



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, December 9, 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 Mi'kma'ki (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, the people of African descent 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 - October 21, 2025	1 - 2
2. Oath - David Fairbanks	3 - 3
3. Election of Chair	4 - 8
4. Strategic Plan Update	
4.1 Introduce Auxiliary Police Officers	
5. Nova Scotia Policing - Foundational Changes	9 - 22
6. Hate Crime Training Verbal Update	
7. Chief's Report	23 - 28
8. Next Meeting	
9. Closed Session	
9.1 Approval of Closed Session Agenda	

9.2 Approval of Closed Session Minutes - October 21, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. Adjournment

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

Date: October 21, 2025
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice Chair
Commissioner Charlie Chambers
Commissioner Angela Ryan Bourgeois
Commissioner George Baker

Members Absent Commissioner Nic Furlong
Commissioner Caprice Barbour

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

Others Present Chris MacNeil, Managing Auditor, NS Department of Justice

1. Call To Order

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Vice-Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Commissioner Chambers

Seconded By Commissioner Baker

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

1.3 Acceptance of Minutes - September 9, 2025

The Vice-Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the September 9, 2025, meeting of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners were accepted as included in the agenda package.

2. Plaque Presentation - Inspector Tom Wood

Chief Pike presented Inspector Tom Wood with a plaque in recognition of his promotion to Inspector and thanked him for his continued outstanding service to the community.

3. NSCPA/NSAGPA Fall Conference Verbal Update

The CAO joined the meeting at this time.

Chief Pike provided a verbal update on the recent Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police/ Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance conference he attended in Digby October 15-17.
Information item only.

4. **Strategic Plan Verbal Update**
Chief Pike provided a verbal update on the APD Strategic Plan, information item only.
5. **Chief's Report**
Chief Pike reviewed his report, included in the agenda package, information item only.
6. **Public Safety Audit Function Presentation**
Nova Scotia Department of Justice Managing Auditor Chris MacNeil attended the meeting and presented to the Board on the Department of Justice Audit Reports - Accountability Tools for Governance Bodies. Information item only.
7. **Next Meeting**
The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
8. **Closed Session**
Moved By Commissioner Baker
Seconded By Commissioner Ryan Bourgeois
To go into Closed Session.
9. **Adjournment**
There being no further business, the Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting.

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk/Board Secretary

Commissioner Hal Davidson
Vice-Chair



Form 4

Oath of Office for Member of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

Section 73 of the *Police Regulations*

I, David Fairbanks, of Amherst, in the County of Cumberland swear that I will faithfully, diligently and impartially execute and perform the duties required of me as a member of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, and while I continue to hold office I will, to the best of my judgement, skill, knowledge, and ability, carry out, discharge and perform all the duties of my office faithfully, impartially and according to the *Police Act* or any other Act and any regulation rule or by-law, and will not, except in the discharge of my duties, disclose to any person any matter or evidence brought before the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, so help me God.

David Fairbanks

Sworn at Amherst
in the County of Cumberland,
Province of Nova Scotia,
this 9th day of December, 2025
before me,

Dwayne Pike, Chief
Amherst Police Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
From: Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk / Board Secretary
Date: December 9, 2025
Subject: Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Our previous Board Chair was a Ministerial appointment whose term expired in May 2025. The Board has been without a Chair since that time, with our Vice-Chair Commissioner Davidson acting as Chair.

David (Sandy) Fairbanks has recently been appointed to the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners as the Ministerial appointee for a term ending December 1, 2028.

As per the attached By-law Respecting the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, the Board shall appoint a Chair and Vice Chair at the first meeting of each calendar year. Staff are suggesting that since this is the last meeting of 2025, and since we now have a Ministerial appointment, that the Board hold an election at today's meeting for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2026 calendar year. Should there be more than one nomination for each position, there shall be an election by secret ballot.

Town of Amherst

A BYLAW RESPECTING THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE TOWN OF AMHERST

BE IT ENACTED by the Council of the Town of Amherst, under the authority of the Police Act, Chapter 31, ACTS OF NOVA SCOTIA 2004.

Short Title

- 1 This By-Law shall be known as the "Amherst Board of Police Commissioners By-Law".

