried**

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**

**Moved By Commissioner Davidson**

**Seconded By Commissioner Christie**

**That the agenda be approved as amended.**

**Motion Carried**

**1.3 Approval of Minutes**

The Chair requested that titles of Chair and Vice Chair be reflected in the minutes and added to the names of those in attendance.

**Moved By Commissioner Baker**

**Seconded By Commissioner Davidson**

**That the minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting be approved as amended.**

**Motion Carried**

3. **Business Arising**  
No business arising.

4. **Discussion / Information Items**

4.1 **Capital Budget Update**

Chief Pike reviewed his capital budget update report as included in the agenda package.

4.2 **Mass Casualty Commission Verbal Update**

Chief Pike gave a verbal update on the Mass Casualty Commission investigation.

4.3 **Strategic Planning**

Chief Pike reviewed his memo as included in the agenda package.

**Moved By Commissioner Davidson**

**Seconded By Commissioner Christie**

**That the Amherst Board of Police Commission begin the process of reviewing the Strategic Plan.**

**Motion Carried**

4.4 **Staffing**

4.4.1 **Cadet Galloway**

Chief Pike reviewed his report as included in the agenda package.

4.4.2 **MCU / Crime Prevention Coordinator Changes**

Chief Pike reviewed his report as included in the agenda package.

5. **Reports**

5.1 **Chief's Report**

Chief Pike reviewed his report as included in the agenda package.

6. **Next Meeting**

The Committee agreed the next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

7. **Adjournment**

Councillor Baker moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion Carried**

---

Kimberlee Jones  
Municipal Clerk

---

Sandy Fairbanks  
Chair

TOWN OF AMHERST

BY LAW  
RESPECTING INTRUSION, ROBBERY AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

SHORT TITLE

1. This By-Law may be cited as the “Alarm By-Law”.

DEFINITIONS

2. In this By-Law:
  - (a) “Alarm Coordinator” means the person appointed by the Treasurer to administer the Alarm By-Law.
  - (b) “Alarm System” - means any mechanical or electrical device which is designed or used for the detection of an unauthorized entry into a building structure or facility, or for alerting others of the commission of an unlawful act, or a fire detection device which emits a sound or transmits a signal or message when activated, but does not include:
    - (a) personal alerting devices
    - (b) a device that is installed in a vehicle
    - (c) residential smoke detector
  - (c) ”Audible Alarm” - means an alarm system which generates an audible sound on the premises where it is activated;
  - (d) “Automatic Calling Device” - means any device, or combination of devices, that will upon activation, either mechanically, electronically or by any other automatic means, initiate a telephonic or recorded message which is designed to be transmitted over regular telephone lines;
  - (e) “False Alarm” - means a response to an alarm by the Amherst Police Department or Amherst Fire Department resulting from the activation of an alarm system where an emergency situation does not exist;
  - (f) “Monitored Alarm System” - means an alarm system where the signal of an

intrusion, the commission of an unlawful act, or the detection of a fire is received by a third party;

- (g) "Town" - means the Town of Amherst;
- (h) "Owner/lessee"- includes an occupant, lessee or person having possession or control of the property in question and also includes prime facie the person whose name appears on the assessment role for the Town as the assessed owner.
- (i) "Permittee" - means the holder of an alarm system permit;
- (j) "Personal Alerting Device" - means any device carried on one's person that when activated is designed to emit a sound or transmit a signal or message;
- (k) "Treasurer" means the Treasurer of the Town of Amherst or his designate.

### **PERMIT REQUIRED**

- 3. (1) No owner/lessee shall install, keep, use, permit or suffer the installation, keeping or use of an alarm system unless there is a valid and subsisting alarm system permit for that system.
- (2) An applicant for an alarm system permit shall apply to the Treasurer on a form as described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
- (3) Alarm system permits shall be issued by the Treasurer.
- (4) An alarm system permit shall be issued in the name of the owner/lessee of the building or property which the alarm is intended to protect.
- (5) An alarm system permit is required for each alarm system that is installed in any one location.
- (6) An alarm system permit may be transferred or assigned to a new owner/lessee of the property on submission to the Treasurer of a fully completed permit application form as described in Schedule "A".
- (7) The permittee shall be responsible for informing the Treasurer or his designate of any and all changes in the information contained in the permit application.

## **AUDIBLE ALARM SYSTEMS**

4. (1) No person shall install, maintain or use an audible alarm that is capable of being sounded outside of the premises continually for a period of greater than fifteen minutes after each separate activation except for an alarm system designed or used to detect heat, smoke or fire.

