



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, May 30, 2023**
Time: **3:00 pm**
Location: **Council Chambers, Town Hall**

Pages

-
1. **Call To Order**
 - 1.1 **Territorial Acknowledgement**

“I would like to acknowledge that our gathering today is taking place in (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional, unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaw people. I would also like to acknowledge that Nova Scotia has another unique people. These are the Indigenous Blacks of Nova Scotia whose legacy and contributions date back over 400 + years predating confederation of this land. We are all treaty people.”
 - 1.2 **Amendments to Agenda**
 - 1.3 **Approval of Agenda**
 - 1.4 **Approval of Minutes - April 25, 2023** 1 - 2
 2. **Delegations / Presentations**
 - 2.1 **Surveillance Camera Registry Presentation - Det/Cst Jeff Goodwin** 3 - 13
 3. **Business Arising**
 4. **Discussion / Information Items**
 - 4.1 **Police Week**
 5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 **Chief's Report** 14 - 18
 6. **Next Meeting**

7. In Camera

7.1 Approval of Minutes - April 25, 2023

7.2 MGA 22(2)(h) - public security

7.3 MGA 22(2)(h) - public security

7.4 MGA 22(2)(e) - contract negotiations

7.5 MGA 22(2)(e) - contract negotiations

7.6 MGA 22(2)(h) - public security

8. Adjournment

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

Date: April 25, 2023
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Commissioner Paul Calder, Chair
Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice-Chair
Commissioner George Baker
Commissioner Charlie Chambers
Commissioner Sandy Fairbanks
Commissioner Holly MacDonald
Commissioner Angela Ryan-Bourgeois

Staff Present Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Tim Hunter, Deputy Chief
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk/Board Secretary
Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant

1. Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Amendments to Agenda

Moved By Commissioner Davidson

Seconded By Commissioner MacDonald

To add item 1.2.2, swearing in of Angela Ryan-Bourgeois, to the agenda.

Motion Carried

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Commissioner Davidson

Seconded By Commissioner MacDonald

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

1.4 Approval of Minutes

Moved By Commissioner Baker

Seconded By Commissioner Fairbanks

That the minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

2. Discussion / Information Items

2.1 Verbal Update on Strategic Planning

Chief Pike gave a verbal update on the strategic planning process, indicating that the Town's Director of Community Living Sharon Bristol has agreed to assist with facilitating the process. The Chief and Sharon will discuss before the next meeting.

3. Reports

3.1 Chief's Report

Deputy Chief Hunter and Chief Pike reviewed the Chief's report included in the agenda package. Information item only; no direction given or action required.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

5. In Camera

**Moved By Commissioner Chambers
Seconded By Commissioner Ryan-Bourgeois
To go in camera.**

Motion Carried

6. Adjournment

**Moved By Commissioner Chambers
Seconded By Commissioner Fairbanks
To adjourn the meeting.**

Motion Carried

Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk
Board Secretary

Paul Calder
Chair

Town of Amherst voluntary surveillance camera registry

Cst. Jeff Goodwin
Amherst PD MCU

Benefit and Goals:

- For the Amherst Police Department to maintain a registry of home owners/ business with surveillance systems installed
- For the Town of Amherst residents to participate in crime prevention and enforcement
- To assist police investigations with identifying suspects
- To not take away from regular police duties but to enhance our efficiency and community engagement
- Only for Town of Amherst residents and businesses

Aspect: Web-based registry

Police Department

- CAO's Office
- Clerk's Office
- Corporate Services
- Communications,
Procurement, IT
- Community Living
- Operations Department
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Police Chief Message
- Camera Registry
- Organizational Chart
- Board of Commissioners
- Reporting a Crime
- Ticket Payments
- Press Releases
- Community Policing

The mission of the Amherst Police Department is to ensure safety and professional service to its citizens. This is done through dedication and accountability in partnership with our community.



