



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**
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 - June 9, 2026	1 - 1
2. APD Strategic Plan Update	2 - 3
3. APA / APD Police Recruitment Program Verbal Update	
4. Chief's Report	4 - 7
5. Next Meeting	
6. Closed Session	
6.1 Approval of Closed Session Agenda	
6.2 Acceptance of Closed Session Minutes	

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

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

7. Adjournment

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

Date: June 9, 2026
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Commissioner Sandy Fairbanks, Chair
Commissioner Nic Furlong, Vice Chair
Commissioner Hal Davidson
Commissioner Caprice Barbour
Commissioner Chris Johanneson

Members Absent Commissioner, Charlie Chambers
Commissioner Alex Harrison

Staff Present Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Tim Hunter, Deputy Chief
Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Sean Payne, Marketing & Communications Officer
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk / Board Secretary

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.

2. Chief's Report

Included as part of the agenda package, information item only.

3. Closed Session

**Moved By Commissioner Barbour
Seconded By Commissioner Furlong
To go into Closed Session.**

Motion Carried

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk / Board Secretary

Sandy Fairbanks
Chair

MEMORANDUM

To: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police
Date: September 8, 2026
Subject: APD Strategic Plan Update

As you are all aware, the 5-year Amherst Police Department Strategic Plan runs from 2025 to 2030 and focuses on several areas that include:

Community Communications and Public Engagement
Data-Driven Decision-Making
Collaboration with Other Agencies
Proactive Policing
Innovation & Technology
Resource Allocation
Human Resources and Equipment
Recruitment and Retention
Officer Training & Development

We continue to hit many of these areas with our initiatives.

RTST – Regional Tactical Support Team

Our signed MOU with Truro, Stellarton and Westville took form when we trained 5 of our members along with 7 members from other departments in June. This unit, while not being an Emergency Response Team, is a step above a containment team and would be our first step in dealing with an evolving critical incident. This initiative hits almost all areas of our strategic plan.

Data-Driven Decision-Making
Collaboration with Other Agencies
Proactive Policing
Innovation & Technology
Resource Allocation
Human Resources and Equipment
Recruitment and Retention
Officer Training & Development

3rd party Record Checks

As noted we have entered a new contract with a company in doing 3rd party criminal checks. This not only increases our revenue, but also includes an online non-emergency reporting option as well as online local criminal record checks. This should be up and running within the next few weeks.

Human Resources and Equipment
Innovation & Technology,
Data-Driven Decision-Making
Proactive Policing
Community Communications and Public Engagement

Citizens on Patrol

We have continued to advertise for this program, but it has not been received well on social media and we have had very few applicants. As we are able to vet applicants, there have been several that have been deemed not suitable for various reasons.

Community Communications and public engagement
Collaboration with Other Agencies
Proactive Policing
Resource Allocation
Human Resources and Equipment
Recruitment and Retention

APA Cadet Sponsorship Program

We have 3 cadets that have gone through the APD/APA Cadet sponsorship program. At this time, all three are working with APD. Two more are currently at the APA and we are starting a recruitment process for the January 2027 class.

Resource Allocation
Human Resources and Equipment
Recruitment and Retention
Officer Training & Development

APD Auxiliary Program:

Our auxiliary program has been up and running for quite some time now and has proven to be a vital part of our department and our police resources. At this time, we have 2 active Auxiliary Police Constables. A third had been accepted to the APA and graduated in August 2026. She is currently working with us as a Constable.

Resource Allocation
Human Resources and Equipment
Recruitment and Retention
Officer Training & Development
Community Communications and public engagement
Proactive Policing
Resource Allocation
Officer Training & Development

Coffee with a Cop

I have been in discussions with a couple of the downtown businesses who are very supportive and excited concerning this initiative. We are hoping to get this up and running over the next month. In good weather we can host this in Victoria Park or move from location to location with advertisements to the public. This is an excellent means of connecting with the public and talking about ideas and our work and partnership with the community.

Community Communications and public engagement
Proactive Policing
Resource Allocation
Officer Training & Development

Chief's Report
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners
This report covers the month of August 2026



PERSONNEL

Cadet Graduation – Hiring: The Atlantic Police Academy graduation was held on August 28th, 2026 in Summerside, PEI. D/Chief Hunter was in attendance to present Cst Karley Shultz and Cst Preston Vienneau with their badges. Both were sponsored to attend the APA for the Amherst Police Department and successfully completed their training, including their on-the-job training with our department. Both have been offered part-time employment with APD and have been appointed and sworn in. They attended PROS training during the week of August 31st to September 4th and will be covering shortages due to long-term and short-term absences.

