

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday, February 27, 2012
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present: Mayor Robert Small
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Robert Angel
Councillor Robert Bird
Deputy Mayor Dale Fawthrop
Councillor David March
Councillor Terry Rhindress

Staff Present: Greg Herrett, CAO
Vince Arbing, Treasurer
Roger MacIsaac, Director CED
Ben Pitman, Director TPW
Jason MacDonald, Director Planning
Bill Crossman, Fire Chief
Rebecca Purdy, Executive Assistant
Kim Jones, Policy and HR

1. **O'CANADA**

2. **HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS / PETITIONS**

2.1. **Public Hearing - Development Agreement at 155 Victoria Street**

Mayor Small opened the public hearing which was scheduled in consideration of a development agreement for a 32 unit multi-family residential building at 155 Victoria Street East. This development agreement was recommended to Council for adoption by both Planning Staff and the Planning Advisory Committee. It received first reading on January 30, 2012, has been advertised in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act.

Mayor Small asked the Director of Planning if he had anything to present that is different from what he had already presented; he did not. There were no further questions from Council. There were two individuals present, the DA applicants; Mayor Small asked if they had any questions or comments; they did not. Mayor Small stated that the adoption of this development agreement is on Council's agenda for consideration this evening. There being no further comments or questions, the public hearing was concluded.

2.2. **African Heritage Month - Donald Cooke Jr.**

The "Unsung Heroes: Men Who Make a Difference" honour was developed to recognize six men from across the province who have made a lasting impact in their communities. In announcing the honour last fall, Percy Paris, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs said "In every African Nova Scotian community in this province, there are men who have spent years working selflessly for the good of others, often without accolades or recognition". Donald Cooke Jr. has been recognized as one of the six "Unsung Heros: Men Who Make a Difference". The provincial honour is part of African Heritage Month 2012.

Council congratulated Mr. Cooke on being recognized provincially and presented him with a plaque. Mayor Small said "Donald Cooke Jr. is a fine example of an Amherst resident and someone we are proud to call a citizen of Amherst. To have him recognized provincially is an enormous honour for our Town."

3. CALL TO ORDER

3.1. Amendments to the Agenda

Councillor March requested Provincial Volunteer Youth Representative be added to the agenda as item 4.11.

3.2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By: Councillor George Baker

Seconded By: Councillor David March

That the agenda be approved with the above noted addition.

Motion Carried

3.3. Approval of Minutes

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

Seconded By: Councillor Robert Angel

That the minutes of the January 30, 2012 regular meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

4. REQUESTS FOR DECISION

4.1. Dog By-Law

Moved By: Councillor Robert Angel

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Dale Fawthrop

That Council approve first reading of the new Dog By-law, which repeals and replaces the existing Dog By-law.

Motion Carried

DOG BY-LAW

1. This By-law shall be known and may be cited as the "Dog By-Law" of the Town of Amherst.

INTERPRETATION

2. In this By-law unless the context otherwise requires:

"Animal Control Officer" or **"ACO"** means the person designated by the Chief of Police to be the by-law enforcement officer for this by-law. An officer of the Amherst Police Department may destroy a dangerous dog where the circumstances call for that action in the normal course of carrying out the Officer's duties.

"At Large" means being elsewhere than on the lands or premises owned or occupied by the dog owner and not on a leash.

"Attack" means an assault resulting in bleeding, bone breakage, sprains, or serious bruising.

"Bite" means a wound to the skin causing it to puncture or break.

"Council" means the Municipal Council of the Town of Amherst

"Dangerous Dog" means a dog which:

- a) **Attacks or demonstrates a propensity, tendency or disposition to attack a human being or animal either on public or private property**
- b) **Has caused injury to or otherwise endangered the safety of a human being or animal**
- c) **Is owned or harbored primarily or in part for the purpose of dog fighting or is trained for dog fighting**
- d) **Is a dog for which a muzzle order has been made**

"Dog" means a male or female animal of the species canine over the age of **sixteen (16)** weeks.