## **FALSE ALARMS**

5. (1) No person shall cause, permit, suffer or allow false alarms to emanate from a location where an alarm system is installed.
  - (2) Alarms activated in the following manner are hereby deemed **not** to be false alarms;
    - (a) Where the owner can demonstrate that the alarm was caused by a storm, lightning, earthquake or other violent act of nature; or
    - (b) Where the Alarm Co-ordinator is satisfied that the occurrence is isolated and due to a mechanical failure that has since been corrected by a qualified contractor, proof of which has been provided.

## **AUTOMATIC CALLING DEVICES**

6. (1) No person shall use, maintain or install, or permit the use, maintenance or installation of any automatic calling device which is programmed to transmit a message to any telephone number assigned to the Amherst Police Department, Amherst Fire Department or any dispatch or communication centre responsible for the receiving and dispatching of alarm calls to these agencies unless a contract has been entered into with the Police/Fire Department to provide an alarm monitoring service.

## **MONITORED ALARM SYSTEMS**

7. (1) When a third party is responsible for monitoring an alarm system for intrusions only, that third party shall verify that the alarm activation is not accidental by contacting the premise where the alarm is installed prior to notifying the appropriate police agency. If a police agency is dispatched prior to verification, there will be no waiver of fee if the call is cancelled subsequent to police being dispatched.
2. Where the original alarm activation signal is received by a third party who then notifies the Amherst Police Department or the Amherst Fire Department of the alarm, the third party shall supply the alarm permit number to the police/fire dispatcher receiving the call.

## **FEE FOR FALSE ALARMS**

8. 1. On the occurrence of a third and for each subsequent false alarm during any one calendar year, the permittee will be required to pay a fee of \$50.00 for each such occurrence.
2. Where a fee is charged in accordance with this by-law, the Town shall invoice the permittee of the real property. The fee shall be payable within 14 days.
3. An invoice issued under this by-law shall be due upon receipt and payable to the Town.
4. All fees collected become the property of the Town.

## **NOTIFICATION TO OWNERS**

9. (1) Upon the first occurrence of a false alarm, a notice will be provided to the permittee of the subject real property that a false alarm has occurred and advised of the fees to be imposed for more than two (2) false alarms in any one calendar year.
- (2) The notice required by this section shall be in writing and delivered by hand or regular mail to the subject property or the address in the permit. A notice sent in accordance with this section shall be deemed to have been received.

## **APPLICATION**

10. This by-law applies to all alarms in use within the Town whether installed before or after the coming into force of this by-law.

## **PENALTY**

11. 1. A person who contravenes any provision of this by-law shall upon summary conviction be liable to a minimum penalty of \$50.00 and a maximum penalty of \$1,000.00 and in wilful default of payment of the penalty the offender may be imprisoned for a maximum period not exceeding ninety days.
2. Every day during which a contravention of or failure to comply with the by-law continues is a separate offence.

# SCHEDULE "A"

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby apply for an alarm permit pursuant to the "Alarm By-Law" for the Town of Amherst.

I acknowledge that I have been made aware that in the event of over two (2) false alarms in any calendar year, I must pay a fee of \$50.00 per false alarm.

This fee must be paid within a period of fourteen (14) days following the date of notice.

**APPLICANT:**      **Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                         **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                         **Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

*The following persons are to be contacted in order of priority should an alarm be activated from our location:*

- 1.**      **Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
            **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2.**      **Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
            **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3.**      **Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
            **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN OF AMHERST  
P.O. BOX 516  
AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA  
B4H 4A1

DEAR \_\_\_\_\_,

THE AMHERST POLICE/FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS RESPONDED TO A FALSE ALARM  
AT YOUR PROPERTY LOCATED AT  
ON \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_.

THIS IS TO ADVISE THAT MORE THAN TWO (2) FALSE ALARMS IN ANY CALENDAR  
YEAR WILL RESULT IN A \$50.00 FEE LEVIED FOR EACH FALSE ALARM.

IF THERE ARE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER, PLEASE FEEL  
FREE TO CONTACT TOWN OF AMHERST CORPORATE SERVICES.

YOURS TRULY,

GREG HERRETT  
TREASURER

**TOWN OF AMHERST  
P.O. BOX 516  
AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA  
B4H 4A1**

DEAR \_\_\_\_\_,

THE AMHERST POLICE/FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS RESPONDED TO A THIRD FALSE ALARM AT YOUR PROPERTY LOCATED AT \_\_\_\_\_ ON \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS PREVIOUSLY RESPONDED TO TWO (2) ALARMS TO THIS PROPERTY ON \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_ AND ON \_\_\_\_\_, 199\_\_.

WE THEREFORE REQUEST PAYMENT OF \$50.00 AS PER OUR PREVIOUS LETTER.


IF THERE ARE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE TOWN OF AMHERST CORPORATE SERVICES.