Proposal: Registration

- Town of Amherst IT create a email handle CameraRegistry@amherst.ca
- The online form would be filled out by the applicant and an automated email would be sent to the registry email
- The information received would be manually entered into an APD database(excel spreadsheet)

Proposal: Maintenance

- A designated officer would contact individual home owners to check to see if their information is accurate annually
- Have the registry in the common drive for dispatch/patrol access
- Only one officer can add/remove information on the registry
- Consent must be provided before being entered onto the registry

Issues:

Privacy

- To assist in maintaining privacy APD will not publish the registry
- APD will not post the video/stills on social media without permission
- APD will not use footage to investigate non-serious crimes
- APD will not use the footage to investigate the homeowner or other members of the residence without a warrant
- APD will only use footage relevant to an investigation
- Each time their video is used or requested participation is voluntary
- Can be taken off the registry at any time

Issues:

Cost

- There should be minimal cost associated to the registry
- Human hours (officer) to maintain the registry
- Human hours to create the email and website form (IT)
- Designated USB storage devices to retrieve information from participants

Future goals:

- The registry can be edited and updated on a continuous basis
- The registry could be entered into mapping software for interactive mapping/ crime mapping
- To further utilize APD's social media hand-in-hand with the camera registry

The city of Red Deer has an online portal sign in and registers individual cameras and then has the following disclaimer

The goal of the Red Deer RCMP Security Camera Registry program is to deter crime and promote public safety through collaboration between the Red Deer RCMP and the communities we serve. Accordingly, all Security Camera registrants agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. The Red Deer RCMP may request access to video footage containing or related to criminal activity, that was collected by the home or business owner, for use in investigating criminal activity or for use as evidence during any stage of a criminal proceeding . When requested, the home or business owner may decide to disclose the requested video footage to the Red Deer RCMP.
2. If necessary, the Red Deer RCMP will contact the home or business owner directly, using the information provided on this site, to request the appropriate video surveillance footage.
3. Under no circumstances shall registrants construe that they are acting as an agent and/or employee of the City of Red Deer and/or the Red Deer RCMP through the Security Camera Registry program.
4. Under no circumstances shall the Red Deer RCMP obtain any information or footage/feeds without the direct assistance from the registrants.

I agree with these terms *

Create new account

Example website form

Address:	123 Sample Street Amherst, Nova Scotia
Is this address a residence or business	Residence/Business
Contact name:	Sample Name
Contact phone number:	(123)456-7890
Contact email address:	Sample@gmail.com

Facebook post: The Amherst Police Department is looking for Amherst citizens and business owners to participate in a voluntary Amherst Police Department camera surveillance registry program. The Amherst Police Department recognizes there is useful information the public can provide to police in certain investigation. To maintain and improve public engagement, and keep up with the ever-changing technology curve the Amherst Police Department is suggesting:

APD will:

- Maintain records of those wishing to volunteer information about their own surveillance system
- Contact residents and home owners if their footage could help an investigation
- Continue to use police techniques like door-to-door inquires
- Remove those who decide not to participate in the program
- Will only utilize footage or photographs for serious investigations (Criminal Code, missing persons, etc.)

APD will NOT

- Share the information provided to police unless consent is provided
- Never post images or videos provided to APD to social media without consent
- Request footage or photos from inside a residence, only outdoor residential camera will be utilized
- Accept log-in details for a surveillance system
- Accept or use footage or photographs depicting home owners or residents without their consent

Chief's Report
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
May 30th 2023

This report covers the month of April 2023



TRAINING

National DNA Bank Training: On April 25th, 2023, Cpl Tom Wood and Det/Cst Jeff Goodwin attended the National DNA Bank training which was hosted by New Glasgow Regional Police. The training was a refresher for Cpl Wood who had done the training a few years ago. The training provides instruction on DNA collection (blood or buccal swab) as well as preparing submissions whether as a result of a DNA warrant or a DNA court order as a result of a conviction condition.