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“**Dog License**” means a license for a dog for the current licensing year that has been paid for and that has been issued by the Town or an assignee of the Town.

“**Dog Owner**” means any person:

- a) whose name appears on a dog license
- b) who is in possession of a dog
- c) who has the care, custody or control of a dog; or
- d) who possesses, harbors or allows a dog to remain about a house, land or premises owned or occupied by that person.

“**Impounded**” means seized and delivered into the pound or in the custody of the poundkeeper.

“**Kenel**” means a licensed enterprise dealing with the breeding, buying, selling or boarding of dogs.

“**Licensed Dog**” means a dog that is wearing, either on its collar or harness, a metal tag on which is stamped figures corresponding to a dog license for that specific dog.

“**Licensing Year**” shall mean a period from April 1st in any year to March 31st in the following year.

“**Muzzle**” shall mean a humane covering device of sufficient strength placed over a dog’s mouth to prevent it from biting.

“**Pound**” means premises used by the poundkeeper to harbor and maintain dogs pursuant to this bylaw or any vehicle used by the poundkeeper.

“**Poundkeeper**” means the person or organization appointed by resolution of Council to operate and maintain the facilities for the impounding of dogs.

“**Premises**” means a building or part of a building, structure or a place.

“**Premises of the owner**” includes premises where a dog is habitually harboured or fed.

“**Service Animal**” means an animal trained by a recognized school for service as a guide dog for the blind or visually impaired, a guide dog for the deaf or hearing impaired, or a special skills dog for other challenged persons and includes an animal used in therapy, registered with a recognized organization for that purpose.

IMPOUNDMENT

3. The Council may hereby authorize:
 - a) the establishment, maintenance and operation of facilities for the impounding of dogs at such place or places and upon such premises, as the Council may determine, by resolution.
 - b) The appointment, by resolution, of a poundkeeper to maintain and operate the pound or pounds established under this by-law.
 - c) The making of an agreement with such persons, firms, societies or corporations as may be fit for the purpose of maintaining and operating a pound, for regulating the conduct of the pound, and providing for the collection, distribution and payment of revenue and expenditures derived from the operation of the Pound.

CONTROL, LICENSING AND IMPOUNDING OF DOGS

Control of Dogs

4. Except as otherwise permitted by this By-law:
 - a) A dog owner shall not permit, suffer or allow a dog to be at large.
- 4.1 Every owner of a dog shall ensure that the dog is kept on a leash and under the control of some person when the dog is on any land in the Town unless:
 - a) the land is the premises of the owner of the dog;
 - b) the land is owned by a person who has given prior consent to the dog being off the leash.
- 4.2 **The owner of a dog which is known to be aggressive must not permit the dog to be in a place other than the owner’s property**
 - a) **Unless the dog is on a leash no longer than one meter and in the control of a person who is responsible and capable of controlling the dog.**
 - b) **unless the dog is wearing a proper muzzle**

- 4.3 **Police Officers with the Amherst Police Department and any By-Law enforcement officers appointed by the Chief of Police shall, along with the ACO, are authorized to enforce section 4 and 4.1.**

Dangerous Dogs

5. The ACO has the power and authority hereunder, upon reasonable grounds, to make the determination that any dog is a dangerous dog.

Where the ACO has reason to believe that a dog has attacked a person or another animal, or has the propensity to do so, the ACO may:

- a) **Classify the dog as a dangerous dog;**
 - b) **Issue the owner a notice to muzzle the dog;**
 - c) **Order the owner to keep the dog securely restrained either indoors or inside an escape-proof enclosure that does not allow the dog to jump, climb or dig its way out of while it is on the property of the owner; and**
 - d) **Muzzle, securely leash and ensure the dog is under the control of a person who is responsible and capable of controlling the dog, when the dog is off the property of the owner.**
- 5.1 **When the ACO determines that a dog is a dangerous dog, the ACO, if he/she determines in their discretion, that the dangerous dog poses an immediate and significant threat to the public safety, may, after consultation with a police manager, destroy the dangerous dog, without permitting the owner to claim it.**
- 5.2 If the ACO destroys the dog, the ACO will arrange for the disposal of the remains and will make reasonable efforts to inform the dog owner that the dog has been destroyed. **The owner of the dog will be responsible for all costs related to the destruction/disposal.**
- 5.3 If a dog attacks a person and causes injury, the Amherst Police Department shall, along with the ACO, have the authority to investigate the circumstances of the attack if it is decided that it is appropriate to do so, and the Town of Amherst Police Department may make such recommendations to the ACO as it **deems appropriate**