YOURS TRULY,

GREG HERRETT  
TREASURER

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a by-law duly passed at a duly called meeting of the Council of the Town of Amherst duly held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September A.D., 1999.

GIVEN under the hand of the Town Clerk and under the corporate seal of the said Town this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October A.D., 1999.



.....  
Ed Childs, Town Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

SUBJECT: BYLAW RESPECTING INTRUSION, ROBBERY AND  
FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

Notice is hereby given that, following second reading given at a regular meeting held September 27, 1999, the Amherst Town Council approved the adoption of a BYLAW RESPECTING INTRUSION, ROBBERY AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS.

The objective of this bylaw is to encourage those who hold an alarm system permit to maintain their equipment in a responsible manner so as to lessen the incidents requiring response by the Police and/or Fire Departments to false alarms.

Copies of this new bylaw may be inspected at the office of the Town Clerk, Confederation Memorial Building, Ratchford Street during regular business hours.

Ed Childs  
Town Clerk

Amherst Daily News  
October 6, 1999

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a Notice of Publication regarding the adoption of the above Town of Amherst Bylaw as published in the local paper on October 6, 1999.

GIVEN under the hand of the Town Clerk and under the seal of the Town of Amherst this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1999.

  
.....  
TOWN CLERK

# MEMORANDUM

To: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police  
Date: December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
Subject: Training Plan

---

While our training initiatives were impacted by the pandemic and the restrictions due to the pandemic, we continue to plan and develop planning opportunities for our members and staff. Many of our training goals involve training multiple members/staff and keeping costs low by hosting the training and selling seats to other agencies. We first started doing this in 2019/2020 by hosting Phased interview Training and Intoxilyzer Training and most recently provided three new courses in September 2021. Hosting training means that we can save money normally spent on accommodations, meals and travel and enables us to train multiple people for a price less than it would normally cost us to send one person away on training. Over the next few months', we have scheduled the following opportunities for our members/staff:

**Stop-Stick Training** – Our department has reached out to the Atlantic Police Academy to provide 1 day of 'train the trainer' stop stick training for our Use of Force Trainers and instructors from other departments. Stop Sticks can be an effective means of stopping vehicles which are fleeing police and the equipment utilized is much easier to transport and store than our current spike belt. The cost of the training will be shared amongst other participating departments and our instructors will train our members in the safe and effective use of this tool. While we originally had this scheduled for October, we had to reschedule as a result of other operational matters.

**Search and Seizure Training:** In partnership with the Cumberland RCMP, we are planning to host training in the Francis Smith Community Room. RCMP LAST (Legal Application Support Team) will be attending and providing a 4-hour session in relation to search and seizure without a warrant and the associated authorities and legal articulation. Members of the Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit as well as supervisors and investigators from both APD and Cumberland RCMP will be attending.

**Critical Incident Team – Training/Certification – February 1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022:** We have arranged this training as a result of discussions Mental Health and Addictions and in partnership with the Cumberland RCMP. While training was initially scheduled for October 2021, it was delayed as a result of concerns with the pandemic and restrictions. Training for candidates will be held in the Francis Smith Community Room and is centered around the response to people in crisis and the appropriate use of available resources to ensure the best possible outcome. In many ways, it is a structured 'hub' model for Crisis Intervention. The training utilizes speakers from different agencies/perspectives to ensure that a wider understanding of this approach can be understood. Information on this program can be found at <https://www.citinternational.org/Learn-About-CIT>. We have had multiple responses from our members who are interested in this opportunity.

**Warrant Course:** While we do not yet have a definitive date for this Course, we are using Sgt Aaron Graham, Cpl Derek Hebert and other members who are very skilled and knowledgeable about warrant writing to facilitate this training. Over the past few years, our capacity to write warrants and other judicial authorizations has increased dramatically just as the requirement in regular investigations has increased. This in-house course for our own members (or other departments) will enable officers to understand the requirements and laws around warrant writing and provide them with hands-on experience and coaching, using scenarios, case studies and active engagement with their instructors and peers.

**First Aid Training/Recertifications:** As a result of the Covid-19 restrictions, first aid training has been postponed until current restrictions are lifted. We are working with DOJ and Public Health to ensure that we can move forward with this training safely. Deputy Chief Hunter will be making arrangements in the near future to have all members recertified. We expect that we will be able to utilize trainers from Halifax Regional Police to assist us with this training.

**R2MR – Road to Mental Readiness:** Chief Pike and Sgt Graham recently updated their certifications to teach this training to our staff as well as staff in other Nova Scotia Police Departments. As police leaders, we have recognized that mental health issues in our organizations is a priority and R2MR training provides staff (whether as a supervisor or front-line responder) with the tools to build resilience and to recognize when they, or their peers may be struggling. Developed by the Canadian Military, R2MR recognizes that it's imperative to take a proactive approach to wellness and to understand and take advantage of the resources available. While many of our staff are trained, we have many new staff and supervisors that require this training.