Initial Critical Incident Response Course: Det/Cst Jeff Goodwin attended the ICIR Course that was hosted by Halifax Regional Police from April 17th to April 21st. This training is designed for front-line supervisors who are in charge during the initial portion of a critical incident, covering topics that include tactical planning, resource allocation, working in a command triangle and managing a critical incident. The majority of our supervisors have received this training over the past few years.

OPERATIONAL

Traffic Blitz: On May 1st, 2023, Cst Matt Wilmot organized a traffic blitz with the help of Cst Mitch Ferguson and the members of A Platoon. They focused on traffic enforcement around the 'move over law', expired registrations, cell phones and other issues. Within a few hours, 12 tickets and 11 warnings were issued by the participating members.

Homelessness: The homelessness related files for April dropped slightly to 41, down from 47 in March but still up from the 11 files in February. As with previous months, the majority of complaints are generated by 2 or 3 people in which police often have multiple contacts with each day and are usually centered around trespassing or well-being checks.

Shoplifting Complaints: We continued to see an upward trend in the shoplifting complaints. In February we had 9 complaints, this increased to 18 in March and 29 complaints in April. These complaints have resulted in numerous charges as well as police issuing Protection of Property Act Notices on behalf of local business against persons alleged to have been involved in theft related incidents.

Polar Plunge – April 29th, 2023: Sergeant Aaron Graham attended and participated in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge in Halifax with several of his colleagues and community partners. Representatives from numerous Nova Scotia Police agencies were in attendance and 'took the plunge' to support the Special Olympics. Sergeant Graham commented "*it was way colder than I expected!*" but enjoyed and took pride in the opportunity to represent our department and support such an important cause.



Moment of Silence – April 18th, 2023: Members and staff of the Police Department were joined by other members of the community for a moment of silence outside the police station to remember the victims and families of the tragic incident that occurred on the 18th & 19th of April 2020 in Portapique, NS. As they stood in silence, the church bells rang 22 times in honour of each of the 22 victims.



Drug Charges – Traffic Stop: Amherst Police seized over half a pound of a white powder that tested positive for cocaine after a traffic stop on May 3rd. Police had been notified that the vehicle was involved in a theft from an Amherst-area business and an employee was following the vehicle and called police. Police located the vehicle and subsequently searched the vehicle locating the suspect cocaine, unstamped tobacco and items suspected to be stolen. Brenden Leblanc, aged 52 and Daniel Downey aged 56 were arrested and are facing numerous charges which include possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking, theft related charges and charges in relation to the tobacco. Both males were held in custody and made a brief court appearance before being released on conditions. The truck they were driving was seized pending further investigation.

Arrest of Male after altercation: A 26-year-old male from the Truro area was arrested by Amherst Police and is facing numerous charges as a result of an incident in Amherst on April 25th, 2023. Charges include Resist Arrest 129(a) CC x 2, Assault 266 CC x1, Damage to property 430(4) CC, fail to comply with conditions 145(5)(a) x 3. At approximately 10:30pm on Tuesday, April 25th, Police responded to complaint of an assault in progress at a residence in Amherst. On arrival, they discovered a male who had assaulted a family member and was being restrained by another family member until police arrived. The male continued to be combative with the attending officers, resisted arrest and attempted to kick the windows out of the police car. As a result, pepper spray was utilized. The male was transported back to the Amherst Police Department. At the police station, the male continued to be uncooperative by damaging APD property. Upon further investigation, it was learned that the male was the subject of warrant out of New Brunswick. Authorities in New Brunswick were contacted and he was later released from APD custody on conditions and a with a court date handed over to custody of the New Brunswick RCMP.

