



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, January 28, 2025**
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 - December 10, 2024** 1 - 2
 2. **Board Member Orientation Part 2 - Department of Justice Representative Charcy Marchant**
 3. **APD Strategic Plan Verbal Update**
 4. **2025/26 APD Capital Budget** 3 - 5
 5. **Chief’s Report** 6 - 8
 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

8. Adjournment

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

Date: December 10, 2024
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Commissioner Paul Calder, Chair
Commissioner, Charlie Chambers
Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice Chair
Commissioner Nic Furlong
Commissioner Angela Ryan Bourgeois
Commissioner Sandy Fairbanks

Members Absent Commissioner Caprice Barbour

Staff Present Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Tim Hunter, Deputy Chief
Sean Payne, Corporate Communications Officer
Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk

Others Present APD Chaplain Rev Evan Oxner

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 Oath - Councillor Furlong

Chief Pike gave Councillor Furlong his Oath. Introductions of members of the Board were made.

1.3 Amendments to Agenda

Commissioner Davidson asked that a discussion around the Board's provincial appointment be added to the agenda.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

**Moved By Commissioner Fairbanks
Seconded By Commissioner Furlong
That the agenda be approved as amended.**

Motion Carried

1.5 Acceptance of Minutes - October 15, 2024

The Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the October 15, 2024 meeting of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners were accepted as included in the agenda package.

2. Delegations / Presentations

2.1 Introduction of New APD Chaplain Rev Evan Oxner

Chief Pike introduced the new APD Chaplain Rev Evan Oxner, who gave a few words to the Board.

3. Business Arising

3.1 APD Strategic Plan Verbal Update

Sharon Bristol gave a verbal update on the APD Strategic Plan. She indicated two public engagement sessions have been scheduled, one on January 16th from 6 to 8 p.m., and one on January 18th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. both at the Community Credit Union Business Innovation Center. Community Living staff will be advertising for and facilitating these. Ms. Bristol left the meeting following her update.

**3.2 Provincial Appointment to the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Moved By Commissioner Davidson**

Seconded By Commissioner Ryan Bourgeois

That the Board request staff write to the province reminding them our provincial appointment's term will expire in May 2025 and that we will be looking for a new provincial appointment in a timely manner.

4. Board Member Orientation Part 1

Chief Pike reviewed the Bylaw Respecting the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, and gave a presentation about the Amherst Police Department as part 1 of the Board's orientation. Both of these documents were included in the agenda package. Chief Pike further indicated representatives from Department of Justice Public Safety and Security Division will be invited to a future meeting to do further training for Board members around their role as Commissioners.

5. Chief's Report

Chief Pike and Deputy Chief Hunter reviewed the Chief's report, included in the agenda package. Chief Pike pointed out that the Atlantic Police Academy will be hosting a recruitment session January 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Francis Smith Room of the Amherst Police station.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

7. Closed Session

Moved By Commissioner Ryan Bourgeois

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: January 28, 2025
Subject: Capital Budget Approval – 2025/2026

Prior to the Capital Budget being approved by Council, the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners are required to review and approve the items that have been identified as Capital needs for the Amherst Police Department. Capital expenditures refer to the use of funds to purchase or pay for an asset that is expected to be used for longer than a single reporting period or fiscal year and usually exceed \$5,000. Capital purchases usually include vehicles, equipment or projects that can depreciate over time. Operational budgets on the other hand, are expenditures or costs that occur within the specified time frame of a fiscal year.

For the 2024/2025 fiscal year, 4 projects/items were approved.

Dispatch Console and Accessories – \$115,000: A new dispatch console was initially slated and approved for the 2018/2019 year to replace our current console. Our current console is 24 years old and is used to tie our radio systems together for use in one unit and enable us to page the fire department. The original price at the time was estimated to be \$50,000. It was decided in the fall of 2018 to abandon this purchase as the consoles we were looking at were not compatible with the TMR2 radio systems. It was slated for purchase again in 2023/24 but we again pushed it back another year as we found a solution for paging the fire department. This project is still in progress with much of the work already completed and the remainder anticipated to be completed before the end of the fiscal year. A new dispatch console will enable our dispatchers and staff to easily transition from channel to channel and phone line to phone line on touch screen format with solutions for multiple dispatchers and includes IP based telephones which eliminates current issues relating to Bell Aliant and equipment failures. Other municipal departments with dispatching capabilities utilize similar equipment. Costs include software, hardware, headsets, touch screen monitors, and any required computers desks/monitors or office equipment.

