



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, September 17, 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 - June 18, 2024

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2. Presentations

2.1 Inspector Brian Gairns Promotion

2.2 Dave Hirtle Retirement

3. Business Arising

3.1 Strategic Planning Update

4. Discussion / Information Items

4.1 Provincial Policing Standards Review and Summary Verbal Update

4.2 Conference Review Verbal Update

- 4.3 SARV Verbal Update
- 4.4 Recruiting / Staffing Verbal Update
- 4.5 Police Champlain 3 - 6
- 5. Reports
- 5.1 Chief's Report 7 - 9
- 6. Next Meeting
- 7. Closed Session
- 7.1 Approval of Closed Session Agenda
- 7.2 Approval of Closed Session Minutes
- 7.3 MGA 22(2)(h) - public security
- 7.4 MGA 22(2)(c) - personnel matter
- 7.5 MGA 22(2)(h) - public security
- 8. Adjournment

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

Date: June 18, 2024
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Commissioner Paul Calder, Chair
Commissioner, Charlie Chambers
Commissioner George Baker
Commissioner Caprice Barbour
Commissioner Sandy Fairbanks

Members Absent Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice Chair
Commissioner Angela Ryan Bourgeois

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

Others Present Sharon Bristol, Director Community Living
Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

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 Swearing In of New Commissioner

Chief Dwayne Pike swore in the newest Board member Caprice Barbour.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Commissioner Fairbanks

Seconded By Commissioner Barbour

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

1.4 Acceptance of Minutes - April 16, 2024

The Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners were accepted as included in the agenda package.

2. Delegations / Presentations

2.1 APD Strategic Plan Verbal Update

Sharon Bristol provided a verbal update to the Board. The Board was asked to decide in the coming weeks if they feel there is a need for further public community engagement, either through an open Town Hall meeting or a public survey. The Board Secretary will email the Board asking their preference.

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Discussion / Information Items

4.1 CAPG Conference

Both Commissioner Chambers and Commissioner Fairbanks expressed interest in attending the CAPG conference in Halifax in August, however the policy states only one member is permitted to attend. The CAO noted that funds could be available if both Commissioners did wish to attend.

5. Chief's Reports

Chief Pike and Deputy Chief Hunter reviewed the Chief's report, included in the agenda package.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

7. Closed Session

**Moved By Commissioner Fairbanks
Seconded By Commissioner Chambers
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

MEMORANDUM

To: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Date: September 17, 2024
Subject: Chaplain Program

The Amherst Police Department has utilized a 'Chaplain' program for the last thirty years or so. Reverend David Myles has served in this capacity since the early 1990's and continues to drop by on a regular basis to check in on our members and staff. As he has long-since retired from the ministry, we have had discussions with him regarding his position. He understands that we are seeking a new Chaplain for the Amherst Police Department and his only request is that he be able to maintain his relationship with us as an 'Honorary Chaplain', which we are more than willing to do.

In saying this, we will be advertising for this position, and would like to do this in the next month or so, which will include background checks and interviews to find a suitable replacement. We are seeking someone who will be a good fit for our department and understand the needs and the nature of working in a policing environment for both sworn and civilian staff.

Police Chaplains provide a variety of roles when utilized. These include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Officiating and prayer at marriages, funeral and other ceremonies
- Spiritual guidance and counselling police officers, peace officers, civilian members of the services and their families
- Provide referral to available support services as needed
- Visit sick and injured personnel and family members
- Crisis response, defusing, and critical incident debriefing
- Aid victims
- Assist members and civilians at suicide incidents
- Assist and make death notifications
- Educate in areas such as stress management, ethics, family life, addictions, etc
- Serve as liaison with other faiths and clergy in the community
- Advise agency leadership on the morale and well-being of members
- Offer prayers at ceremonial function

We have attached a draft policy to serve as a template for this position and how we can utilize it. This policy will likely change before finalized, but is based heavily on the Bridgewater Police Service Policy.

We will be looking for the assistance of Police Commission members in selecting a viable candidate for this position.

Amherst Police Department

STANDING ORDER 2024-0003
APD CHAPLAIN POLICY
DATE: SEPT 27TH, 2024

I. SUBJECT

The Chaplain Unit is comprised of a volunteer member of the local clergy who is in good standing in their denomination and who is appointed by the Chief of Police and the Police Commission. The Chaplain provides support for the members and staff of the Amherst Police Department.

II. POLICY

A. It is the policy of the Amherst Police Department to recognize the integral role of the Chaplain within the structure and operation of the Department. Chaplains provide spiritual and emotional assistance to the employees of the department, both sworn and civilian. They also may provide assistance to the general public on an ecumenical basis. Chaplains provide assistance during instances of critical incident stress.