Definitions

- 2 In this By-Law
- (a) "Board" means the Board of Police Commissioners for the Town of Amherst
 - (b) "Council" means the Council for the Town of Amherst.
 - (c) "Chief of Police" means the Chief of Police of the Amherst Police Department.
 - (d) "Amherst Police Department" means the Chief and members of the municipal police force of the Town of Amherst.
 - (e) "Minister" means the Minister of Justice for the Province of Nova Scotia

Board Established

- 3 The Council establishes the Board of Police Commissioners for the Town of Amherst, with membership as follows:

One Year Term	Two community volunteers
Two Year Term	One member of Council One Community Volunteer
Three Year Term	Two members of Council Other One Ministerial appointment

Membership

- 4 The Town of Amherst is an inclusive and equitable organization. We value inclusivity and diversity in all areas of the workplace, including the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners. We encourage membership from members of groups who are typically underrepresented and with historical and/or current barriers to equity.
- (a) The member of the Board appointed by the Minister shall be appointed pursuant to subsection 44(4)(c) of the Police Act.
 - (b) The members of the Board appointed by Council shall be appointed pursuant to subsections 44(4)(a) and (b) of the Police Act.
 - (c) Dismissal of members of the Board shall be carried out in accordance with subsection 44(7)(a) with regard to a member appointed by the Minister and subsection 44(7)(b) with regard to members appointed by Council.
 - (d) An absence from two consecutive meetings without just cause as determined by the chair and Board members shall be cause for the replacement of a member appointed by Council.
 - (e) Where a vacancy occurs on the Board or where a member is unable to carry out his/her duties as a member of the Board by reason of illness or absence, Council shall appoint a replacement as soon as is practicably possible.
 - (f) The members of the Board appointed from Council shall serve without remuneration.
 - (g) The Board shall, at its first meeting each calendar year or as soon as practicable thereafter, choose its chairperson and vice-chairperson.
 - (h) The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board and in his/her absence the vice-chairperson shall preside.
 - (i) Should the chair become vacant due to resignation or replacement, an election for the Chair shall be held within 60 days of such vacancy occurring.

Procedure

- 5 (a) The Board shall conduct its business according to the bylaws, regulations and policies established by Amherst Town Council, the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, the Police Act and, where applicable the Municipal Government Act.

- (b) The Board shall hold a meeting at least every three months. The Board may meet in camera at any time on 24 hours notice by the Chairperson or any two members or at any time with unanimous consent of all members concerning all matters relating to discipline, personal conduct, contract negotiations and security of the police operations.
- (c) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
- (ct) The Chief Administrative Officer of the Town or his appointee, shall be the Secretary to the Board and shall have charge of all minutes, records and accounting procedures to be followed and maintained by the Board.

Chief Officer

- 6 (a) The Chief of Police shall be appointed by the council, and following a year's period of probation, may not be suspended, dismissed or otherwise disciplined except with cause, and in such event, he shall have the right to appeal, within fifteen days of such disciplinary action, to the Chairman of the Nova Scotia Police Commission. The Commission shall conduct a hearing therein and may confirm, overrule, or modify such action and its decision therein, shall be final.
- (b) The Chief of Police shall advise the Board with respect to the provision of efficient and effective municipal police service delivery. S/he may, in consultation with the Board, undertake in a timely manner research, strategic planning, policy development and implementation, and the reporting of results in response to inquiries by the Board pertaining to its community governance responsibilities as defined in the Police Act.
- (c) The Chief of Police and/or the Deputy Chief of Police shall whenever requested by the Chairman and where practicable attend meetings of the Board, whether public or in-camera.
- (d) The Chief of Police or his Deputy shall be in charge of the management, direction and control of the day to day operation of the police force, including the enforcement of law and the maintenance of discipline within the force. Should such discipline, in the opinion of the Chief Officer, require that an employee be dismissed, such dismissal shall be by the Board on the recommendation of the Chief Officer.

Board Powers

- 7
- (a) The Board shall conduct its responsibilities in accordance with the requirements established by the Police Act,
 - (b) The Board shall, each year, submit to the council for its consideration and approval its estimates of all monies required for the year to pay the remuneration of the members of the police force and staff and to pay for the accommodation, arms and equipment and other things for the use and maintenance of the force.
 - (c) All collective agreements or other agreements with members of the police force or its bargaining agent shall be contracted in the name of the Town of Amherst, and the Town of Amherst shall be the employer of all members of the police force.
 - (d) The Board shall submit all requests for all capital equipment proposed to be purchased to the council, together with the recommendation of the Board for the purchase consideration in accordance with the purchasing policy of the Town of Amherst.
 - (e) The Board shall have the jurisdiction without interference by the Council over all matters relating to the enforcement of all criminal law, federal statutes, provincial statutes, and Town by-laws and ordinances.
 - (g) The Board shall further have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the enforcement of provincial statutes having local effect and Town by-laws and ordinances, but Council shall have the right to request the enforcement of such statutes or by-laws as may be required for the proper administration thereof within the Town.
 - (h) The Chief of Police or his designate shall give all necessary orders, directions and instructions to the police force and no Board member, other than the Chair or his or her designate except when communicating a decision of the Board, shall issue any order, direction or instruction to any member of the police force relative to his duties as a member of the force.

