



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, February 27, 2024**
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 Acceptance of Minutes - January 23, 2024

1 - 2

2. Delegations / Presentations

2.1 DOJ Board Training

3. Discussion / Information Items

3.1 Strategic Planning

4. Reports

4.1 Chief's Report

3 - 6

5. Next Meeting

6. Closed Session

6.1 Approval of the Agenda

6.2 Acceptance of Minutes

6.3 MGA 22(2)(c) - personnel matters

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

7. Adjournment

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

Date: January 23, 2024
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Commissioner Paul Calder, Chair
Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice Chair
Commissioner, Charlie Chambers
Commissioner George Baker
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

1. Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Amendments to Agenda

Commissioner Davidson requested that a Strategic Planning update be added under Business Arising.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

**Moved By Commissioner Ryan Bourgeois
Seconded By Commissioner Fairbanks
To approve the agenda as amended.**

Motion Carried

1.4 Acceptance of Minutes

The Chair called for any errors or omissions. There being none, the minutes of the November 28, 2024 meeting of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners were accepted as included in the agenda package.

1.5 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair called for nominations for position of Chair. Commissioner Davidson nominated Commissioner Calder. There were no other nominations.

The Chair then called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Fairbanks nominated Commissioner Davidson. There were no other nominations.

The Commission unanimously agreed that Commissioner Calder be reappointed as Chair and Commissioner Davidson be reappointed as Vice Chair.

2. Presentations

2.1 Major Crime Unit Presentation

Cpl Tom Wood gave a verbal presentation on the Major Crime Unit. Information item only; no direction given or action required.

3. Business Arising

3.1 Strategic Planning Verbal Update

Chief Pike gave a verbal update on the Strategic Planning status. Information item only at this time.

4. Discussion / Information Items

4.1 Board Training

Chief Pike reviewed his memo included in the agenda package, indicating that the NS Department of Justice has announced that the training package for Police Commission Boards is now complete and they are ready to start rolling it out. He will get available dates from DOJ and training will be scheduled.

4.2 Vehicle Pursuits

Chief Pike presented his memo included in the agenda package. Information item only; no direction given or action required.

5. Chief's Report

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

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled when training dates become available.

7. Closed Session

**Moved By Commissioner Ryan Bourgeois
Seconded By Commissioner Davidson
To go into Closed Session.**

Motion Carried

8. Adjournment

There being no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk / Board Secretary

Paul Calder
Chair

Chief's Report

Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

February 27th, 2024

This report covers the month of January 2024



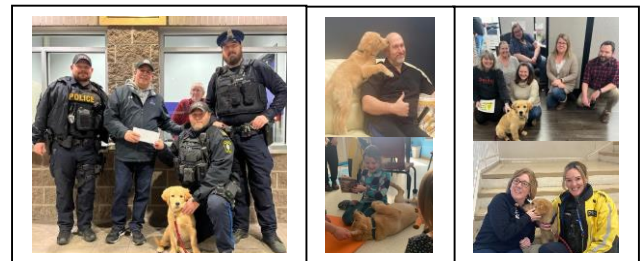
TRAINING

Military Veterans Wellness Program: All members have been signed up for this online course that was developed in partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Toronto Police Military Veterans Association (TPMVA), Royal Canadian Legion (RCL), Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), and the Canadian Armed Forces. The MVWP was established to equip frontline officers with raised awareness and training to enhance the recognition and understanding of military Veterans' issues, build rapport, and provide a formal mechanism to connect military Veterans with essential social services delivered through the RCL, VAC, and OSISS. There are many factors that contribute to a military Veteran being in need of assistance, however, the three most common factors are: financial instability, lack of social support, and health concerns. There are approximately 3000 - 5000 unhoused Veterans across Canada and Veterans die by suicide at approximately twice the rate of the general public.