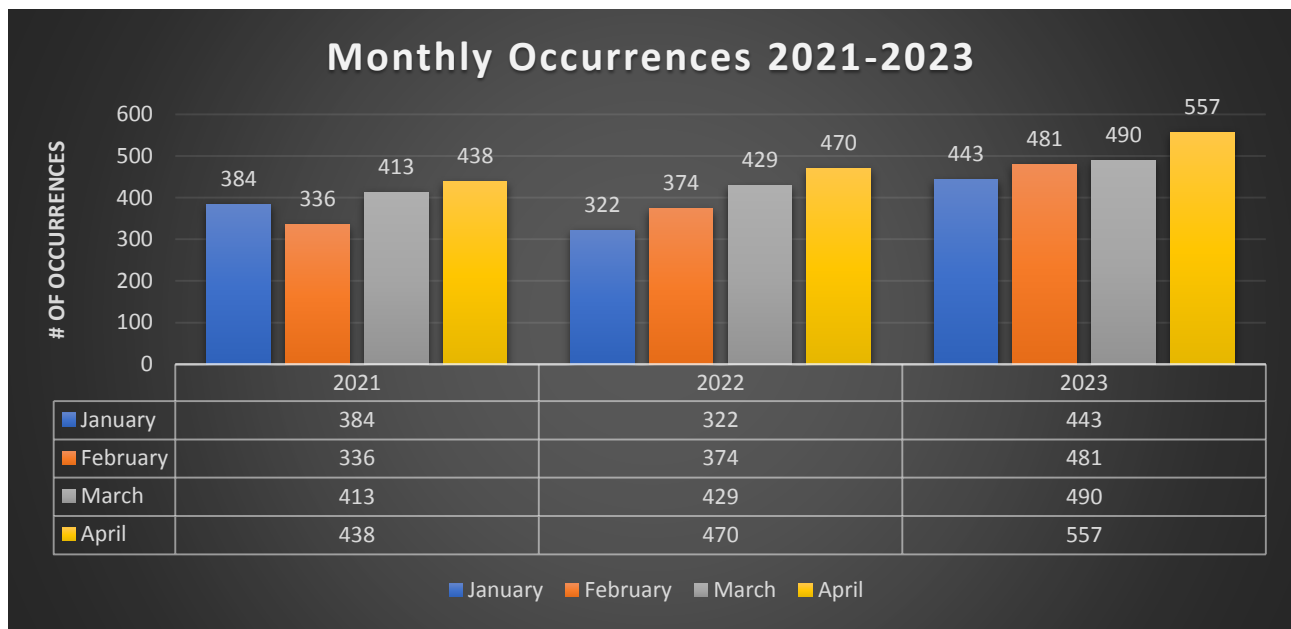
Fraud Charges: Two Amherst women have been arrested and charged in relation to a complaint of a theft from vehicles which occurred on or about April 21st/22nd, 2023. Bank and credit cards were stolen in the theft and were used at several locations in town. Jessica Dawn Scott, 29, has been charged with 7 counts of fraud, 4 counts of Possession of Property obtained by crime, breach of probation, breach of release conditions, theft under \$5000 and four (4) other charges relating to the theft, use and possession of stolen bank/credit cards and laundering the proceeds of crime. Brandi Lynn Landry, 48, has also been charged in relation to these incidents, including 5 counts of fraud, 1 count of possession of property obtained by crime and 5 additional charges relating to the theft, use and possession of stolen bank/credit cards and laundering the proceeds of crime.

Traffic Stop – Stolen Vehicle: An Amherst woman, Nellie Landry, 26, is facing multiple charges following a traffic stop conducted by the Amherst Police Department on Sunday, April 16, 2023. Landry been charged with two counts of possession of property, valued at \$5,000 or less, that were obtained by crime and operating a motor vehicle without a valid driver's licence. The traffic stop was initiated at about 5:45 p.m. after an Amherst officer observed a woman going through donation bins located on Crescent Avenue,

getting into a vehicle and departing. During the traffic stop, the officer learned the vehicle had allegedly been stolen from a Port Elgin, N.B. residence on April 15. The officer arrested the three female occupants of the vehicle and took them into custody. A subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of a BB pellet gun that was allegedly stolen from the same Port Elgin residence. Two of the three women were released from custody with no charges at this time. Landry was also released on conditions and will appear in Amherst provincial court at a later date.