General

- 8
- The Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief of Police shall be members of any committee appointed for the purpose of negotiating a collective agreement with any union representing members of the Town police force.

Layered Policing –

A shift towards a collaborative model through the integration of Community Safety Officers and other Public Safety Professionals

UPDATE NSAPG ON CURRENT WORK, PROPOSED APPROACH, AND PLANS FOR INTEGRATING CSO ROLES WITHIN COMMUNITIES.

Key Messages

- The integration of Community Safety Officers (CSOs) and other Public Safety Professionals (PSP), holding special constable designations, will enhance operational capacity, support existing police services, and reduce pressures by managing designated duties and non-emergency calls for service
- Directly supports Police Modernization efforts and commitments stemming from the Comprehensive Police Review
- Active police engagement throughout program development and sustained collaboration between CSOs, PSPs, and police services will be critical to the program's effectiveness and success

Context

- In Nova Scotia, Special Constables are appointed under Section 88 of the *Police Act* as peace officers authorized to enforce specified provincial or federal legislation and municipal bylaws
- There is currently no standardized or legislated training requirement for Special Constables in Nova Scotia, and oversight practices vary across jurisdictions
- A jurisdictional review has identified several provinces with established peace officer programs that effectively integrate various public safety personnel within their policing models
- Developing a similar framework in Nova Scotia presents clear benefits for public safety and service efficiency

Mandate & Drivers

- Police in Nova Scotia face the same resourcing pressures faced across the country (hospital wait times, non-emergency calls, staffing shortages)
- Adoption of this model will address several MCC recommendations including:
 - C.1 Strengthening Rural Well-being Through Inclusion
 - C.14 Enacting Community Safety and Well-being Laws
 - C.16 Community Safety and Well-being Funding Allocation
 - P.61 Police Governance in Nova Scotia
 - P.73 Community Engaged Policing

