

**TOWN OF AMHERST**  
**North Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**Date:** October 7, 2025  
**Time:** 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Town Hall

**Members Present** Rob Small, Town of Amherst, Mayor, Chair  
Terry McManaman, Town of Amherst, Councillor, Vice Chair  
Fred Gould, Cumberland County, Deputy Mayor  
Anthony Fromm, Cumberland County, Councillor  
Keith Thompson, Town of Amherst, Citizen Representative  
Daniela MacKay, Cumberland County, Citizen Representative

**Members Absent** Justin Waugh-Cress, Cumberland County, Director of Public Works

**Staff Present** Aaron Bourgeois, Town of Amherst, Director of Operations  
Andrew Fisher, Town of Amherst, Director of Planning & Economic Development  
Sean Payne, Town of Amherst, Marketing & Communications Officer  
Natalie LeBlanc, Town of Amherst, Municipal Clerk  
Cindy Brown, Town of Amherst, Administrative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order.

**1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement**

The Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**

**Moved By Councillor Fromm**

**Seconded By Deputy Mayor Gould**

**That the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**Motion Carried**

**1.3 Acceptance of Minutes - April 8, 2025**

The Chair called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the April 8, 2025, meeting of the North Tyndall Wellfield Advisory Committee were accepted as included in the agenda package.

**2. Amherst Water Utility Updates**

Aaron Bourgeois reviewed his memo, included in the agenda package, which provided updates on the current SCADA system upgrades, surface and groundwater sampling, and the recent water levels at the production wells. Further to the motion made at the April 18, 2025, meeting, he also reported that staff will be working over the winter months with a forestry technician from the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables to complete a risk analysis for the wellfield with respect to post hurricane and drought conditions.

Mayor Small asked about the water levels along the ditch on the Tyndal Road near the wellfield, and if the low levels of water in them is because of evaporation due to the dry conditions or if we drew that water down to that level. Aaron Bourgeois answered if we shut off all the wells the transducer will measure forty meters above the pump and when the well turns on it does come down to twenty-five meters of water. Aaron said it did stay steady all summer.

Deputy Mayor Gould asked how many gallons of water a minute do the wells pump water. Aaron Bourgeois answered that it depends on which well, it can be between 1,500 to 2,200 liters per minute, adding that the town averages 3,000 liters a minute during the day which does go down at night when there is less usage.

Deputy Mayor Gould said that on the tour they took last spring there were two wells that were in use. He asked if the Town is still using both wells or if they are switched around. Aaron Bourgeois answered that the town rotates three of the four wells, adding that well P4 is considered a backup well and that we are only permitted to draw a certain amount of water from the ground from that particular well due to the aquifer.

Councillor Fromm asked if there has ever been a historical year where the water dropped to a concerning level. Aaron Bourgeois replied just once for well 3 when there was a low water level alarm and that was because the transducer failed.

Keith Thompson asked what is contributing to the low water level, is that because it is an underground aquifer. Aaron Bourgeois answered that is what he is thinking. Aaron said we may in a few years see some drop as the re-charge can be a two-year process and at the outer limits of the protected area is up to a twenty-five-year re-charge time, adding we may not see the water level drop now from the current drought we have been experiencing however we may see it in future years.

Mayor Small asked the size of the aquifer, and if we share it with Oxford. Aaron Bourgeois said he is not sure about the size of the aquifer however he does not think we are sharing with Oxford, he will confirm this.

Mayor Small asked about the canisters of oil that was found in the wellfield area a few months ago. Aaron Bourgeois answered Department of Environment was contacted and JD Irving was on site immediately and they led the clean up. The Department of Environment said it was contained and cleaned up with no issue. Mayor Small asked if anyone was ever caught for the dumping of the cannisters. Aaron Bourgeois answered that he had not heard and that it would be a police matter.

Keith Thompson asked if JD Irving is supposed to give a yearly monitoring report on their operations to the Department of Environment and if this committee should be getting an annual copy of it as well. He further asked if there is a forest management plan for Zone 1 as the Town owns the land in this zone. Mayor Small said he thought at one time that Athol Forestry was responsible for this. Keith Thompson answered that they are no longer in existence. Deputy Mayor Gould said that the contract had run out and no one else had taken over.

Deputy Mayor Gould asked if there was any concern about downed trees due to hurricanes that might be an issue for a forest fire. Keith Thompson said with a Wellfield Risk Analysis being done this winter it should address this. Aaron Bourgeois added that yes, a risk analysis will determine this, and that from looking at a Department of Natural Resources GIS map it shows that the Wellfield has not really been impacted at this time.

### **3. Tyndal Road Salting**

Aaron Bourgeois reviewed the report from CBCL Engineering & Environmental Design Services, included in the agenda package. Aaron explained that since the Tyndal Road is in Zone 1 of the Wellfield that there are ice control restrictions laid out by the Protected Water Area (PWA) under the Nova Scotia Environment Act. Ice control on any road situated in the Protected Water Area shall be accomplished by spreading with a minimum salt content, subject to subsection (1), no person shall use any material or chemical for ice control on a road in the Protected Water Area unless that person has the prior written approval of the Minister or the Administrator.

Daniela MacKay asked since salt is not allowed on the Tyndal Road what else can be used to help mitigate the ice. She stated that sand does nothing first thing in the morning, and she feels it is not safe for anyone. Mayor Small asked what about more sand. Daniela MacKay replied that would cause damage to vehicles driving on that road. Aaron Bourgeois answered that the report mentions that in some areas in Alberta they have used beet juice however he does not think the local Department of Transportation (DOT) will use beet juice; they use either sand or salt. Daniela MacKay asked if some salt can be used, such as a salt/sand mix. Aaron Bourgeois answered that the report does not stipulate how much salt is considered minimum and that in speaking with the local DOT they indicated they do not use a salt/sand mix.

Keith Thompson said that incidents of accidents has not risen, according the RCMP report.

Councillor Fromm asked if the Tyndal Road could be re-routed to go around the Wellfield. Mayor Small suggested that maybe Cumberland County could have a motion to request this of the province. Deputy Mayor Gould said the County does receive a number of complaints about the condition of this portion of road during winter conditions.

Andrew Fisher reminded the Committee that their mandate is protecting the water supply. Mayor Small agreed and suggested the Department of Transportation could be contacted to see if they could use alternative product like beet juice since that is an acceptable product. Councillor Fromm said that the Department of Transportation has tried that product in Nova Scotia before and the cost was quite prohibited, however maybe on a small stretch of road it might be doable.

Andrew Fisher suggested that maybe lower speed signs can be erected on the Tyndal Road during the winter. Mayor Small agreed that would be a good idea.

### **4. Adjournment**

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

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Natalie LeBlanc  
Municipal Clerk

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Mayor Rob Small  
Chair