OPERATIONAL STATS – APRIL 2023

Occurrences:	557	Criminal Code Charges:	95
Impaired by Alcohol:	2	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	46	PPA:	14
Traffic Written Warnings:	22	Vehicle Checks:	12
LCA:	7	Foot Patrol Hours:	52 hrs/29 min
Bike Patrol Hours:	0	Parking Tickets:	11
Parking Warnings:	8		

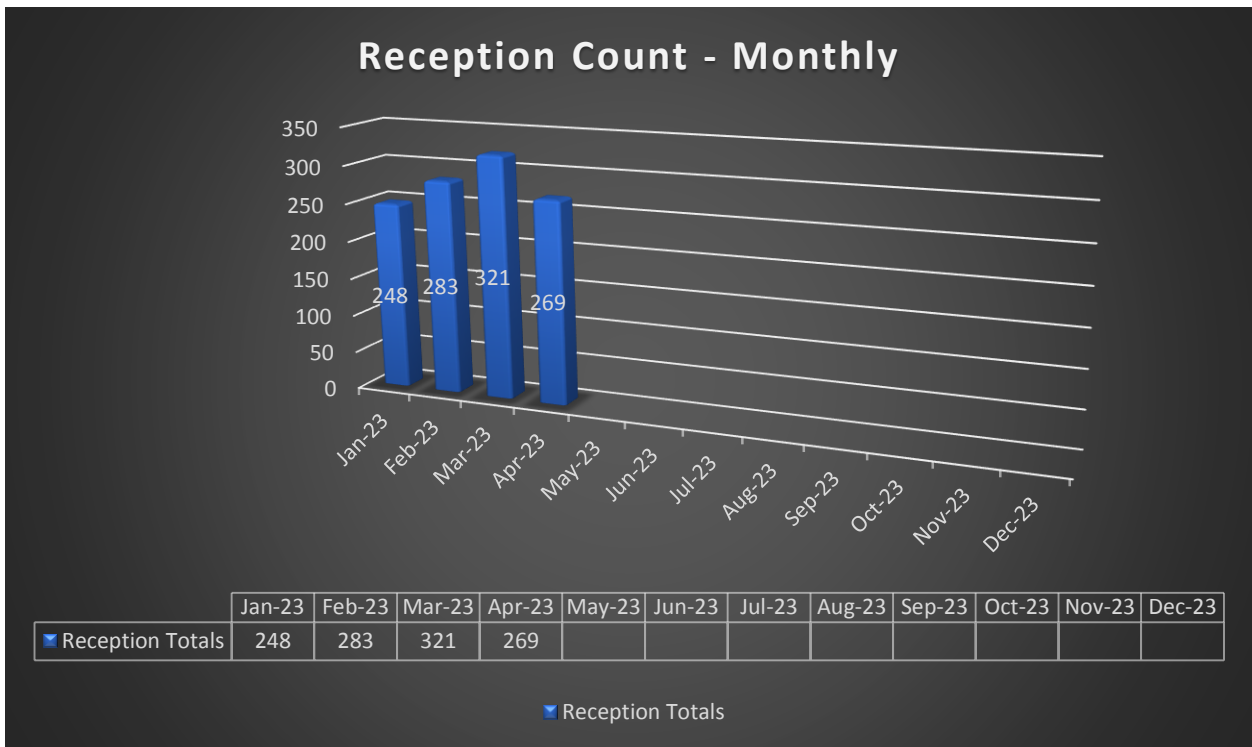


4 Month Occurrences Comparison Totals:
 2023 – 1,971 Occurrences
 2022 – 1,605 Occurrences
 2021 – 1,571 Occurrences



4 Month Charge Comparison Totals:

2023 – 382 Criminal Charges
 2022 – 240 Criminal Charges
 2021 – 245 Criminal Charges



Dispatch Calls by Category - Monthly