Jurisdictional Scan

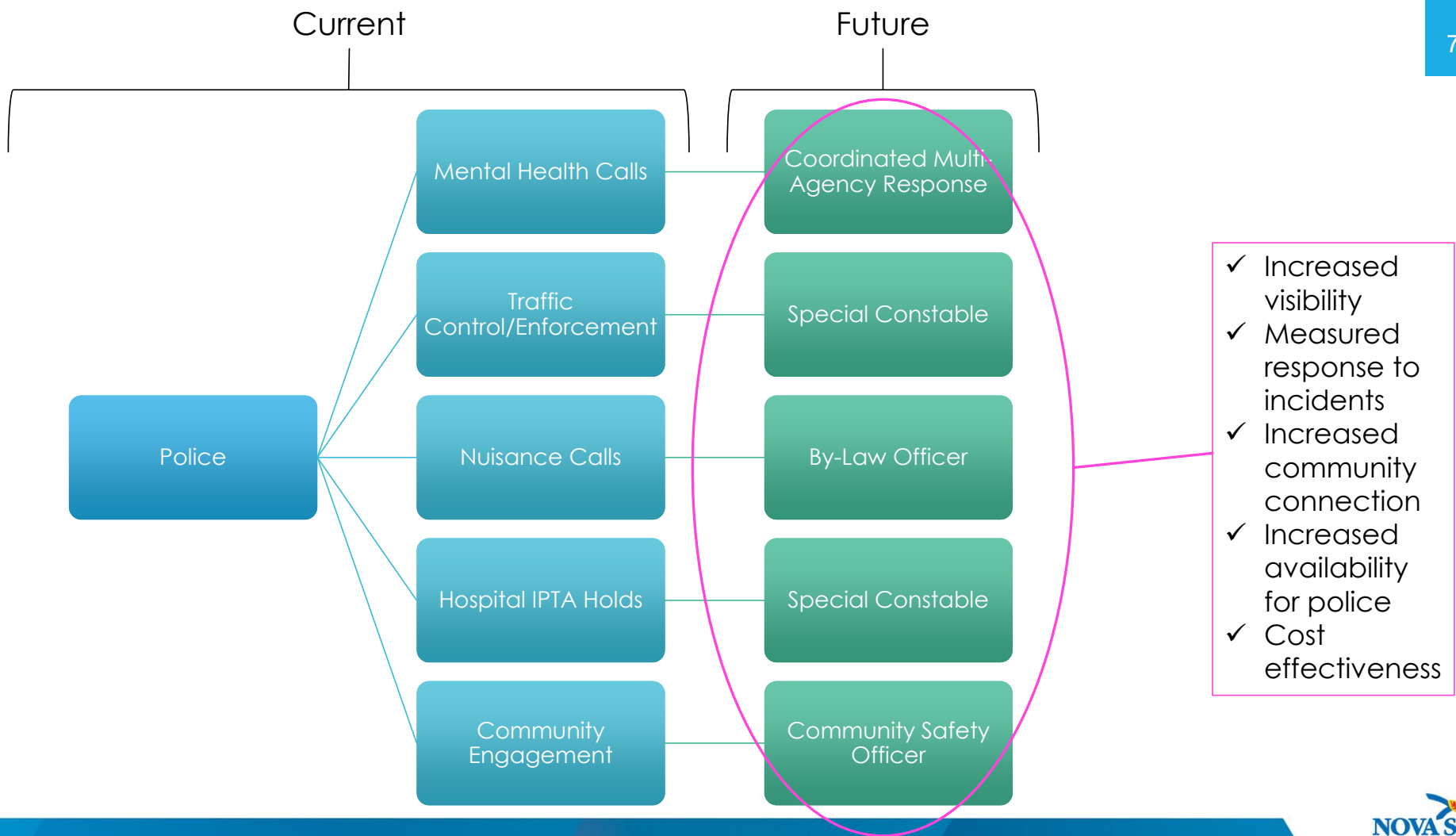
- Research indicates that several provinces have successfully adopted layered policing models that integrate multiple tiers of public safety personnel.

<i>Manitoba's Safety Officer Program</i>	Enables municipalities, First Nations communities, institutions, and other designated employers to employ Safety Officers, with peace officer status, to address low-risk community safety matters such as bylaw enforcement, traffic management, crisis assistance, and providing a uniformed community presence.
<i>Alberta's Peace Officer Program</i>	Engages Peace Officers to complement police services in areas such as bylaw enforcement, traffic safety, animal control, and community peacekeeping, with enforcement authorities specifically defined by their appointment level.

- Both provinces have established comprehensive frameworks outlining standards for training, conduct, uniforms, equipment, policies, procedures, and oversight to ensure accountability and consistency across their programs.
- The program developed in Nova Scotia will draw on best practices of these other jurisdictions while being tailored to reflect Nova Scotia's unique community and policing landscape.

Roles / Enforcement Authorities

- With Special Constable designations, CSOs and PSPs could include authority to enforce designated statutes and bylaws, subject to legislative review
- CSOs and PSPs will focus on prevention and intervention activities such as conduct regular foot patrols, and support police services by responding to non-emergency calls
- Additional duties and responsibilities may be explored based on community needs and priorities, and authorized enforcement authorities
- Potential amendments to the *Police Act* are being explored to define roles, authorities, and governance for layered policing, providing guide rails for interoperability and oversight



Costs

- Cost implications for integration are uncertain; options may be presented to Authorized employers that include reallocating existing policing resources or adding to existing resources
- Any expansion of enforcement authorities requiring specialized or advanced training may incur additional expenses
- Financial implications are not determined; municipalities will be consulted on cost-sharing models

Training

- To ensure a uniform and high-quality standard of service, a set of training standards must be developed and maintained
- The development and subsequent delivery of a training course is required and will be mandatory for all Special Constables across the province to maintain their appointment
- We will connect with a professional training campus or service provider, like NSCC to develop course standards and deliver consistent training

Interoperability

- Successful integration of CSOs and PSPs within the policing model will rely on strong collaboration and coordination with police services
- Developing clear operational plans and communication protocols will be essential to ensure cohesive, effective, and efficient service delivery
- Operational protocols will need to be co-designed with police services

Oversight

- The Special Constable Program will be housed with the Department of Justice, and this program will oversee employers who are given authorization to employ or engage CSOs
- Authorized employers (municipalities) will manage recruitment, daily operations, and human resources for their CSOs, as well as maintain required documentation, recordkeeping, and reporting to the Department of Justice
- Program parameters will specify all required policies and procedures that must be established before an employer can obtain authorized status
- Municipal administrative oversight will be critical