**Chief's Report**  
**Amherst Board of Police Commissioners**  
**December 2021**

This report covers the months of June to November 2021



## **TRAINING**

**Property Crime Examiner Course:** A/Corporal Tom Wood attended the 5-day Property Crime Examiner Course in Halifax from November 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>. This course provides training and instruction on crime scene examination and exhibit/evidence collection in relation to property crimes. This includes exhibit examination, fingerprinting, DNA, footwear and tire tracks and photography. The ability to have a member trained in Property Crime Examination reduces the need to rely on RCMP IDENT members for assistance on Property Crimes. We currently have one member trained in PCE (Sgt Kevin Girouard) and had already purchased the required equipment and are looking to increase our capacity in relation to this service.

**SFST (Standardized Field Sobriety Testing) Training:** We scheduled SFST training hosted by APD and provided by the Provincial Impaired Driving Team on **November 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>**. The team, which is comprised of both RCMP and Municipal Police officers, provided the candidates with the skills, knowledge and tools required to process drivers who are suspected of being impaired by drug. Sergeant Galloway, who is one of our Drug Recognition Experts also assisted which recertified him as an SFST Training. This course includes numerous training modules and the roadside testing and scripts for the front-line officers. The training is a part of the province's continued initiative to deal with impaired driving as a result of the legalization of cannabis. While the majority of our members have this training, we trained 5 new along with members from the RCMP.

**ASD Training:** During the Week of November 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, the majority of our frontline members received training supplied by the Provincial Impaired Driving Team on the new Roadside Screening Devices (Alcosensor-FST) that were purchased in the last year with funding supplied by the Department of Justice. These new devices replaced our older roadside screening devices and several extra members received training to ensure that each instrument is calibrated regularly.

**Human Source Management:** Constable Stefan Deuille, who has been assigned to the Cumberland Street Crime Unit, attended the Human Source Course hosted by the RCMP in Dartmouth from **November 14 to the 19<sup>th</sup>**. The Street Crime unit utilizes information through many different types of forms, the most important of which is the cultivation of human sources. This course teaches the candidate all the skills required to utilize human sources and includes scenarios with actors to ensure that proper procedure is followed and case law requirements are met. The feedback that was received from the RCMP instructors was that Cst Deuille did very well.

**PROS Supervisors Training (November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>):** Cst Andrea Vriend, who has recently been approved to act as shift supervisor, will be attending the PROS supervisors training course at RCMP headquarters in Halifax. This course will provide her with the ability to access and review investigative files on the system used for file maintenance. Once completed, her access rights will change so that she will be able to complete all supervisor-related functions on the system. While she is not a full-time supervisor, Cst Vriend often works in an 'acting' capacity when a supervisor is required.

**Firearms Training 9mm/Carbine/Shotgun:** During October/November three groups of Carbine Operators completed their mandatory annual firearms qualifications in 9mm pistols, shotguns and carbine rifles. The training is provided by Cpl Jeff Walsh and Cpl Derek Hebert. The carbine officers receive 2 days training and are required to successfully complete the department's qualifications. Training covers tactical deployment, containment and working in teams. Each officer also has to successfully complete a use of force scenario which includes legal articulation. Legal articulation by the officer is an important component of the training. Even if their use of force was appropriate, if they can not effectively explain their decision process important information could be missing and could impact the findings of a review of their actions.

**Canadian Critical Incident Inc:** There was no training scheduled during the months of June, July or August. In September, our department hosted three separate training courses by hiring Canadian Critical Incident Inc, and sharing the cost with other agencies. This allowed us to provide excellent instruction for our staff while keeping costs to a minimum. Each course was facilitated by Insp. Monique Rollins (ret) who has a vast amount of knowledge and experience with the subject matter. Rollins utilized scenarios to challenge and engage each participant.



**Major Incident Front Line Officer Response Course -September 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>:** Eight (8) of our members, along with 12 other candidates from other police agencies attended this 4-day course designed for front line supervisors. This course provided them with instruction on dealing with major incidents from an 'Incident Command' approach, teaching roles, responsibilities and procedures for major incidents such as an active shooter, hostage situations, or a barricaded/suicidal person. The course emphasized the role of the first supervisor on the scene in regards to planning, directing and command operations in critical incidents prior to the arrival of an Incident Commander and/or Tactical Units.



**Crisis Communication – September 24<sup>th</sup>:** Eight (8) of our dispatch and admin staff, along with 9 additional candidates from other agencies/organizations attended this 1-day designed for dispatchers or call-takers who regularly deal with individuals suffering from mental illness or are in a state of crisis. The training introduced them to the larger responsibilities of the Command Triangle and associated resources so that can better understand the critical and crucial role they play.

