



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, June 17, 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 **Approval of Agenda**
 - 1.3 **Acceptance of Minutes - May 13, 2025** 1 - 2
2. **Auxiliary Policing Verbal Update**
3. **Chief's Report** 3 - 6
4. **Next Meeting**
5. **Closed Session**
 - 5.1 **Approval of Closed Session Agenda**
 - 5.2 **Acceptance of Closed Session Minutes**
 - 5.3 **MGA 22(2)(h) - public security**
 - 5.4 **MGA 22(2)(h) - public security**
 - 5.5 **MGA 22(2)(h) - public security**

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

5.7 MGA 22(2)(f) - litigation or potential litigation

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

6. Adjournment

Town of Amherst
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes

Date: May 13, 2025
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Commissioner Paul Calder, Chair
Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice Chair
Commissioner Charlie Chambers
Commissioner Nic Furlong
Commissioner Angela Ryan Bourgeois
Commissioner Caprice Barbour
Commissioner George Baker

Staff Present Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Tim Hunter, Deputy Chief
Kim Jones, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sean Payne, Marketing & Communications Officer
Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

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

- 1.1 **Territorial Acknowledgement**
The Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.
- 1.2 **Commissioner George Baker Swearing In**
Chief Dwayne Pike swore in the newest Board member George Baker.
- 1.3 **Amendments to Agenda**
There were no amendments to the agenda.
- 1.4 **Approval of Agenda**
Moved By Commissioner Furlong
Seconded By Commissioner Baker
That the agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

- 1.5 **Acceptance of Minutes - March 26, 2025**
The Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the March 26, 2025 meeting of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners were accepted as included in the agenda package.

2. **Business Arising**
There was no business arising.
 3. **Safe Approach and Rescue Vehicle (SARV) Update**
Chief Pike gave an update on the Safe Approach and Rescue Vehicle. Chief Pike gave the Board a handout regarding the SARV.
 4. **Chief's Report**
Chief Pike and Deputy Chief Hunter reviewed the Chief's report, included in the agenda package.
 5. **Next Meeting**
The next meeting was scheduled for June 17, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
 6. **Closed Session**
Moved By Commissioner Furlong
Seconded By Commissioner Ryan Bourgeois
To go into Closed Session.
- Motion Carried**
7. **Adjournment**
The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Kim Jones
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Paul Calder
Chair

Chief's Report
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
June 17th, 2025

This report covers the month of May 2025



TRAINING

Stop-Stick Training – June 7, 2025: Cpl Jeff Walsh and Cst Jeff Goodwin attended Truro Police Services and provided Stop-Stick training to several Truro Police Service members. Stop-Stick training focuses on terminating hazardous pursuits safely and utilizes a tool that deflates tires of the subject vehicle, without creating a blow-out and causing unnecessary risk. Both Cpl Walsh and Cst Goodwin are certified Stop Stick instructors.

Major Case Management – Team Leader – May 12, 13 & 14: Both Cpl Wood and Sgt Graham attended this training in Debert, NS, which was hosted by Amherst Police and supported by the Department of Justice. This training takes the next step in Major Case Management training held in April/May 2025 and provides instruction on the running of the investigative team for a major or complex incident. This training has been on our radar for a few years and has been a part of our strategic plan as well as part of the Mass Casualty Report recommendations.

Carbine/Pistol Training and Qualifications: Firearms training for both 9mm Pistol and Carbine were held in the month of May 2025 for our members. While there is a standardized Nova Scotia qualification, many of our carbine members regularly qualify at the OPP ERT Team standard. Cpl Walsh with the assistance of Cpl Hebert instructed on this training.



CEW Training: CEW (Conducted Energy Device – AKA Taser) training was conducted with our members during the month of May. This training includes a review of how the taser functions and the impact that it has on the body when used, and also included policy and case law review with scenarios that test each candidate's ability to make the appropriate decisions in a *Use of Force* incident.