Feces and Scooping

6. Every owner of a dog shall immediately remove any feces left by the dog in the Town:
- a) on any roadway, sidewalk or parking lot
 - b) in a public park
 - c) on any public property other than a public park, or
 - d) on any private property other than the property of:
 - i. the owner of the dog, or
 - ii. the person having care, custody or control of the dog.
- 6.1 Every owner of a dog shall dispose of any feces removed pursuant to this Section on his or her premises.
- 6.2 Every owner of a dog shall remove from his or her property, in a reasonable timely manner, feces left by such dog, so as not to disturb the enjoyment, comfort, convenience of any person in the vicinity of the property.
- 6.3 This section does not apply to a handler of a service dog, where the handler is not reasonably able to remove the feces left by such dog due to a physical disability or impediment.

Noise

7. No dog shall be permitted to consistently disturb the quiet of a neighborhood by barking, howling, or otherwise making noise to a degree beyond what the Animal Control Officer determines to be normal.
- 7.1 In determining what is "normal" in the context of this section, the ACO shall consider one or more, but not limited to, the following factors:
- 7.2
- a) the time of day that the dog is reported as disruptive;
 - b) the frequency and duration of the reported disruptive behavior;
 - c) the proximity of neighbors and population density of the neighborhood.
- 7.3 If the ACO determines, upon reasonable grounds, that a dog is being disruptive, as defined in this section, the ACO shall give a written warning to the dog owner before taking any other action under this by-law.

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Interference with ACO or Poundkeeper

8. Anyone who obstructs or interferes with the Animal Control Officer, or his/her duly authorized delegate, or the poundkeeper, engaged in the execution of his/her duties, commits an offense under this by-law.

Licensing of Dogs

9. No person shall own, possess or harbor an unlicensed dog within the boundaries of the Town.
- 9.1 A person who owns, possesses or harbors any dog before the first day of April in each year, shall obtain a dog license in accordance with the provisions of this by-law.
- 9.2 Applications for and the issuance of a dog license shall be the responsibility of the Town Hall staff, or person so designated by the Town of Amherst.
- 9.3 The Town of Amherst and/or its recognized agent for this purpose will maintain a record of all dogs registered, showing the date and number of the registration, and the name and address of the owner of the dog.
- 9.2 Every person who obtains a dog license shall be given a metal tag which shall be, at all times, fastened to a collar or harness worn by the dog for which the license was obtained.
- 9.3 Where a metal tag issued pursuant to this by-law has been lost, destroyed or mutilated, the dog owner shall acquire, for the remainder of the current licensing year, a replacement tag, upon producing proof of purchase of a valid dog license and upon payment of a prescribed fee.
- 9.4 Fees pursuant to this by-law are set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
- 9.5 Notwithstanding this section, the following dogs need not have a dog license:
 - a) a trained guide dog owned or utilized by a blind person, or any dog determined by the ACO to be a service or assistance dog
 - b) a dog owned and utilized as a law enforcement service dog

Rabies

- 10. Every owner of a dog over the age of four months must have the dog vaccinated against rabies and must keep the rabies vaccinations of the dog up to date.**
- 10.1 The ACO may seize and impound any animal which is suspected of being rabid, and must immediately notify the Amherst Veterinary Clinic.**
- 10.2 Every owner of an animal who knows or suspects that the animal is rabid must immediately report the animal to the Amherst Veterinary Clinic and the ACO.**
- 10.3 No dog license will be issued to an owner who does not present proof of such vaccination.**