Police Vehicle #1 - \$75,000: The current Car 1, a 2019 Ford Taurus, was purchased in 2019 and is 5 years old. It recently had to be taken out of commission as a result of transmission issues. The estimated repair cost was in excess of over \$9,000. The original plan was to keep this vehicle for use by our Major Crime Unit, which currently has 3 members assigned, but only one vehicle. The cost for Vehicle 1 replacement was actually close to \$6000 over budget as a result of increasing costs. This price includes the police package vehicle (2025 Dodge Durango) and accessories as siren/lighting & controls, decal packaging and interior safety equipment such as silent patrolman. Other equipment such as TMR radio, in-car video and some other accessories will be removed from the old Vehicle 1 and installed in the new vehicle.

APX500 Base Radio and Install - \$12,000: With our current TMR2 Radios, we have four usable channels, but our recording capabilities are hard-wired to one channel only. As a result, our second channel 'Tactical' is not recorded, meaning that we often have to approach NS Public Safety to use an encrypted Law Enforcement channel that they record for us. A new console would also make switching back and forth easier for our dispatch staff. We have ordered this radio and expect it to come in under budget. Costs include installation which may require an extra antenna.

Drone - \$65,000: Many departments utilize drone technology to promote public safety and security. We approached this as a joint proposal with the Amherst Fire Department for a shared drone that would be utilized by both agencies in critical incidents, fires, scene security, EMO incidents, search and rescue, demonstrations/protests and other large-scale events. The drone was purchased in the spring of 2024 and training was provided to our members and members of the Amherst Fire Department. This drone is able to work in all kinds of weather events and is equipped with FLIR (Forward Looking InfraRed), high resolution cameras and extended flight time. The actual cost came to \$53,000 which included an additional purchase of a parachute and a dual connector. A drone demonstration was recently given to the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners.

The capital budget that was approved by the Police Commission last year also included \$15,000 for carbine and containment equipment. This was later rolled into a standing operational budget issue of \$10,000 per year from our operational equipment budget. The same is true for our initial capital budget approval for body-worn cameras, as the price had greatly increased. It was more feasible to lease 12 cameras at a cost of approximately \$20,000 per year from the operational budget.

2025/2026 Capital Budget Requests:

For the 2025/2026 Capital Budget, we have identified 5 items for the Police Department. Other items had been identified but other options were made available to avoid unnecessary spending. This included a replacement for Police Vehicle #3, which was slated to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$85,000 but as a result of lower-than-expected mileage, it is being pushed to the 2026/2027 fiscal year. We also had planned to replace and update our Police Dress Uniforms in two stages (year 1 and year 2). Year one costs were estimated to be \$24,000, but these have been postponed to 2026/2027 and 2027/2028.

Police Vehicle #6 - \$85,000: The current Car 6, is a 2021 Dodge Durango that was purchased over 4 years ago. It currently has in excess of 170,000km and is expected to surpass 200,000km by the time it is replaced. It is not clear what vehicles may be available to us but for safety reasons we require a vehicle that is all-wheel drive. The estimated price includes the police package vehicle and accessories such as siren/lighting & controls, decal packaging and interior safety equipment such as silent patrolman. Other equipment such as TMR radio, in-car video and some other accessories will be removed from the old Vehicle 6 and installed in the new vehicle. Any accessories that can be re-used will be installed in the new vehicle to cut costs.