**Major incident – SCRIBE – September 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>:** three (3) of our staff attended this 4-day training course along with representatives from other agencies. The scribe position is a critical part of any command structure when dealing with a major incident. As a scribe, candidates are trained to document how the events unfold and how and when critical decisions are made. While it can be often overlooked, tracking this information is imperative as it is an essential part of keeping track of information, decisions, resources and is utilized heavily post event in reviews and or inquiries.

**PROS Course – September 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>:** In August our new part-time members (Mitchell Ferguson and Robert Edgar) and our new Crime Prevention Coordinator (Melanie Siddall) attended and completed the PROS Course in Dartmouth. This course is required by all staff and allows the candidates access to the Police database that is used for our file management system. They are now able to access PROS, generate and score occurrences, add and edit information and assign tasks to members and or staff. The PROS course is only offered a limited number of times per year

**Annual Firearms Training - September 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>:** Mandatory annual firearms qualifications in 9mm pistols, shotguns was completed for those members who are not Carbine Operators The training was provided by Cst. Jeff Walsh and Cst Hebert. Officers are required to successfully complete the department's qualifications and each officer also has to successfully complete use of force scenarios which includes legal articulation. Legal articulation by the officer is an important component of the training. Even if their use of force was appropriate, if they can not effectively explain their decision process important information could be missing and could impact the findings of a review of their actions.

**PROS Supervisors Training (September 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>):** Cst Jeff Goodwin, newly appointed to our Major Crime Unit, attended the PROS supervisors training course held at RCMP headquarters in Halifax. This course provided him with the ability to access and review investigative files on the system used for File maintenance. Once completed, his access rights changed so that could complete all supervisor functions

on the system. While he is not a full-time supervisor, Cst Goodwin often works in an 'acting' capacity when a supervisor is required.

## **PERSONNEL:**

**New part-time officers:** Julian Galloway, a recent graduate of the Atlantic Police Academy was hired as a part-time officer as a result of a recent competition in September. In August, Cst Robert Edgar joined the ranks of the Amherst Police Department on a part-time basis to cover shortages as a result of staffing changes over the summer.



**Major Crime Unit:** Constable Jeff Goodwin was selected to fill the second Major Crime Unit position and started in his new role on August 30<sup>th</sup>, working with his supervisor, Acting Cpl Tom Wood. As the second position in MCU, Cst Goodwin will also be focusing on drug enforcement initiatives and working closely with the Cumberland Street Crime Unit.

**Crime Prevention Coordinator:** The posting for the civilian Crime Prevention Coordinator was posted with qualifications that included post-secondary certificate or diploma in the area of law enforcement, public safety or related field or five (5) years related experience. We were also looking for someone with superior written and verbal communication skills and experience in developing crime prevention programs was considered an asset. Interviews for this position took place on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and the interview board unanimously recommended Melanie Siddall for this position. Melanie did very well in her interview, providing the board with a presentation of her vision of what the position could accomplish and what approach she felt was necessary. She has extensive experience doing presentations, planning events and team-building and we are very confident that she will be an excellent asset to our team. Melanie started work on September 8<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to attend PROS training later in September.

## **OPERATIONAL**

**Border Protests – June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021:** As a result of a protests against Covid-19 Restrictions relating to the provincial border closures, the Nova Scotia/New Brunswick Border on the Trans-Canada highway was closed for over 24 hours on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. This event had a significant impact on the town of Amherst and our policing resources. As a result of the blockage, all traffic was diverted into Amherst at Exit 4 which required police resources to get traffic off the highway and into town and into appropriate parking areas which included the Amherst Centre Mall, the Amherst Industrial Park and the Walmart parking lot. Efforts and planning focused on ensuring that we could safely and efficiently divert traffic into town and park vehicles in a way that would not seriously impact our community and ensure that, when the time came, we could direct traffic back out of town efficiently and effectively. In some cases, some of the traffic positions we took initially were taken over by RCMP and/or TIR (exit 4), but we also had to block traffic in other areas of town to provide direct assistance to the RCMP who were at the protest/blockade. This included placing additional resources at the Eddy Road, Laplanche Street and other areas.