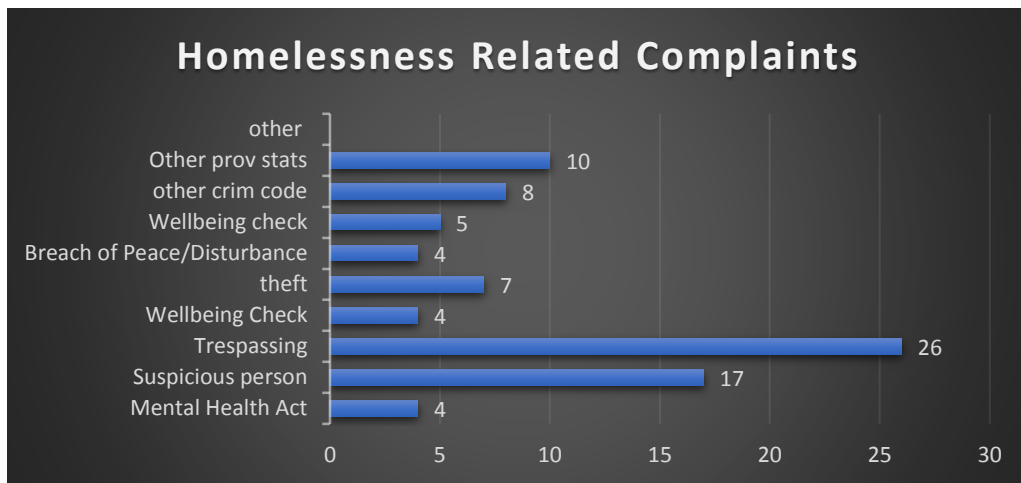


GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Rocky K9: Rocky had a very busy month in January, visiting schools, Cumberland Mental Health & Addictions, and other places and organizations, including spending time with kids learning and reading meeting new friends. Regardless of where Rocky goes, he's always a big hit with everyone.



Homelessness: As with the trend in December 2023, January 2024 saw a sharp increase with 85 complaints related to homelessness. In December, we had 33 such occurrences as compared to 6 in November. Many of these complaints were involving the same person multiple times. We have also been dealing with some people that we are unfamiliar with and are not from this area. The majority of complaints were cleared without laying charges. To date, February 2024 stats have seen an increased number as well. These stats are still much lower than in August 2022 when we logged 140 complaints.



Shoplifting Complaints: January saw a slight increase (14) in shoplifting complaints as apposed to December (12). In November there were 7 complaints. We had 5 such occurrences in October, down from 12 complaints of shoplifting in September. In August, we logged 19 complaints.

Changes in Occurrences/Charges: Our criminal charge stats once again saw a slight increase in January 2024 (83) as compared to the Criminal Charges for December 2023 (50). This is down from November with 87 criminal charges but higher than those observed in January 2023 when we had 59 charges. As noted in previous reports, the 2023 calendar year being one of the busiest

in the last decade with a total of 1,116 charges laid this year as compared to 976 charges being laid last year. Our January 2024 occurrences numbered 481, slightly increasing from 444 in December 2023, and lower than in January 2023 (443).

Safe, Approach and Rescue Vehicle: On January 25th, 2024, Chief Pike, D/Chief Hunter, Sgt Aaron Graham and John Michaels (TOA Public Works Mechanic) attended the GardaWorld Compound in Moncton and met with Darrell Coffin (Vice President) and viewed the SARV. Overall, it appeared to be in good shape with some minor bodywork issues. It is a large 10-wheeled vehicle with a two-seat cab with two more seats positioned behind the cab. The rear of the truck is fairly large, but has a low ceiling, with benches and storage units for equipment and other necessities that can easily be installed. For specs, it is a 2004 International MF305, the armour levels are L3A Body, Cab and rear cargo, Glass is L4. It has a rear double axle, (10 wheels). Aside from a couple of minor issues that Darrell is going to address, including cleaning, we expect that we will be taking delivery sometime in the next few weeks. Our first order of business will be to remove the GardaWorld decals as per the proposed MOU. After that we are looking at options for lighting, painting, decaling and other upgrades, many of which may come via sponsorships, donations or volunteered time. I expect that we will continuously add to it over time as it is a pretty exciting project. Sergeant Graham has also put together a draft Standing Order in relation to its use which we will continue to develop and finalize over time. Our expectation is that this vehicle will provide additional support for the MOUs we have with other municipal Police departments, and will be available to assist the RCMP or any other first responder agency if required.



OPERATIONAL

Impaired Driving/Drug Charges – January 27th, 2024: A 33-year-old male Amherst male has been arrested, charged and remanded into custody as a result of a traffic stop on Hickman Street during the afternoon of January 27th, 2024. Cody Ryan Cottenden, aged 33 of Amherst, Nova Scotia, has been charged with one (1) count of driving while impaired, two (2) counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, two (2) counts of possession of a concealed weapon and applicable charges under the Drugs and Substances Act. He is also facing charges under the Motor Vehicle Act for driving without a license. At approximately 3:00pm on Saturday, January 27th, 2024, a member of the Amherst Police Department observed the accused, who does not possess a drivers' license, driving in the area of Cornwall Avenue. A vehicle stop was conducted on Hickman Street and the attending officer observed drug paraphernalia inside the vehicle and recognized signs of impairment. The accused was arrested as grounds were formed to believe that he was driving while impaired. Police also located weapons and drugs during the arrest. The accused was remanded into custody and made a brief court appearance. He has since been released by the courts on conditions and returns to court at a later date.

