

**Amherst Town Council
Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Date: June 15, 2026
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Mayor Rob Small
Deputy Mayor Charlie Chambers (via Zoom)
Councillor Hal Davidson
Councillor Nic Furlong
Councillor Terry McManaman
Councillor Dwayne Ripley
Councillor Kathy Wells

Staff Present Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Aaron Bourgeois, Director, Operations
Andrew Fisher, Director, Planning & Economic Development
Dwayne Pike, Chief, Police Services
Greg Jones, Director, Fire Services
Kim Jones, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Krista Crossman, Director, Human Resources
Sarah Wilson, Director, Finance
Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living
Torben Laux, Planner
Jeff Bacon, Business Development Officer
Sean Payne, Marketing & Communications Officer
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk
Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mayor Small called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

Mayor Small gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Councillor Furlong

Seconded By Councillor McManaman

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1.3 Approval of the Consent Agenda

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Wells

To approve the consent agenda as circulated with the removal of item 3.3 Graffiti By-law.

MOTION CARRIED

1.4 Acceptance of Minutes

1.4.1 May 19, 2026

Mayor Small called for any errors or omissions in the minutes. There being none, the minutes of the May 19, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting were accepted as included in the agenda package.

2. Council Direction Requests

2.1 Christie Foundation Donation

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting, the request to receive a donation of \$45,377 from the Dr. & Mrs. H.E. Christie Community Foundation to fund the grants listed below:

- **\$35,877 to the Cumberland African Nova Scotia Association (CANSA);**
- **\$5,000 to the Cumberland County Minor Baseball Association; and**
- **\$4,500 to the Fibre Arts Festival Society of Nova Scotia.**

MOTION CARRIED

2.2 Capital Budget Amendment Fire Apparatus Engine 3 Repairs

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting, approval of an amendment to the 2026/27 capital budget in the amount of \$65,000 to repair fire apparatus engine 3, to be funded from the operating reserve.

MOTION CARRIED

2.3 Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (AIDE) Committee Motions

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Wells

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That staff be directed to carry out the accessibility improvements as recommended by the Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Committee that can be financially and operationally accommodated in the current fiscal year and provide a recommendation / plan for the remainder of the improvements in the 2027/28 operating and capital budget process.

2.4 Amherst Youth Town Council

Moved By Councillor Wells

Seconded By Councillor Davidson

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting, approval of the amendments to the Amherst Youth Town Council Policy as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

2.5 Community Support Grants

Moved By Councillor Wells

Seconded By Councillor McManaman

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting approval of funding under the Community Support Grants Policy in the amount of \$2,500 to Maggie's Place with funds to come from Community Support Grants.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved By Councillor Furlong

Seconded By Councillor Ripley

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting approval of funding under the Community Support Grants Policy in the amount of \$1,500 to the Amherst Black Education Committee with funds to come from Community Support Grants.

Against (1): Mayor Small

MOTION CARRIED

Moved By Councillor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting, approval of funding under the Community Support Grants Policy in the amount of \$15,000 to the Nova Scotia Highlanders Regimental Museum, with funds to be taken from the Operating Reserve – Community Support Area Rate.

MOTION CARRIED

2.6 Flowers, Fruit Baskets and Memorial Donations Policy

Moved By Councillor Wells

Seconded By Councillor McManaman

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting, approval of the Flowers, Gift Baskets and Memorial Donations Policy #10350-11 with the proposed amendments and confirmation of the definition of immediate family.

MOTION CARRIED

2.7 Vehicular Idling Policy

Moved By Councillor Furlong

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting, approval of the amendments to the Vehicular Idling Control Policy #31400-01.

MOTION CARRIED

2.8 Commercial Water Service Policy

Moved By Councillor Furlong

Seconded By Councillor Ripley

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting, the existing Commercial Water Service Policy #31700-03 to be repealed.

MOTION CARRIED

2.9 Bill Riley Recognition

Information item only.

2.10 ATV Access

Moved By Councillor Ripley

Seconded By Councillor Furlong

That Council forward to the June 22, 2026, regular meeting, the proposed Road Trails By-law First Reading, and direct staff to give Eddy Street residents notice of the By-law.

MOTION CARRIED

2.11 Information Kiosks

Moved By Councillor Ripley

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That Town staff dismantle/take down the information kiosks in the downtown area.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Information Items

3.1 1 Albion Street Development Agreement

Information item only. Mayor Small will write to the Planning Advisory Committee advising of their mandate as an Advisory Committee.

3.3 Graffiti By-law

Councillor Ripley removed this item from the consent agenda and requested that a definition of "unauthorized graffiti" be added to the draft by-law. Chief Pike to add a definition prior to Second Reading of the draft by-law.

5. Closed Session

Moved By Councillor Wells

Seconded By Councillor Ripley

That the Committee move to a Closed Session.

MOTION CARRIED

Natalie LeBlanc
Municipal Clerk

Rob Small
Mayor