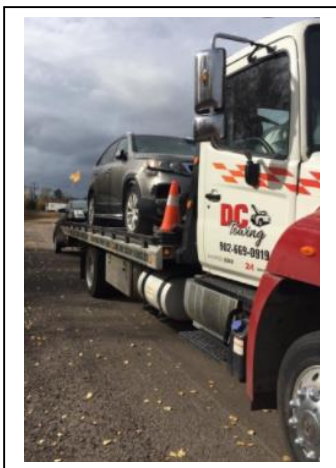
**Property Damage – July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** A 21-year-old male was arrested and charged with 4 counts of property damage, 1 count of break and enter and 1 count of theft following a series of incidents that started with the pulling of a fire alarm on a residential building on the evening of July 9<sup>th</sup>. The following morning, the fire alarm was pulled a second time at the same residential building, once again requiring a response from Amherst Fire Department and the Amherst Police Department. Shortly after, Amherst Fire responded to a fire alarm at Spring Street Academy in which the sprinkler system had been activated, causing significant damage to property. Police were contacted and it was discovered that the school had been broken into and items were stolen during the incident. The 21-year-old suspect was apprehended shortly afterwards and was remanded into custody on the charges. The matter is still before the courts.

**Break and Enter – July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021:** Amherst Police are investigating a Break and Enter that occurred on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at approximately 1:30am at the KIA Dealership. Two suspects were observed on video-surveillance which was posted on APD social media reaching close to 17,000 people. The building was accessed and culprits stole a 2013 KIA Optima. As a result of the ongoing investigation, and with the assistance of other law enforcement agencies, two suspects have been identified in this matter and numerous other incidents across the province. A 55-year-old male from Eastern Passage and a 24-year-old female from Digby are facing numerous charges in relation to this incident.



**Stabbing – August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** A 56-year-old female has been arrested and charged following a report of a stabbing at a residence on Laplanche Street. Police were called to the residence when they received a report of a male who had been stabbed with a screwdriver. The accused barricaded herself in her residence and police obtained warrants to enter and she was arrested later in the evening without incident. She was remanded into custody and is facing numerous charges that include assault with a weapon, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and several charges in relation to failing to comply with release conditions.

**Stabbing – August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** A 25-year-old male is facing numerous criminal charges following a report of a stabbing in a residential building on Rupert Street at approximately 1:30am on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. One male was injured in the attack and was treated and released from hospital. The suspect was arrested at the scene without incident and was remanded into custody. He is facing numerous charges that include attempted murder, aggravated assault, uttering threats and possession of a prohibited weapon.



**Motor Vehicle Inspection Blitz – August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** working in partnership with Motor Vehicle Compliance Officers, a “Motor Vehicle Inspection Blitz” was planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of August with the goal of promoting road and vehicle safety by setting up a roadside checkpoint to inspect vehicles. On August 25<sup>th</sup>, a total of 13 vehicles were processed and inspected. Of these 2 passed, 3 received warning notices, 1 was removed from the road and towed and determined not fit for operation and 7 more received inspection rejection stickers. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 14 vehicles were checked which resulted in one passing, 5 vehicles deemed unfit and towed, 2 issued warning notices and 6 received rejection stickers. Rejection stickers allow the vehicle to be used to travel to a garage for repairs only and are not permitted to be used otherwise. We will be setting up further dates to continue with this initiative.

**Break and enter, theft, Drugs – August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** A 44-year-old Amherst man is facing numerous charges in relation to incidents that occurred between August 25<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>. The suspect had been stopped by APD members on August 25<sup>th</sup> and a vehicle seized as a result of the suspect allegedly driving without a license, insurance or proper registration. The vehicle was towed and securely stored at a local compound. In the early morning hours of August 27<sup>th</sup>, the secure lot was broken into, and numerous items were stolen from the lot and other vehicles. The vehicle that was seized on August 25<sup>th</sup> was then driven out of the lot with the stolen items inside. Surveillance video was reviewed by police and shortly thereafter, the abandoned vehicle was located and the suspect was spotted and was arrested. A search of the suspect and their belongings resulted in the seizure of a quantity of crystal meth, meth and drug paraphernalia. He was arrested and remanded, but later released by the courts and is scheduled to return at a later date.

**Stolen Vehicle/Fleeing Police – September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** A 27-year-old New Brunswick man is facing charges that include possession of stolen property and fleeing policing following an incident at approximately 4:00pm on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Police had responded to a complaint of a vehicle swerving around traffic and

driving recklessly. The vehicle had been reported stolen in New Brunswick the day previous. The vehicle was located by and APD member on patrol but fled at a high rate of speed from the APD member who had engaged the emergency lights and siren. As a result of the heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic, a decision was made not to pursue the vehicle for safety reasons. The vehicle was last seen headed east on East Victoria Street and out of town. A witness to the event was able to ID the driver.