Timelines

- Project timelines will largely depend on requirements for legislative changes, as well as the development and delivery of a standardized training program
- We can expect even on an accelerated phased path, legislative, training, hiring authorization under this regime would take no less than 36 months

What We heard from Police

- Supportive of considerations on models
- We need to be considerate of potential mandate creep with clear governance structures or policy books to ensure mandate is maintained
- Working group should be struck to ensure that both role and interoperability with police is properly addressed

**Thank you
Questions?**

Chief's Report
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
December 9th, 2025



This report covers the month of October & November 2025

TRAINING:

Critical Incident Command: Corporal Mark McNair attended the Critical Incident Command Course from November 24th to the 28th. This course was hosted by Halifax Regional Police and covered topics concerning the frontline police response to a major or critical incident in which normal police resources may be overwhelmed and required a tactical or prolonged response. Corporal McNair is one of several officers that has received this type of training in preparing for a critical incident.

Auxiliary Training – Canadian Law and Police Authorities: On November 22nd and 23rd, our four Auxiliary Police Officers received Canadian Criminal Code training thanks to Curtis Fudge, who is the Law Instructor at the Atlantic Police Academy. This two-day training course covered many of the basics of Canadian Criminal Law, Police Authority and other related topics. Many of those in attendance advised that this session helped pull together a lot of what they have learned over the last few months.

Major Crime Management Investigators Course: Both Cpl Derek Hebert and Cst Jeff Goodwin completed the 5-day Major Case Management (MCM) course which is aimed at providing our investigators with the knowledge, skills and experience of dealing with serious or major incident investigations. This course covers the fundamentals of Major Case Management, the command triangle, conducting major case investigations and included integrating MCM investigations into the Mass Casualty Commission Recommendations. The course ran from October 1st to October 7th, 2025 and was hosted at APD. In April/May of 2025, we hosted this training and had 5 members attend.

Major Case Management – Team Leader: This course was again hosted by APD from October 8th to the 10th with both Cpl Hebert and Cst Goodwin attending. This training takes the MCM training a step further providing the Team Leadership training needed for such investigations. The training included additional information on managing complex investigations which may involve multiple jurisdictions, agencies, conflicting priorities and legal authorities. In May of 2025, 2 other APD members attended and completed this training.

Sexual Violence Investigators Workshop: On November 3rd, 2025, Insp Wood, Cst Pratt and Cst Follows all attended a 1-day seminar hosted by Halifax Regional Police regarding sexual assault investigations. This workshop was hosted by the Department of Justice.

Financial Crimes Seminar: On November 15th, Insp Wood and Cst Jade Pratt attended a Financial Crimes Seminar in Halifax. The seminar focused on financial crime and frauds and navigating such complex investigations.

Surveillance Techniques – Cst Jeff Goodwin, one of our Street Crime members attended the Surveillance Techniques Course from November 17th to the 21st. This course is hosted by the RMCP and provides instruction for conducting covert surveillance and covers any different scenarios including in-depth hands-on training. Surveillance of criminal targets is one of our most useful means of gathering intelligence and is a necessary tool for our investigative teams.

NEW CCIS System Training: Constable Chapman attended training on December 1st at RCMP Headquarters on the new CCIS system which stores criminal intelligence for police agencies across the country. This system is replacing the ACIS system which is being discontinued.

OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS:

Town of Amherst 2025 Christmas Parade: On November 29th, the Town of Amherst Christmas Parade was held, with APD members providing traffic support and escort duties. The parade was very well attended with hundreds of people lining the streets. Police patrolled the main intersections on foot with assistance from our Auxiliary Police Officers as well as our 2025/26 APA sponsored Cadet.



Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan: On November 29th, the Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan event was held on Church Street and was very well attended with APD members, Auxiliary Police Officers and our 2025/2026 sponsored APA Cadet. Constable Harrison and Crime Prevention Coordinator were also on scene to 'cram a cruiser' for the food bank and the APD Safe Approach and Rescue Vehicle was put on display.