Impounding of Dogs

11. The Town of Amherst and/or its designates by resolution may, without notice to or complaint against the owner, impound any dog that:
 - a) runs at large contrary to this by-law
 - b) is not wearing a tag as required by this by-law
 - c) is not registered pursuant to this by-law
 - d) is fierce and dangerous
 - e) is rabid or appears to be rabid or exhibits symptoms thereof; or persistently disturbs the quiet of the neighborhood by barking, howling or otherwise, after a written warning has been delivered to dog owner
- 11.1 The poundkeeper, upon seizure or impoundment of a dog at large, shall make every effort to inform the dog owner, if known, that the dog has been seized and impounded, including review of available information from tags, tattoos or microchips.
- 11.2 If after the expiration of not less than 72 hours, the impounded dog is not claimed, the poundkeeper may, on the expiration of this period, destroy, or place for adoption, the impounded dog.
- 11.3 The poundkeeper, upon receiving a certificate from a qualified veterinarian that an impounded dog is suffering from infectious or contagious disease, may immediately destroy that impounded dog.

- 11.4 The poundkeeper shall maintain a recorded log, in which he/she shall record the description of every dog impounded, the name of the person who impounded the dog, the time and location of the impoundment, the fees owing and the manner of disposal of the impounded dog.
- 11.5 The owner of record of an impounded dog shall be responsible for all uncollected fees or costs in respect of an impounded dog whether or not he/she effects the release of the dog.

Enforcement

12. No dog owner shall do anything, or fail to do anything, where that action or omission, as the case may be, results in a violation of this by-law.
13. This by-law may be enforced, at the discretion of the Town:
 a) in accordance with the procedures set out in the Municipal Government Act; or
 b) by means of a summary offence ticket under the Municipal Government Act.
14. The Summary Proceedings Act, where applicable, shall apply to proceedings under this by-law.
15. The Animal Control Officer may enter, at all reasonable times, upon any property subject to this by-law in order to ascertain whether this By-law is being obeyed.
16. Every person who contravenes any part of this by-law is guilty of an offense and is subject to the provisions of the *Summary Proceedings Act*.
17. Each day an offense continues shall be a separate offense.
18. The penalties prescribed are as follows:
 a) with respect to the first contravention in any consecutive 12 month period, payment of \$60.00;
 b) with respect to a second contravention within any consecutive 12 month period, payment of \$200.00;
 c) with respect to a third contravention within any consecutive 12 month period, payment of a sum of \$500.00;
 d) with respect to any subsequent contravention within any consecutive 12 month period, payment of a sum not less than \$500.00 and not more than \$2000.00.
19. Any contravention of any provision of this By-law, in the preceding twelve months by any person charged, shall be counted as a previous contravention for the purpose of the preceding paragraphs.
20. If payment is not made in accordance with these procedures, the fine is recoverable under the *Summary Proceedings Act*.

Costs

21. In all cases the Town shall have the right to recover from the owner of the dog the cost incurred by the Town in applying this by-law to the owner's dog.
- 21.1 In all cases the costs of the Town shall include the actual payments made by the Town, together with its reasonable administrative charges.
- 21.2 The provisions of this by-law shall be enforceable pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*.

Interpretation

22. This by-law shall be read with all changes in gender and number, as may be appropriate.
23. Any part of this by-law found to be illegal shall be severed from the balance of the by-law.
24. Any and all fees referred to in the by-law shall be as set out in the Town of Amherst User Fee Policy #3470-03 and will be reviewed annually.

Repeal

25. The Town of Amherst Dogs By-Law approved by Council on July 16, 2010 is hereby repealed.

Dog By-law SCHEDULE "A"

Dog License Fees

1. Dog License fees shall be:
 a) \$15 for each spayed/neutered dog;
 b) \$30 for each un-sprayed/un-neutered dog.
c) \$15 for tag replacement

Each license shall be payable to the Town of Amherst annually.