**Sears Family Funeral – September 24<sup>th</sup>:** A funeral was held in Victoria Square in Amherst Nova Scotia for a family of 6 that had died tragically in a fire. The funeral arrangements and planning were completed by Campbells Funeral Home with the assistance of the Town of Amherst and in consultation with APD and Chief Greg Jones, the town's Safety Compliance Officer. Public Works and other resources within the town were also heavily involved as permission had been granted by Public Health to exceed normal covid gathering limits of 250 people outdoors. APD had 11 members, which included resources from the Cumberland Integrated Street Crime unit, in attendance to assist as large crowds were expected to attend. An operational plan was developed in regards to police resources and assignments. No issues were encountered during the event.



**ATV Complaints:** APD has received several complaints in regards to ATV's on the road within town limits. In some cases, APD members have encountered ATV's while on patrol who more than often flee at high rates of speed. These incidents are happening in numerous streets in town and are a significant safety issue and concern. We will be working with our Crime Prevention Coordinator to come up with a plan to address these issues.

**Barricaded Person – October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** Members of the Amherst Police Department and the Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit assisted the Cumberland RCMP in report of a barricaded person at the corner of James St. and West Victoria Street. During the incident, neighbouring homes were evacuated as a precaution. Approximately 2 hours later, the situation was resolved peacefully and the RCMP took the person into custody safely and without injury.

**Uttering threats/Weapons Charges, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** A 29-year-old male who was arrested on an outstanding warrant is now facing numerous charges of breaching his release conditions, uttering threats to kill police officers and their families, threats to burn down buildings, damage to property and possession of weapons for a dangerous purpose. The male has been remanded into custody and is scheduled to appear in court on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Pipe Bomb incidents – Guilty Plea – October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** Brian MacDonald, who had been arrested and charged in relation to a serious of incidents in December of 2020 pleaded guilty to several charges that included mischief and intent to damage property with an improvised explosive device. As a result of the guilty plea, other charges are likely to be withdrawn by the crown. The matter returns to court for sentencing on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A pre-sentence report has been ordered.



**Arson Conviction – October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** Two people were charged in relation to arson that occurred in the early morning hours of February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Police and Amherst Fire responded to a complaint that a fire had been set to the front steps of a residence on Spring Street. The suspect had fled the scene after he appears to have accidentally lit himself on fire. The residence contains several apartments and as a result, the 18-year-old male suspect and a 27-year-old female were charged with Section 433 of the Criminal Code, Arson with disregard for human life. On Oct. 28, 2021, Isaac Reid, 19, of Halifax was sentenced to two years in federal prison after pleading guilty to a charge of arson with disregard for human life. The court also placed Reid on three years probation, which will follow the

completion of his incarceration, and ordered him to pay restitution. The second person, Jasmine Llewellyn, 28, of Salmon River is also facing a charge of arson with disregard to human life as a result of the investigation in to the fire. Her matters are currently before the courts

**MADD/Project Red Ribbon Campaign, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021:**

The local chapter of MADD Canada, supported by the Amherst Police Department, Cumberland County District RCMP and local dignitaries, launched their annual Project Red Ribbon campaign on Friday, Oct. 29, 2021. The campaign, which runs from now until the new year, promotes sober driving during the holiday season. The red ribbon is a small but powerful symbol of the wearer's commitment to sober driving, and helps keep the sober driving message top of mind for all who see it.



**Shooting – November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** On November 8<sup>th</sup>, shortly after 2:00pm, members of the Amherst Police Department responded to a complaint of a shooting at a residence on Bayview Drive. When members arrived, they located a person outside the residence who had a gunshot wound and was in serious condition. The suspect in the shooting was arrested immediately and the scene was secured by Police. EHS was cleared to attend and the victim was transported to the hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries and passed away. Joseph Thomas Hartson, aged 33 has been charged with murder as a result. The victim in the incident was 23-year-old Jerry Jordan Morrissey. The investigation is being led by the APD Major Crime unit with assistance from members of the Patrol Unit, our Street Crime Unit and the RCMP Forensic Identification Section.

**Street Crime – Drug Enforcement:**

**On July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021,** a 35-year-old male and a 33-year-old female from Amherst, Nova Scotia, were arrested near the Nova Scotia/New Brunswick border following a search of their vehicle. Both are facing charges that include possession for the purpose of trafficking methamphetamine, and possession for the purpose of trafficking isotonitazene (an opioid). Both were released on undertakings to appear in court in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

**On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021,** following a report of a motor-vehicle accident, in Little Forks, investigators arrested a 32-year-old female from Sackville, New Brunswick, and a 43-year-old female from Amherst, Nova Scotia. Both are facing charges that include possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking and possession of methamphetamine. They were also allegedly found to be in possession of an undisclosed amount of cash and bear spray. Both females were released on undertakings to appear in court in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