APD Auxiliary Police – Appointment and Swearing in: On Wednesday, November 26th, 2025 our four Auxiliary Police Officers were sworn in and appointed as per the NS Police Act and Regulations. ABPC Vice-Chair Hal Davidson and Justice of the Peace Kathy Farrell were present along with Chief Pike, Sgt Graham and Sgt Galloway. Our Auxiliary Police Officers are Justin McKay, Karley Shultz, Prab Brar and Robert Anderson. After the appointment/swearing in, they continued training with Chief Pike covering officers' notebooks and Sgt Graham went over searching.

Uttering Threats – Youth Charged: On November 14th, 2025, a 16-year-old youth was arrested and charged with 'uttering threats' following an investigation by the Amherst Police Department. As a result of the complaint, the Amherst Police also executed a search warrant outside of town in relation to the matter. Those who were identified as victims in the threats were advised by Police. Police do not believe there is any ongoing danger to staff or students at the Amherst Regional High School at this time.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies: Members of the Amherst Police Department, including our APD Chaplain and our APA sponsored Cadet, attended and participated in Remembrance Day Ceremonies on November 11th. The event was very well attended and sections of the downtown were closed for the procession and the ceremony.



Fleeing Police/Stolen Vehicle: Police are investigating an incident that occurred on October 29th at 4:45pm in which a vehicle had been spotted entering town with one tire riding on its rims. The vehicle was located and fled from APD members at a high rate of speed. Because of the risk, police discontinued the pursuit. Shortly afterwards, APD Street Crime Members observed the vehicle in the Fenwick area and successfully utilized a spike belt. The driver fled into the woods. Shortly afterwards, a truck was stolen from a nearby property. The suspect has been identified however is at large and facing several criminal charges.

Indecent Exposure: A 43-year-old male was arrested and has been charged with several charges that include committing an indecent act in public and three breaches of a release order. This was after police received several complaints concerning the male in the downtown area. The male was held in custody and held for court. He pleaded guilty to the indecent act and the breaches were withdrawn. He was released with time served.

Council Support for APD: After the regular Council Meeting on October 24th, 2025, members of Council and the CAO donned “Amherst Police Department’ hats to show their support for the men and women who serve and protect our community. As noted in the posting on social media, our members know our residents, our neighbourhoods, and our needs and local policing plays an essential role in keeping our community safe and connected.



Frauds: Police received numerous complaints of fraud in the month of October and November. Culprits will use a variety of techniques and story-lines in their attempts to defraud people. These include:

- *November 28th, 2025:* An 81-year-old female fell victim to an online investment scam, losing \$350.00. The culprit continued to contact the victim to try to get more money, but the victims bank shut down the transactions as they recognized it as fraud.
- *November 18th, 2025:* A local person contacted police and advised that they have been receiving texts from a strange number from someone purporting to be their son. They recognized that it was a scam and did not fall for it.
- *November 11th, 2025:* A victim contacted APD and advised that they had received a bill from “Credit Bureau of Canada’ and thought it was a legitimate bill and paid \$550, only to learn later that it was fraudulent.
- *November 4th, 2025:* Police were advised by a local business that they had received a call from a person attempting to make large purchases via credit card. They learned that the same persons had also attempted to use the credit card in New Brunswick and recognized it as an attempt to use a credit card fraudulently.
- *October 30th, 2025:* Police received information that a local person was receiving messages and communicating with a person that was identifying as a famous actor who was asking them to purchase Apple Gift cards and to send the codes to them through various messaging services. The matter is still under investigation.
- *October 28th, 2025:* Complainant advised of receiving texts purporting to be in regards to unpaid parking tickets providing links and instructions to pay for the unpaid parking tickets. The complainant did not follow through or lose any money.
- *October 23rd, 2025:* Complainant advised that they were contacted by a person purporting to be a lawyer reaching out in relation to an investment that had been made in ‘bitcoin’ a few years ago. Culprits gained access to personal information including banking information and were able to withdraw over \$1,000 from their account.
- *October 17th 2025:* Complainant advised that they were contacted by someone via text claiming to be their son, advising that they required some money to be sent to them as they were behind on paying on some loans as a result of losing their phone. The complainant transferred money to an unknown account in the amount of several thousand dollars, later learning that the entire conversation and incident was fabricated in order to defraud the complainants.

Sexual Exploitation/Assault etc: An Amherst man has been arrested and charged with several charges that include Sexual Exploitation of a young person, luring a child and multiple counts of assault/strangulation. The names and details of both the accused and the victim are being withheld as the victim is a youth.