B. This Standing Order does not preclude the use of the Chaplain as a resource in relation to any matter of conflict or dispute.

C. All matters in which the Chaplain becomes involved in will be held in confidence.

D. The Chaplain shall be notified when a member or one of their family members dies. Whenever possible, the Chaplain will be among APD representatives at the funeral.

E. The Chaplain shall be given the opportunity to meet with all new staff (including Police Cadets) and to participate in counselling with them.

F. The Amherst Police Department shall allocate budgetary resources to provide additional training for the Chaplain where such training involves membership and participation in special organizations or associations.

G. Upon approval of the Chief of Police, the Amherst Police Department shall compensate the Chaplain for expenses, i.e. postage, transportation, parking, meals and lodging in the course of their duties and in accordance with applicable Town of Amherst policy

III. CHAPLAIN

A. The Chaplain shall be involved in the operations of the Amherst Police Department primarily in the role of counsellor.

1. The Chaplain shall serve in the honorary rank of Inspector and will report directly to the Chief of Police. The Chaplain shall attend APD staff meetings with the Chief of Police.

2. The Chaplain shall receive the Inspector's issue uniforms. They may wear their clerical uniform except where other dress is deemed appropriate;

3. The Chaplain shall be available for counselling and shall assist members experiencing crucial incident stress resulting from, but not limited to;

- Serious injury or death to a fellow employee/worker
- Multiple casualty incident
- Suicide of a fellow worker
- Unusual death of, or violence to a child
- Death or serious injury of a civilian resulting from Police Operations
- Prolonged or extraordinary rescue or recovery operations with expenditures of intense physical or emotional energy

IV. CHIEF OF POLICE

- A. The Chief of Police or their designate shall notify the Chaplain of any personnel matters relating to a member or employee (recognitions, special functions, retirement events, swearing in events, death or injury of family members or staff).

V. INSPECTOR

- A. The Inspector shall inform a member who becomes involved in a disciplinary matter that relates to a suspension or termination of employment of the services of the Chaplain. As soon as practical, notify the Chaplain when a member is suspended or termination from employment

VI. RESPONDING NCO

- A. A responding NCO will call the Chaplain for assistance when:
 - 1. A member or members are experiencing critical incident stress
 - 2. An incident involving death has occurred
 - 3. Notification of next of kin and victim identification is required.
- B. A Chaplain's assistance is deemed to be helpful during incidents requiring suicide intervention as well as to victims of family violence incidents.
- C. When the responding NCO deems that the Chaplain may be of service or assistance to a member, or to members of the general public involved in an incident, they should contact the Chaplain at XXX-XXXX.
- D. If necessary, the responding NCO shall arrange transportation to and from the scene of an incident for the Chaplain.

Chief's Report Amherst Board of Police Commissioners September 2024



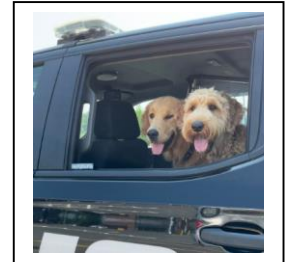
This report covers the month of August 2024

PERSONNEL

New Employees: Constable Lauren Millard started work with the Amherst Police Department on August 21, 2024. She has been hired as a term employee. Originally from Amherst, Lauren is a graduate of the Amherst Police Department and completed her on the job training with APD before working with the Fredericton Police Service.

GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Canada's 911 Ride Atlantic: Sgt Graham attended the Twin Shores Campground in PEI with both K-9 Lola and Walter for a 'Mock Jail fundraiser'. The Canine's were a big hit with the kids and resulted in a substantial number of 'arrests' for the fundraising activities.



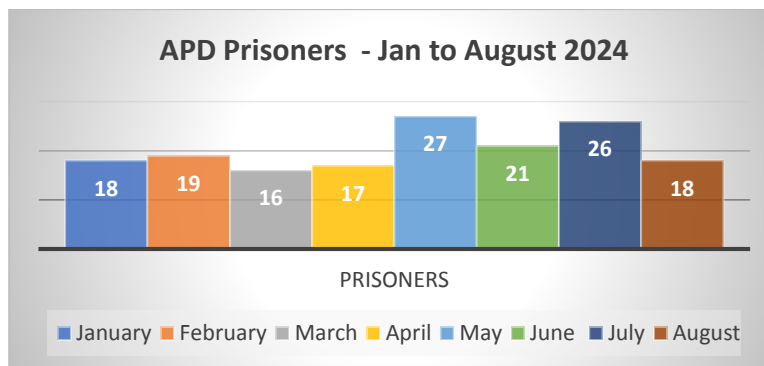
Crosswalk Safety: On August 8th, the Police Department released some information on social media platforms to provide some education on 'crosswalk safety'. The information detailed the responsibilities of drivers as well as pedestrians in regards to crosswalks (see attachment).