Dog Impound Fees

- 2. A dog owner may reclaim their impounded dog upon proving ownership and upon paying to the poundkeeper the following impound fees, maintenance fees and any overdue dog license fees pursuant to Schedule "A"
 - a) An impoundment fee in respect of a Licensed Dog:
 - i) First Impoundment - \$30.
 - ii) Second Impoundment - \$70.
 - iii) Third and subsequent Impoundments - \$100.
 - b) An impoundment fee in respect to an Unlicensed Dog - \$100.
 - c) A maintenance fee in respect of each day or part of a day on the impoundment period - \$15.
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4.2. Transient Automobile Vendors By-law

Moved By: Councillor George Baker

Seconded By: Councillor David March

That Council approve first reading of a by-law to amend the Transient Automobile Vendors By-law in order to reduce the fee for RVs and travel trailers from \$2,000 per day to \$1,000 per day.

Motion Carried

By-law to Amend the Transient Automobile Vendors Bylaw P-6-2

- 1. This is a by-law to amend the Transient Automobile Vendors By-law with respect to the matter of the daily licence fee for RV and Recreational Travel Trailer dealers.
- 2. In the Transient Automobile Vendors By-law the following section is deleted:

Section 6

(1) The fee for the License shall be Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per day.

And to be replaced with:

Section 6

(1) The fee for the License shall be Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per day, except for Dealers selling motor homes, RVs and / or recreational travel trailers, for which the fee for the Licence shall be One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per day.

4.3. Meeting Dates for May 2012

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

Seconded By: Councillor George Baker

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be changed from May 21 to May 14, 2012 due to the Victoria Day holiday on May 21.

Motion Carried

4.4. CJSMA Operating & Capital Budgets

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

Seconded By: Councillor David March

That Council approve the 2012-2013 Capital and Operating Budgets of the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority as presented.

Motion Carried

4.5. Clinton Street - Release Easement

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Dale Fawthrop

Seconded By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

That Council approve the Release of Easement for 28 Clinton Street as presented.

Motion Carried

THIS RELEASE OF EASEMENT dated the _____ day of _____, 2012.

BETWEEN: **THE TOWN OF AMHERST**, a municipal corporation, in the County of Cumberland and Province of Nova Scotia; (hereinafter called the "RELEASOR")
- and -
WILLIAM ERIC MacLEAN, of Amherst, in the County of Cumberland and Province of Nova Scotia; (hereinafter called the "RELEASEE")

WHEREAS the Town of Amherst acquired an easement or right-of-way over lands then owned by James F. Mitchell on the 5th day of July, 1947 over lands situate at or near 28 Clinton Street, in the Town of Amherst, in the County of Cumberland and Province of Nova Scotia (the "Lands");

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid easement or right-of-way was reserved in a Quit Claim Deed recorded at the Cumberland County Land Registration Office on February 22, 1955, in Book 214 at Page 331 as Doc. No. 200 (the "Easement");

AND WHEREAS the Releasee, or the successor in title to the Releasee, has requested of the Releasor the within release and the Releasor has determined that the Easement is no longer required for its purposes;

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that the Releasor for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) of lawful money of Canada to the Releasor in hand well and truly paid by the Releasee at or before the sealing and delivery of These Presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the Releasor hereby releases unto the Releasee all its right, title and interest in and to the Lands arising from the Easement to the intent that the Easement is hereby extinguished.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Releasor has caused These Presents to be executed and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed by the hands of its duly authorized officers on its behalf on the day and year first above written.

4.6. Development Agreement at 2nd Reading - 155 Victoria Street

Moved By: Councillor David March

Seconded By: Councillor Robert Angel

That Council approve second reading of the Development Agreement to permit a 32 unit multi-family residential building on property located at 155 Victoria Street East.

Motion Carried

4.7. Formal approval of Town Hall Move

Moved By: Councillor David March

Seconded By: Councillor George Baker

That Council formally approve the move of the Town Hall operations to the Dominion Public Building upon the completion of the planned renovations and that Council approve the amount of \$500,000 from the 2012/2013 capital budget for those renovations.