Mobile Radar Speed Sign - \$20,000: Radar Speed Signs are traffic calming devices which are used as a proactive method to control speeding vehicles. The unit looks similar to a speed limit sign and can be set to display the speed of approaching vehicles. Tests repeatedly show that such devices have an impact on traffic and compliance with speed limits. Such units collect data that includes vehicle counts, vehicle speeds and can be broken down to identify peak periods. Analysis of the data provides the department with the ability to make evidence-based decisions. The unit's software has the ability to generate charts and graphs of the data collected. The data will identify if there is a problem, the extent of the problem, and the peak occurrence times. This particular version of Radar Speed Sign is on a trailer and can be moved easily from location to location. The department currently has a Radar Speed Sign that has been out of service due to damage and issues with the software compatibility. That version was mounted on poles with the assistance of public works.

New Server - \$26,000: As a police department, we use an enormous amount of electronic storage space and it is not uncommon for issues to arise with storage space relation to building videos, interview videos and general storage relating to police files and exhibits. The current server has been in use for close to 6 years and is at the end of its lifespan. As servers age, support agreements also tend to rise in price and in some cases, support can be denied due to age.

Crime Prevention Vehicle Replacement - \$60,000: Our current Crime Prevention vehicle is a 2013 Dodge Journey, which, while it has low kilometers, has outlived its life as an operational police vehicle. The last 3-4 years have seen over \$10,000 in repair/maintenance costs and the vehicle is no longer able to be utilized as it has been. The plan is to keep this vehicle as a back-up vehicle for Major Crime, which would mean minimal use. As a Crime Prevention vehicle, the options are quite broad for what kind of vehicle we can purchase, with expected costs to be substantially lower than that of a Police Package Patrol vehicle.

Live Scan Fingerprint System - \$40,000: Our current Live Scan system is in excess of 10 years old and the software and hardware components are no longer supported and the computer poses a security risk. This system is used to digitally scan and send fingerprint information to CPIC databases and allows for near instantaneous results on checks. It is a required instrument for any Police agency.

Recommendation

We are requesting that the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners approve the 2025/2026 Capital Budget of the Amherst Police Department which includes \$85,000 for a replacement for Patrol Vehicle #6, \$20,000 for a mobile radar speed sign, \$26,000 for a new server, \$60,000 to replace our Crime Prevention vehicle and \$40,000 to replace the Live Scan Fingerprint system. The total requested for 2025/26 is \$231,000.00

Chief's Report
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
January 28th, 2025

This report covers the month of December 2025



PERSONNEL

New Part-Time Dispatcher: On January 2nd, 2025, APD welcomed its newest employee, part-time Dispatcher Scott MacKay. Scott was in the military for 25 years from 1997 to 2022 and held the rank of Master Corporal. Upon his retirement he studied carpentry at NSCC, graduating in 2024 and was his class valedictorian. Scott expressed a desire to be of service to his new community and decided working in Police Dispatch would be a good way to achieve this. Scott will be filling in for shortages, vacations and other operational requirements.

GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Stolen Vehicles: The month of December saw an increase in the issue of stolen motor vehicles.

On December 23rd, APD had three complaints of stolen vehicles:

- At approximately 5:45am, police were called regarding a stolen 2021 Toyota Highlander that was stolen from the Dickey Street area. This vehicle was recovered in Moncton on January 8th, 2025 and the investigation continues.
- At approximately 6:20am, police were contacted when the owners of a 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe discovered it had been stolen from the Donald Avenue area. A few days later, Police recovered some of the vehicle contents in the area of the Stadium overflow parking lot. The abandoned vehicle was located in Berry Mills, NB on the 26th of December. The matter is still under investigation.
- At 3:58pm, Police received another call of a stolen 2010 Toyota Tundra that was stolen from Eddy Street. The vehicle had been parked on the street with a trailer and went missing sometime since 1:00pm. This vehicle has not yet been recovered or located.

Amherst Police also recovered 3 stolen vehicles during the month:

- On December 12th, 2024, APD received word that individuals were in the area in a Dodge Ram that had been stolen from Moncton, NB. The vehicle was located parked on Spring Street by Police. It was seized and brought back to the office where it was searched. A loaded 12-gauge shotgun was located behind the seat as well as a baseball bat. The owner advised that the items did not belong to him. The matter is still under investigation.
- On December 23rd, at approximately 6:30pm, Amherst Police received a call concerning a car that had smashed into a parked truck on Anson Avenue. Witnesses advised that the four occupants exited the car and fled the scene. Police attended and both vehicles had sustained significant damage. The car, a black 2022 Toyota Corolla had been reported stolen in New Brunswick on November 30th. This matter is remains under investigation.