Containment Team Call-out: On October 14th, 2025, the Amherst Police Department Containment Team was called out to assist Cumberland RCMP in regards to a developing situation on the edge of town in the West Victoria Street Area. As a result 7 additional carbine/containment trained members, and a civilian scribe attended the scene. Containment assistance was provided as the Cumberland RCMP had requested the RCMP ERT Team attend. The APD SARV (Safe Approach and Rescue Vehicle) was also utilized and on scene. When the ERT Team arrived, the APD team fell back to the outer perimeter until the matter was resolved peacefully.

GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

PSAF – Public Safety Audit Function: On September 29th, 2025, APD management was advised that Public Safety and Security Division would be auditing the Amherst Police Department in relation to the NS Policing Standards and ‘Critical Incident Response’. Further information on this was provided to us in our October Amherst Board of Police

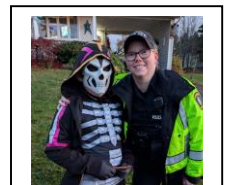
Commissioners meeting and during an in-person meeting with the Auditors on November 4th, 2025. The audit is expected to take several months to complete. A *critical incident*, as defined in our APD policy is:

"A critical incident is any event or situation that poses an immediate or significant threat to life, public safety, or major property damage, and typically exceeds the capacity of routine police operations. Examples include:

- i. Active shooter situations*
- ii. Hostage/barricade incidents*
- iii. Large-scale civil disturbances*
- iv. Acts of terrorism*
- v. Mass casualty incidents*
- vi. Natural disasters*
- vii. Bomb threats/suspicious packages*
- viii. Officer-involved shootings or deaths*
- ix. Events requiring tactical or specialized response*

We have provided the auditors with requested information. The first request contains a fairly significant amount of information (over 3G of data), including background of the Amherst Police Department, staffing, specialty sections, budget and other information. More specifically, they have also requested copies of policies that are related to Critical Incident Response as well as our MOUs with other departments. While attending the in-person meeting with APD management and staff, the Auditors were provided with a tour of our facility which included a display of the APD SARV and various weapons, tools and technology used by our members during a critical incident. This included such things as hard-body armour, ballistic helmets, carbines, shotguns, 40mm Launcher and less than lethal tools, TASER, Body-Worn Camera, beaching tools and other items. From discussions with other departments, the smaller municipal departments are all being audited on Critical Incident Response while the RCMP is being auditing on "Community Patrol and Service Response" which deals with proactive community patrol.

Halloween/Haunted Hockey Night/Trail of Treats: October 31st was a busy night for the town with several events happening throughout the day and night. Despite the initial rain, there was a fairly large turnout downtown for Trail of Treats and Halloween in general, followed by the U17 Hockey Game at the Amherst Stadium



Inspector Tom Wood – Promotion: At the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners meeting on October 22nd Chief Pike presented Tom Wood with a Certificate of Promotion congratulating him on his recent promotion to Inspector with the Amherst Police Department. Tom officially took over as Inspector on October 5th, 2025.



Operation Fresh Start: On October 22nd, 2025, the Amherst Police Department launched "Operation Fresh Start" which aims to assist with the collection and distribution of hygiene products for local students. With the current social and economic challenges, accessing basic items can be difficult, and sometimes, that can even create barriers to attending school. APD is asking for the community's support in helping our youth feel confident and cared for. A donation bin will be located in our lobby for anyone wishing to contribute. Thank you, Amherst, for always showing up for our kiddos!. 💙



Gift of Appreciation – NSCPA: On October 21st, Chief Pike, Secretary of the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association, presented Inspector Brian Gairns (retired) with a token of appreciation from the NSCPA, thanking him for his many years of dedicated service.



Know Our Number – In line with our Strategic Priorities, the Amherst Police Department made several posts throughout the month in regards to our “*Know our Number*” campaign. We plan on doing more social media posts to ensure that as many people as possible remember our emergency number and call police when we are needed or to advise police of problems or matters that we should be attending to. [#APDKnowOurNumber](#)



Police Pursuits/Failing to Stop: During the month of November Police had 2 incidents in which motorists failed to stop for Police and there were 9 incidents in October. This compares to 4 incidents in September, 4 incidents in August and 7 incidents in July.