Suspicious Person Complaint/Multiple Charges – January 25th, 2024: A 31-year-old male has been arrested and charged in relation to an incident that resulted in a lockdown at a local school and hold and secure at other Amherst Schools. Shortly before 1:00pm on January 26th, 2024, Police received a call that a person wearing dark clothing and a balaclava was on Mission Street and appeared to be carrying a rifle. Members of the Amherst Police, which included the patrol section and Major Crime Unit members, immediately responded to the area, including West Highlands School which was placed on lockdown as a precaution. Police spoke to witnesses to get more details on what was observed while other schools were notified and information was posted to social media. Shortly afterwards, police were advised that the person may be in a residential area nearby as a person was spotted behind a row of houses. Police located a person that matched the description provided by witnesses. The male was carrying what appeared to police to be a firearm. The male was swiftly taken into custody by Amherst uniformed patrol members. An airsoft rifle and an airsoft pistol were in his possession. Both items very closely resembled authentic firearms. Cory LeBlanc, aged 31 of Amherst Nova Scotia, has been charged with two (2) counts of breach of probation, two (2) counts of possession of a weapon for a purpose dangerous to the public peace, one (1) count of mischief, one (1) count of breach of a weapons prohibition, and one (1) count of carrying a concealed weapon and a charge of resisting arrest. Once the lockdown was lifted, Cst Harrison and K9 Rocky spent additional time speaking with both students and staff of West Highlands School. The accused was held in custody overnight, made a brief court appearance on January 26th, 2024 and returned on February 15th 2024 for a bail hearing

Crystal Methamphetamine/Cocaine Seizure – January 8th, 2024: Two Amherst men are facing drug trafficking charges following a vehicle stop during the early morning hours of January 8th, 2024. Shortly after 1:30am on January 8th, 2024, Police conducted a traffic stop on Havelock Street in Amherst, NS. As a result of that traffic stop, 2 persons were arrested and a substantial amount of Crystal Methamphetamine, Cocaine and Canadian currency was located inside the vehicle. Police also located drug paraphernalia, which included electronic scales. Both men have been arrested and since released by the courts on conditions. Nicholas Ivan Davis, aged 34 of Amherst, Nova Scotia has been charged with Possession of Methamphetamine for the Purpose of Trafficking, Possession of Cocaine for the Purpose of Trafficking, driving while Prohibited, Breach of Undertaking, Identity Fraud, and Obstructing a peace officer. Corey Gallagher, aged 43 of Amherst, Nova Scotia has been charged with Possession of Methamphetamine for the Purpose of Trafficking and Possession of Cocaine for the Purpose of Trafficking. Both men are due back in court on March 4th, 2024.

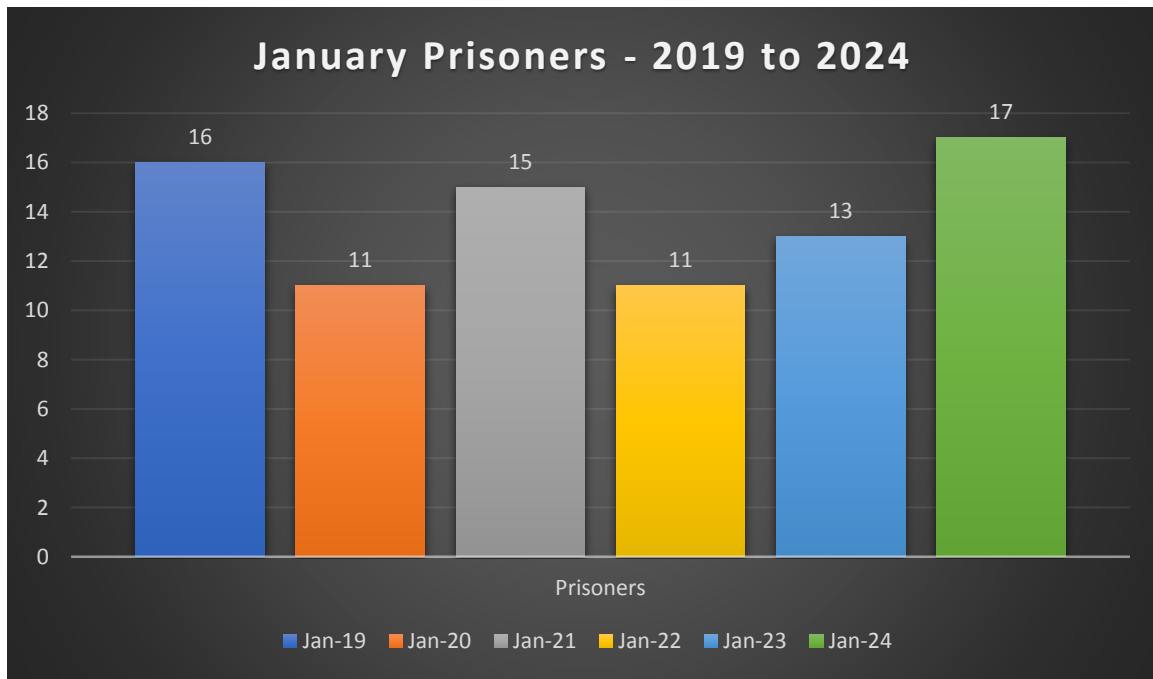
PERSONNEL:



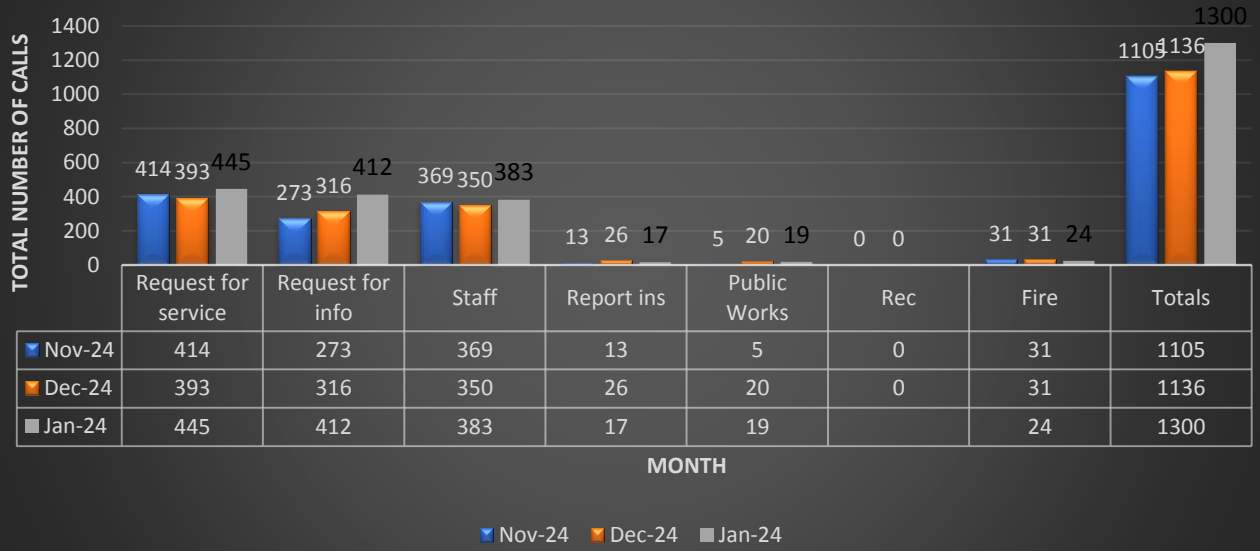
Special Olympics Nova Scotia Provincial Award: Once again, Cst Michelle Harrison has been recognized for her dedication and work in relation to the Nova Scotia Special Olympics and has been selected as the 2023 recipient for the Law Enforcement Torch Run Award. This year, the 30th Inspired Gala and Auction, which is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics Nova Scotia was held on February 21st, 2024 at the Nova Centre. As expected, we are ecstatic that Michelle has once again been recognized for her community spirit and dedication!

OPERATIONAL STATS – DECEMBER 2023

Occurrences:	481	Criminal Code Charges:	83
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	5
Impaired by Drug:	3	CBCA:	1
Traffic Tickets:	29	PPA:	0
Traffic Written Warnings:	15	Vehicle Checks	136
LCA:	1	Foot Patrol Hours:	25hrs, 43 min
Bike Patrol Hours:	0	Parking Tickets:	4
Parking Warnings:	9		



Dispatch Calls by Category - Monthly



JANUARY 2024 Dispatch Calls