- On December 26th, at approximately 9:15am, an APD member observed a truck that had been reported as stolen on Church Street in Amherst. The truck had been reported as stolen from Moncton, NB the previous day. Police were able to do a high-risk takedown of the vehicle on Laplanche Street and took three people into custody. 1 person was released without charge, the second person, an adult female from New Brunswick, was held on a New Brunswick warrant and later turned over to the NB RCMP. She is also facing several charges that include possession of property obtained by crime. The third person, a 35-year-old Michael Brydges, was held in custody and has been charged with 2 counts of property obtained by crime (the truck and a keyfob belonging to a vehicle stolen in Amherst on December 23rd) as well as a breach of a weapons prohibition and taking a car without consent. He was remanded into custody.

Shoplifting Complaints: During the month of December, the Amherst Police Department received 13 complaints of shoplifting. In November shoplifting complaints had reached 17 occurrences as compared to 8 in October and 11 in September. Outside of shoplifting complaints, APD also received 22 complaints concerning other types of theft, which compares to 27 complaints of theft in November and 31 complaints in October. December also saw 3 reported gas drive-offs as compared to 4 in November, 7 in October and 9 in September.

Homelessness: During the month of December, APD members responded to 34 complaints that had a nexus to homelessness. This is a drop from 41 complaints in November and 47 complaints during October. As previously indicated, the majority of homelessness complaints are generated by the same 3-4 of people.



2024 -Year in Review – Comparison to 2023:

Now that 2024 has come to a close, we were able to compare our annual stats to those in 2023. In some areas, the stats decreased from year to year, while in other areas there was an increase. Our total occurrence numbers dropped by 0.6% (6256/6294). Below are some of the other changes in stats between 2023 and 2024, which are categorized by ‘occurrence type’:

Increases included:	Decreases included:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspicious person, vehicle: increase of 26.1% (556/441) • Trespass Act: increase by 11.6% (355/318) • Flight from Police: increase of 83.3% (33/18) • Traffic Accidents: increase of 12.1% (157/140) • Theft: increase of 8.5% (295/272) • Disturbing the peace: increase of 9.9% (133/121) • Criminal Harassment: increase of 12.9% (79/70) • Poss of stolen property: increase of 4.2% (25/24) • Foot patrol hours: increase of 24.4% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assault: decrease of 8.8% (187/205) • Break and enter/Unlawfully in a dwelling: decrease of 15.9% (106/126) • Harassing/indecent phone calls: decreased by 47.5% (31/59) • Domestic incident: decrease of 12.4% (197/225) • Spousal/Partner Abuse: decrease of 54.9% (14/31) • Impaired Operation: decrease of 12% (66/75) • Fraud: decrease of 21.8% (104/133) • Shoplifting: decrease of 27% (146/200) • Theft from motor vehicle: decreased by 20.1% (54/68) • Mischief: decreased by 35.6% (217/337) • Trespass at night: decreased by 18.2% (18/22) • Uttering threats against a person: decreased by 6.0% (110/117) • Mental Health Act: decreased by 10.8% (406/455)

OPERATIONAL

Drug Charges: A 36-year-old Cumberland County woman has been charged and convicted following an incident in Amherst on December 12th, 2024. Police had observed an assault in progress on Eddy Street and arrested the female who was wielding a baseball bat. Upon her arrest, police located methamphetamine, fentanyl and prescription pills. Kristyn Walton was charged with 3 counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking and 3 counts of failing to abide by a probation order. She appeared in court on December 19th, 2024 and received 2 years custody.

OPERATIONAL STATS – DECEMBER 2024

Occurrences:	398	Criminal Code Charges:	51
Impaired by Alcohol:	2	CDSA:	4
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	14	PPA:	0
Traffic Written Warnings:	0	Vehicle Checks:	66
LCA:	1	Parking Tickets:	4
Parking Warnings:	0		
Foot Patrol Hours:	31hrs, 26min		