Community Evacuation Training – May 20, 2025: Chief Pike attended the EMO training course in Springhill with other employees of the Town of Amherst and the County of Cumberland. This training focused on issues that relate to mass evacuations during a major incident and includes the efficient use of resources, both human and technical during an event. It also focused on issues surrounding returning after an incident.

CISM – Peer Paraprofessional Counselling – May 24 & 25, 2025: Cst Michelle Harrison, Melanie Siddal and APD Chaplain Evan Oxner attended this training in Truro which focused on expanding the support tools of peer counselors and helps to build resilience in those who need it. This is an advanced level course for our CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) trained staff who provide support for our staff and members during and after a critical incident, mitigating stress related injuries and providing resources and direction for staff.

Counter-Terrorism Information Officer Workshop - May 29 & 30: Chief Pike attended the Canada Border Services Agency in Halifax and, along with the CTIO team, presented on various topics relating to counter-terrorism. These topics included Terrorism Awareness, Right-Wing Extremism, Radicalization, Foreign Interference, Woman and Radicalization, Critical Infrastructure and Dangers of Migrant Smuggling. Present in the classroom were representatives of Halifax Regional Police, EHS and other first responder organizations. Chief Pike has been a part of the CTIO facilitators group since 2017.

GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Police Pursuits/Failing to stop: In May, there were 10 incidents that resulted in vehicles fleeing police. This is double the incidents in April (5):

- On May 1st, at approximately 4:50am, our members attempted to stop a small black sedan by the Irving Mainway. It fled and went deeper into town at a high rate of speed. The plate on the vehicle had been reported stolen in Cape Breton in 2024.
- On May 2nd, at 2:42pm, a red Mazda fled from police after it ran a red light on South Albion Street. It also did not have a license plate.
- On May 4th, at 1:30pm a black jeep fled from police after it narrowly missed the police as the officer was about to pull over another vehicle for speeding. The vehicle fled on Willow Street towards Robert Angus Drive. The vehicle was later located parked behind a residence and was seized. The matter is still under investigation.
- On May 10th, at 8:15pm, a red Pontiac fled from a member during a routine stop. It fled at a high rate of speed into the County.
- On May 11th, a Brown Cruze fled from police and left town. Shortly after, it returned and was spotted again by police, who attempted to stop it but it again fled.
- On May 16th, at 2:00am, a motorcycle that did not have a headlight on, fled from police and left town via West Victoria Street.
- On May 17th, at 9:00am, police attempted to pull over a Red Pontiac that did not have a rear bumper. The vehicle fled at a high rate of speed. Police were able to identify the driver and the matter is till under investigation.
- On May 28th, at 12:42pm, police attempted to pull over a grey Pontiac with a Quebec plate. The vehicle fled at a very high rate of speed, passing other vehicles on the wrong side of the road.
- On May 30th, patrols observed an off-road motorcycle operating in the area of the industrial park. At 10:00am, it fled from one officer, but was noted again at 1:30pm by another officer at the Town Square parking lot. It fled once again at a high rate of speed and onto a trail. A few minutes later, the motorcycle and the driver were observed on the train tracks, the driver appeared to be motioning for police to chase him. One officer on foot was almost able to sneak up to him, but the driver fled. The driver, a 19-year-old male, was later identified and was arrested by police the following day and is facing numerous charges as a result of the incident.

In all these cases, the pursuits were terminated as per policy and as a public safety issue. All pursuit files are subject to a review to ensure that members are following policy.

Shoplifting/Theft Complaints: May 2025 saw an increase in complaints concerning shoplifting, increasing to 21 complaints, up from 13 in April. 86% of these complaints involved businesses on South Albion/Robert Angus Drive. Aside from shoplifting complaints, there were 18 other theft complaints that included 5 gas drive offs and 2 thefts from a motor vehicle.

Homelessness: For May stats, our homelessness files numbered 40 for the month. This is down from stats in March (60) but slightly up from April (31). Many of the occurrences are concerning suspicious persons or trespassing with many of the complaints being made concerning the same people. While police do often get calls concerning homelessness, the majority of homelessness issues are likely being dealt with and handled by other agencies and the homeless shelter instead of the Police Department.