New APA Cadets: The Amherst Police Department has two additional cadets who started their APA training on August 24th. Cadet Andrew Bickle and Cadet Cole Parady have been through the APD/APA recruitment process and were selected to attend. Cadet Bickle was a former Town of Amherst employee and is a current member of the Amherst Fire Department. Andrew is very active in the community as well volunteering in local programs like Beavers and Scouts. Cadet Parady was also a former summer student with the Town of Amherst in the recreation and Parks division. Prior to attending APA, Cole was employed at the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre as a Security Guard. Cole was also a past employee of the Corp of Commissionaires. They will complete their training in early 2027.

COMMUNITY POLICING

End of Summer Bash – August 20th: Amherst Police members and staff attended the “End of Summer Bash”, cooking hot dogs, checking out the music and entertainment and mingling with the public.



Cram-A-Cruiser – August 14th: Cst Michelle Harrison, our School Resource Officer was at the Atlantic Superstore on August 14th from 10:00am to 3:00pm with Maggie's Place staff collecting items for a school supply drive, including lunch bags, backpacks, pencils and other school related items. They also accepted cash donations and had music, facepainting and a BBQ with all proceeds going to the program.

The Rolling Barrage – August 5th: The Rolling Barrage came through Amherst on August 5th, first stopping at Canadian Tire on South Albion Street and then was escorted through town by Amherst Police and Fire Departments. The many motorcycles were parked on Laplanche Street where participants were able to get a meal at the Legion followed by a Ceremony at the Afghanistan Memorial. The Rolling Barrage is an annual coast to coast ride that is focused on raising awareness concerning PTSD and related illnesses to end stigma.



OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS:

Theft of Metals/Copper: Amherst Police received a complaint of the theft of a number of items including copper metals from the First Baptist Church where work was being completed on the roof. The investigation resulted in charges being laid against three people, one of whom was remanded into custody in relation to the theft and also an additional incident on Douglas Avenue in regards to a break in at the property at that location. The male has been charged with break and enter, theft, damage to property, possession of stolen property and breach of probation charges. The other two subjects are also facing similar charges.

Break and Enter – 50 Victoria Street/Clock Tower Building – On August 17th, Amherst Police received a call regarding damaged windows at a historic building downtown. On further investigation, it was discovered that sometime over the weekend, culprits had used the fire escape, broken the top windows and entered the building, causing thousands of dollars worth of damage and stealing copper and other metals. Police were able to locate much of the stolen metal and a suspect has been identified who police are actively looking to arrest.

Missing/Vulnerable Person Located– On August 15th, Police received a report from a concerned citizen regarding a youth that they had an interaction with in the downtown area the night before. Officers were able to identify the youth as one in permanent care and ‘vulnerable’. A court order was issued to locate and return and the investigating officer was able to utilize technology to track the youth throughout the day and subsequently was able to provide a location to Quebec Police who located her on the side of the highway outside Rivière-du-Loup in Quebec. She was detained as per the court order and later transported back to Amherst, where our members provided her with transport to Halifax. Sergeant Jason Galloway did an incredible job on this matter and has been recognized for his efforts and determination in seeing it come to a successful close.

Stolen Vehicle: Police are investigating an incident from August 14th when a vehicle was stolen from the area of Spring/Station Street. At approximately 8:00pm, culprits wearing dark clothing appeared to be waiting for an opportunity and are seen on video getting into the car and driving away. Inside the car was the owner’s 90lb rottweiler/boxer mix. The car was located shortly afterward abandoned (with the dog still in the car) on Church Street.

Downtown Enforcement Initiative: On July 29th, APD conducted an operation in the downtown core, doing surveillance on areas of concern and taking action when able to. During the operation there were 7 bikes and 1 scooter seized for Motor Vehicle Act violations. APD also responded to a report of people who appeared to be smoking drugs. Those present were in possession of illegal cigarettes but no drugs were located. While numerous people were observed in the downtown area, there was little legal action that could be taken in regard to their activities. Further operational plans are being developed for the future.

GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Foot Patrols: Police members conducted close to 106 hours of foot patrol in August 2026, 80 hours of this was in the downtown core. This compares to 115 hours of foot patrol in June, 51 were in the downtown area, 86 hours in May and 40 hours in April. In July, our members conducted 104 hours of foot patrol, 53 hours was in the downtown area.