- *November 1st, 2025@02:54am:* Police attempted to pull over a vehicle after it turned onto the Eddie Road and appeared to accelerate at a high rate of speed. Police shut the pursuit down, but then located the vehicle further down the road in the ditch and the driver appeared to have fled through the woods. Shortly afterwards the 35-year-old driver exited the woods and was arrested. He is facing criminal charges that include dangerous driving and fleeing police.
- *November 1st, 2025 @10:05pm:* Police observed an ATV operating on Russell Street illegally and attempted to box it in with 2 vehicles but the driver drove across a lawn on private property and then onto Victoria Street at a high rate of speed. Police did not pursue.
- *October 6th, 2025@11:02am:* Police attempted to pull over an Audi A4 with a NB license plate on South Albion Street. The vehicle fled at a high rate of speed, pulling around other cars and leaving town. The driver was not identified
- *October 13th, 2025 @01:23am:* Police observed a vehicle believed to have been involved in a previous fleeing police incident. When emergency lights were activated, the vehicle fled, heading out Lawrence Street and towards New Brunswick. The driver has not been identified at this time but was operating a brown/beige SUV.
- *October 15th, 2025 @8:45pm:* Police attempted to pull over a White Silverado with damage. Vehicle had a NB license plate and fled out past the hospital at a high rate of speed. The matter is still under investigation at this time.
- *October 19th, 2025 @2:03am:* Police attempted to pull over a small dark coloured sedan that was operating with no headlights and a very loud exhaust. The vehicle had been coming into town via Laplanche Street but fled at a very high rate of speed out Highway 366. The driver was not identified.
- *October 24th, 2025 @11:21pm:* Police attempted to stop a blue Dodge Caravan on Albion Street. The police terminated the pursuit as the vehicle fled at a high rate of speed and was observed by several witnesses speeding through town and out South Albion towards the highway. The driver was not identified at this time
- *October 26th, 2025 @12:37am:* Police observed a red motorcycle on Robert Angus Drive which abruptly turned away from Police at an increased speed. The motorcycle had no license plate or tail-light. The officer was able to locate the motorcycle on East Pleasant Street and onto Poplar Street, refusing to stop for Police. Police discontinued as the motorcycle sped away. The driver has not yet been identified.
- *October 29th 2025 @ 4:45pm:* A vehicle had been spotted entering town with one tire riding on its rims and was located by APD but fled at a high rate of speed. Police discontinued the pursuit, but shortly afterwards, APD Street Crime Members observed the vehicle in the County and utilized a spike belt. The driver fled into the woods. Shortly afterwards, a truck was stolen from a nearby property. The suspect has been identified and is at large and facing several criminal charges
- *October 29st, 2025 @9:03pm:* Patrols observed a red motorcycle with no lights on Robert Angus Drive. The motorcycle driver refused to stop for the Police emergency equipment and the pursuit was discontinued. It was last seen headed into the Industrial Park. The driver has not been identified.
- *October 31st, 2025 @10:33pm:* An off-duty APD officer observed a grey ½ ton truck in the area of the Industrial Park, driving all over the road. A marked APD car located the vehicle on the highway and attempted to stop it but the truck accelerated to speeds upwards of 150km/h and the pursuit was called off. The vehicle continued towards New Brunswick and the RCMP were notified. The driver has not yet been identified.

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: During the month of November, police received 17 complaints regarding shoplifting. In October, police received 14 complaints of shoplifting. This compares to 19 complaints in September, 15 in August and 12 in July.

Homelessness Files: For the month of November and October, APD responded 29 and 43 complaints respectively that are associated to homelessness. Of these, the majority are related to trespassing, suspicious persons and well-being checks. In September 2025, APD logged 36 complaints associated to homelessness. This compares to 43 in August and 38 complaints in July. As in previous homelessness stats, the vast majority of complaints are around 2-3 of the same people, for example, Police had complaints about 1 person 15 times between October 23rd to November 2nd. That particular person has since left Amherst.

OPERATIONAL STATS – PROS Occurrences – November 2025

Occurrences:	385	Criminal Code Charges:	56
Impaired by Alcohol:	31	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	20	PPA:	1
Traffic Written Warnings:	1	Vehicle Checks:	39
Liquor Control Act:	5	Foot Patrol Hours:	39 hrs 22 min
Parking Tickets:	0	Parking Warnings:	0

OPERATIONAL STATS – PROS Occurrences – October 2025

Occurrences:	437	Criminal Code Charges:	47
Impaired by Alcohol:	1	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	0	CBCA:	0
Traffic Tickets:	29	PPA:	
Traffic Written Warnings:	6	Vehicle Checks:	117
Liquor Control Act:	1	Foot Patrol Hours:	55 hrs 08 min
Parking Tickets:		Parking Warnings:	