OPERATIONAL

Stolen RCMP Vehicle – May 16, 2025: At approximately 2:30pm on Friday, May 16th, APD Dispatch received an alert that a fully marked RCMP cruiser had been stolen from Sackville, NB. It travelled at a high rate of speed and into Nova Scotia on the 104 Highway. APD units were able to locate the vehicle as it turned off Exit 4 by the hospital. As a result of the nature of the incident and the fact that it was a fully marked (and equipped) police cruiser, this pursuit continued as the risk assessment was high. The pursuit continued and was making its way towards Exit 3 by the Travelodge. An APD Street Crime Member (AKA SCEU) utilized our spike strip (Stop Sticks) as the stolen cruiser passed. The spike strip successfully deflated three of the stolen cruiser's tires. Despite this, the stolen vehicle continued to the highway on ramp and headed East with 4 APD cruisers and an RCMP (NB) cruiser in pursuit. The stolen cruiser was riding on its rims and the NB RCMP member was given permission to strike the stolen vehicle with his car and our vehicles surrounded it as it stopped and the suspect held his hands out the cruiser window. The suspect was safely arrested and brought to the Cumberland Detachment. Shortly afterwards, the RCMP advised that they needed a DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) to evaluate the driver. APD member Sgt Jason Galloway was called out to do the evaluation for the RCMP. In total, including our 2 Street Crime members and our patrol members, there were 6 members involved

There were two APD members that sustained minor injuries during the incident. The accused has been remanded and is facing approximately 25 charges.

Street Crime Unit Search - May 21, 2025: The Cumberland Street Crime Unit conducted a search of a residence on Croft Street resulting in the arrest of a 60-year-old Amherst man. The search resulted in the seizure of various items including drugs, drug paraphernalia, cannabis, contraband tobacco and other items. Pipes was remanded into custody on the charges for a show-cause hearing.



Street Crime Unit – Search - May 5, 2025: On May 5th, 2025, the Cumberland Street Crime Unit executed a search warrant at a property on Highway 2, Nappan as part of an ongoing drug trafficking investigation. A 51-year-old woman, Toni Loppie was safely arrested and officers seized quantities of fentanyl, methamphetamine (crystal and tablets), oxycodone, cocaine, prescription drugs, unstamped cannabis and cash. Officers also seized a conducted energy weapon and drug paraphernalia. Loppie had been charged numerous charges under the CDSA as well as weapons charges and Possession of Property Obtained by Crime. Loppie was released from

custody by the court and is scheduled to appear in Amherst Provincial Court on July 7 at 9:30 a.m.



McHappy Day – May 8, 2025: Our members participated in McHappy Day at MacDonalds raising money for charity and competing with others to see who could raise the most for this worthwhile cause.

West Pleasant Street – May 9, 2025: At approximately 5:00pm on May 9th, APD members responded to a complaint concerning a male who was in crisis and was self-harming with a knife. Police attended and created a perimeter while a member negotiated with the male, de-escalating and convincing him to drop the knife and attend the hospital with members. Additional staff were called out to assist with the growing crowd and the perimeter, but the matter was resolved in a very short time by members who attended. The subject was taken to the hospital for treatment and follow up.

Police Week Celebration – May 15: Our annual Police Week Celebration was held at Dickey Park again this year and saw participation from many of our first responder partners and many Nova Scotia Municipal Police Departments, the RCMP and Charlottetown Police. It was once again very well attended by the public and ended with a ‘parade of lights’ through town.



OPERATIONAL STATS – May 2025

Occurrences:	481	Criminal Code Charges:	47
Impaired by Alcohol:	2	CDSA:	2
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	23	PPA:	2
Traffic Written Warnings:	4	Vehicle Checks:	85
LCA:	2	Parking Tickets:	20
Foot Patrol Hours:	26hours, 42 min	Parking Warnings:	0