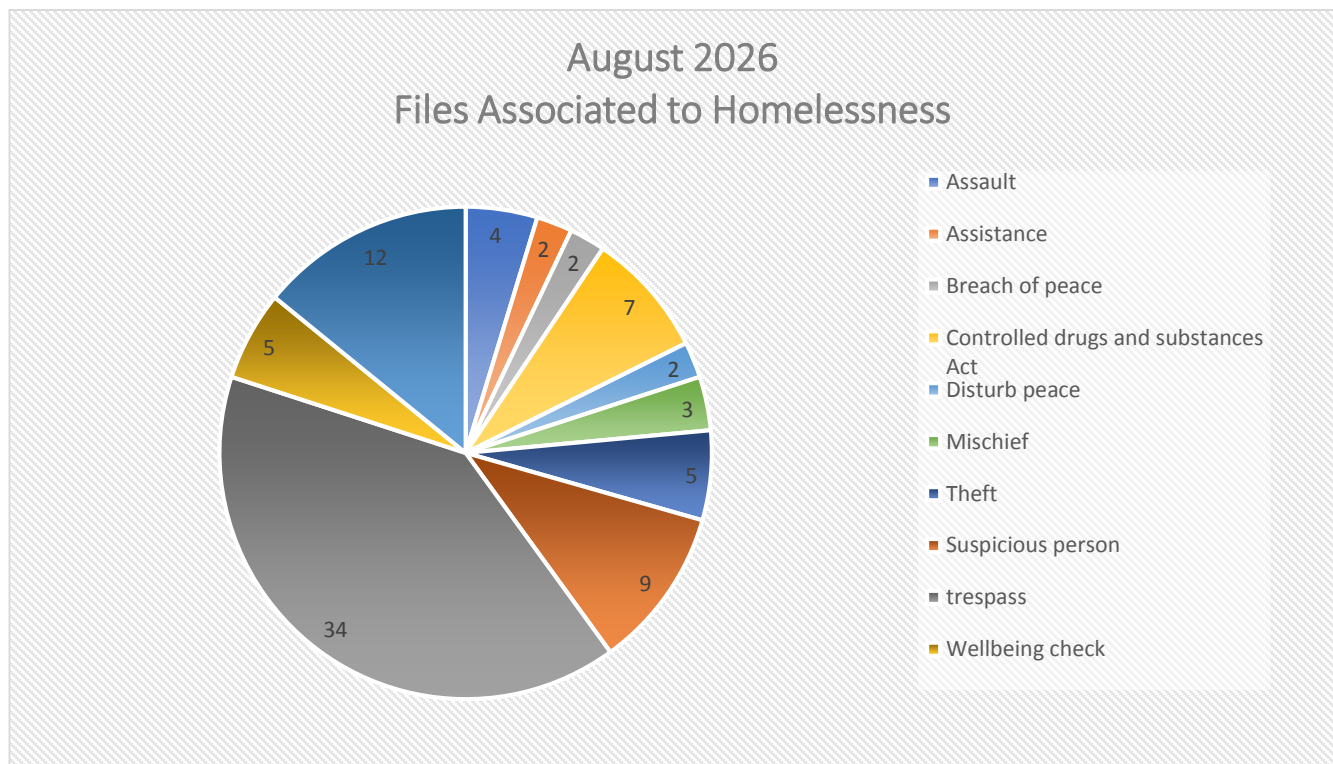
Shoplifting/Theft Complaints:

There were 17 complaints of shoplifting received by APD during the month of August. All but one of these occurred in the South Albion Street/Robert Angus Drive area. There was one report of shoplifting from the downtown. This compares to 6 in July, and 18 complaints in June. For the complaints in July, all were Robert Angus Drive/South Albion Street Area. For June, all but three were in this area.

Aside from shoplifting complaints, APD responded to 25 complaints of theft in August. Of these, 8 were gas drive-off's. In July there were 29 complaints of theft, 12 of these were gas drive-offs. There were 22 complaints of theft in June. Of these, there was 6 gas drive-offs.

Trespassing: There were 55 complaints of trespassing in August, this is a slight drop from 71 in July and 61 in June. Of the 55 for August, 32 were related to homelessness. Of those 30, 10 were related to ATM/Banks, with one person responsible for 7 of these.

Homelessness Files: August 2026 saw a slight drop in homelessness related files, falling to 85 from 89 in July and 126 in June. Of the 85 in August, 29 of them involved a single person, most of which for trespassing issues.



OPERATIONAL STATS – August 2026

Occurrences:	551	Criminal Code Charges:	101
Impaired by Alcohol:	2	CDSA:	0
Impaired by Drug:	1	Traffic Tickets:	28
Traffic Written Warnings:	5	Vehicle Checks:	86
LCA:	5		
Foot Patrol Hours:	105hrs, 49 min	PPA:	4
Parking Tickets(police):	0 (members)	Parking Tickets(bylaw):	2
Parking Warnings:	0 (members)	Parking Warnings (bylaw)	2