Homelessness: August saw a steep dive in regards to the occurrences with a nexus to homelessness. As compared to 110 complaints in July, 76 in June and 73 in May, we had 30 complaints in August 2024 relating to homelessness. Of these, 10 of them occurred at or within close proximity of the shelter. Many of the complaints are surrounding 3-4 of the same people. In the case of the low numbers for August, these can be attributed to people that were not in the area for the majority of the month.

Shoplifting Complaints: Overall our shoplifting complaints remain fairly consistent. In August 2024, we had 10 complaints of shoplifting in total. While this is a slight drop when compared to previous months, and is almost half of what we had in August of 2023, it is important to note that such stats can be impacted by the arrests/incarceration or even 'relocation' of specific individuals. Also, these are the reported stats, and do not reflect the actual, as many businesses no longer employ store security as they once did. As a result, such activities are often under reported or go unnoticed. Many stores cite employee safety as a reason for not taking proactive actions to stop shoplifting when it occurs. Many of our theft complaints are received days after the incident occurred which impacts our ability to clear the file by charge.

Prisoners Held: As noted, the last two years have seen an increase in the number of prisoners that we are holding in our cells. For years our averages have been steadily below 175 prisoners per year, but in 2023 we lodged 204 prisoners and are likely to have in excess of 230 prisoners before the end of 2024 for the year. To date, we have lodged 128 prisoners in APD cells in 2024. When people are arrested, they are not automatically lodged in cells, 'prisoners' are held based on a risk assessment that includes the following variables, and often involves a discussion/consultation with the crown:

- What is the risk of them re-offending?
- Will they attend court?
- Do they represent a risk to the community if released?



OPERATIONAL

Drugs/Firearms/Stolen Vehicles: An investigation led by the Cumberland Integrated Street Crime Unit resulted in a substantial number of drugs, firearms, illegal tobacco and stolen ATV's. Simultaneous searches at homes in Birchwood and Hansford were executed with more than 1,500 Methamphetamine tablets, 150 Oxycodone tablets, approximately a kilogram of crystal meth, 40 firearms, illegal tobacco and six stolen all-terrain vehicles being seized. The search resulted in the arrest of 8 people, 5 of which were later released. One person who evaded arrest, was later taken into custody by the NS RCMP Emergency Response Team. The operation involved Street Crime members, APD Patrol Members, RCMP Patrol members, and several RCMP Specialty Units from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Stolen E-Bike: A 35-year-old Collingwood NS man is facing theft charges following a complaint of a theft of an e-bike from an Acadia Street residence during the early morning of August 12th, 2024. Culprits had cut the lock off the bike and it was located a short time later by police with the help of the public. The bike was returned to its rightful owner. The 35-year-old male is scheduled to appear in court at a later date to answer to the charges.

Donated Bikes: Once again, the Amherst Police Department donated unclaimed bike to the Bridge Adult Service centre. These bikes are sold/auctioned off by the Bridge Workshop to help raise funds. Many of the bikes had been in Police storage for over a year and were unclaimed.



OPERATIONAL STATS – AUGUST 2024

Occurrences:	527	Criminal Code Charges:	51
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Tobacco Act:	1	Traffic Tickets:	16
PPA:	0	Traffic Written Warnings:	6
Vehicle Checks:	106	LCA:	9
Foot Patrol Hours:	63 hrs, 12 min	Bike Patrol Hours:	0
Parking Tickets:	0	Parking Warnings:	0



Amherst Police Department *Crosswalk Safety*

Pedestrian Safety is a priority. It is important that people understand how Crosswalks are defined in Nova Scotia and how they work. Every intersection of 2 or more roads has a crosswalk, many of which are unmarked, meaning that they may not have signage or painted lines.

Some crosswalks have varying levels of traffic control and may have painted lines, crosswalk signs, lit signs or signals or may be a part of a 4-way stop or a fully controlled traffic intersection.

Unless intersections are controlled by traffic signals/lights, pedestrians are deemed to have the *'right of way'*. In these cases, drivers are responsible to yield to pedestrians who are waiting at, or are in Crosswalks regardless if they are marked or unmarked. This includes vehicles that are turning at an intersection.

Drivers are encouraged to slow down and scan the street and sidewalks when approaching intersections or crosswalks.



When the intersection is controlled by traffic signals, pedestrians are required to obey the signals.

Fines for *failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or stopped facing a crosswalk* starts at \$697.50

Pedestrians should always check to make sure an intersection is safe before crossing and are encouraged to wait for an adequate gap in traffic or until vehicles have come to a complete stop.



For more information, check out "Rules of the Road" from the Nova Scotia Driver's handbook that can be found at <https://novascotia.ca/sns/rmv/handbook/dh-chapter2.pdf>