**On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021,** a 40-year-old female from Springhill, Nova Scotia, was arrested for possession for the purpose of trafficking methamphetamine, flight from police in a motor vehicle, and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle. Police had initiated a traffic stop and the driver fled, throwing a bag onto the roadway in the attempt to evade police. Police located the bag and found suspected methamphetamine inside. The vehicle was found in town abandoned but the driver was located a short time later by APD Patrol members and was arrested without incident. The female was released on an undertaking to appear in court in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

**On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021,** Cumberland Integrated SCEU and Amherst Police Department patrol members stopped a vehicle as it entered Amherst and arrested the driver and passenger for possession of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking. A subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of suspected crystal methamphetamine, suspected methamphetamine, suspected cocaine and suspected gabapentin. John Warner, 41, of Amherst, and Tony Riles, 48, of Springhill, have both been charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking. Warner was on parole at the time of his arrest and his parole has since been suspended. He has been returned to a federal institution where he will remain in custody. Riles was released on conditions.

The Cumberland Street Crime Unit continues to identify and investigate targets that have an impact on public safety, not only within the town of Amherst, but also in the County. Because crime does not recognize geographic boundaries, they are required to often work outside our normal jurisdictional boundaries.

**CRIME PREVENTION/SCHOOL RESOURCE**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, community festivals and events were cancelled which had a direct impact on SRO’s involvement. Constable Harrison supported the platoons with operational matters, worked closely with Family and Children’s Services on several investigations and spent much of her time at the skatepark and playgrounds, including stopping in to check on Maggie’s Place programming that was scheduled at the Lion’s Park throughout the summer. She also assisted Maggie’s Place with a ‘school supply’ drive that raised close to \$1100 and collected school supplies for students. Maggie’s Place supports approximately 400 families with back-to-school costs.



Cst Harrison and our new Crime Prevention Coordinator Melanie Siddall worked closely to introduce Melanie to her new role and continued to engage with the schools and in other crime prevention initiatives, but with the rise in covid-19 cases, many of these engagements these continue to be through online platforms such as Zoom, Skype or Teams. Constable Harrison also provided shift coverage during some of the training initiatives and attended Firearms training on September 15<sup>th</sup> and the Major Incident Frontline Supervisors Course. Melanie attended the PROS course for a week from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of September.

Melanie has been introduced and has been working with community groups that include Intra-Agency on Family and Sexual Violence, Senior Safety Committee, Municipal Alcohol Project, Bar Suspension Program, Crime Stoppers and Opioid Council.

Constable Harrison had also been working on a presentation on Human Trafficking as she was a be a special speaker at the Nova Scotia Principal’s Provincial Conference in October 2021.

**OPERATIONAL STATS – June 2021**

Occurrences:	481	Criminal Code Charges:	47
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	1
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	1
Traffic Tickets:	30	PPA:	0
HPA:	1	Traffic Written Warnings:	8
Vehicle Checks:	101	LCA:	2
Foot Patrol Hours:	18 hrs,4 min	Bike Patrol Hours:	0

**OPERATIONAL STATS – JULY 2021**

Occurrences:	464	Criminal Code Charges:	39
Impaired by Alcohol:	5	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	32	PPA:	0
HPA:	0	Traffic Written Warnings:	11
Vehicle Checks:	117	LCA:	4
Foot Patrol Hours:	5 hrs, 33 min	Bike Patrol Hours:	0

### **OPERATIONAL STATS – AUGUST 2021**

Occurrences:	459	Criminal Code Charges:	54
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	1
Impaired by Drug:	1	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	33	PPA:	0
HPA:	1	Traffic Written Warnings:	15
Vehicle Checks:	155	LCA:	1
Foot Patrol Hours:	9 hrs 16 min	Bike Patrol Hours:	0

### **OPERATIONAL STATS – September 2021**

Occurrences:	526	Criminal Code Charges:	55
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	34	PPA:	1
HPA:	0	Traffic Written Warnings:	29
Vehicle Checks:	176	LCA:	4
Foot Patrol Hours:	14 hrs 0 min	Bike Patrol Hours:	0

### **OPERATIONAL STATS – OCTOBER 2021**

Occurrences:	471	Criminal Code Charges:	32
Impaired by Alcohol:	2	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	29	PPA:	0
HPA:	0	Traffic Written Warnings:	44
Vehicle Checks:	165	LCA:	1
Foot Patrol Hours:	23 hrs, 24 min	Bike Patrol Hours:	0

### **OPERATIONAL STATS – NOVEMBER 2021**

Occurrences:	428	Criminal Code Charges:	57
Impaired by Alcohol:	0	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	33	PPA:	0
HPA:	0	Traffic Written Warnings:	35
Vehicle Checks:	160	LCA:	1
Foot Patrol Hours:	8 hrs 54 min	Bike Patrol Hours:	0

## APD Occurrences - 2019, 2020, 2021 Months of June, July, August & September, October & November