Motion Carried

4.8. Funding Request - International Women's Day

Moved By: Councillor Robert Bird

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Dale Fawthrop

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$100 under the Town's Festivals and Events Policy in support of the International Women's Day Committee for Amherst, Cumberland County area.

Motion Carried

4.9. Funding Request - Gymnastics

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Dale Fawthrop

Seconded By: Councillor Robert Angel

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$250 under the Town's Grants to Organizations Policy in support of the Amherst Aerials Gymnastics Club March Break Invitational Competition to be held on March 10 and 11, 2012.

Motion Carried

4.10. Funding Request - Female Hockey Tournament

Moved By: Councillor George Baker

Seconded By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$250 under the Town's Grants to Organizations Policy to assist with costs of hosting the Ron Elliott Memorial Female Hockey Tournament in Amherst from March 9 – 11.

Motion Carried

4.11. Provincial Volunteer Youth Representative

Moved By: Councillor David March

Seconded By: Councillor George Baker

That Council appoint Peter Woo as the Provincial Volunteer Youth representative for the Town of Amherst as recommended by the Amherst Youth Town Council.

Motion Carried

5. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1. Police Facility Analysis

The CAO reported that the Police Facility Analysis Draft Report has been received from the consultants and distributed to Council. He briefly reviewed the highlights of the report, stating that the consultant projected staff growth over the next 25 years to 66 members and based space requirements on that number, concluding that, in order to accommodate the functions in an alternate facility, 17,900 square feet would be required. Based on those square footage requirements, the consultant presented the following options:

- Option 1 - New Construction - \$4.8 million
- Option 2 - Refit Town Hall building - \$5 million but rejected as unfeasible
- Option 3 - Partial demolition of Town Hall and reconstruction to fit post disaster requirements - \$5 million
- Option 4 - Add another floor to APD on Victoria Street - \$3 million but not feasible due to structural concerns
- Options 5 - Split the operations of the police department between current facility and some functions here. \$1.5 to \$2 million. Uncertainty as to which function would be housed in which facility.

The consultant settled on a recommendation to build a new facility. CAO said this would need to be considered very carefully by Council before making any decision in this regard.

Council asked what the next steps would be. CAO advised we need to wait for the final report, and that it deserves a lot of study and consultation with ABPC, and then Council will need to come to a conclusion in terms of the future of the police facility. The task will take some time. The growth of the department and numbers associated with that, square footage requirements, etc., is a big issue. The present facility is inadequate to serve the department and the public Staff will research any funding that may be available from other government sources.

CAO's final comments: It is important to note that consultant made assumptions that resulted in square footage numbers - staffing, building code requirements, space required for functions, and assumed services being provided now will be provided for next 25 years. These assumptions all need to be broken down and studied by the police commission and the chief, then reassemble the numbers, determine what the requirement is and move forward. Mayor Small added that, recognizing that we are moving out of this building, we can offer it up to the police department and commission to determine whether they could make use of the space.

5.2. Church Street Construction

Councillor March reported that, this spring, Costin Paving will commence work on the Church Street phase of the Center First Project. Sidewalks, curbs and asphalt will be fully replaced and Public Works are currently working with Costin Paving to determine the process they will use to complete the work and planned timetable. Staff from Public Works and CED met to discuss a communications strategy for ensuring that the business along Church, King, Electric, Princess and Prince Arthur are well informed about the scope of the project and they have an ongoing process in place to know on a daily basis how construction will impact their operations.

6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

7. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Rhindress excused himself from the meeting at this point, 7:55 PM.

7.1. Planning Advisory Committee

Councillor Bird presented the following report on behalf of the Planning Advisory Committee:

The Planning Advisory Committee met on February 6, 2012. Items addressed at that meeting included:

A staff report on proposed Municipal Planning Strategy policy amendments to allow existing singled detached dwellings located within the Downtown Districts to continue as permitted uses. This will be included in the suite of policy changes required to implement the Centre First: Downtown Action Strategy.

Policy amendments to implement the Centre First Strategy

A staff report that shows the inclusion of additional definitions in the policy changes that will come to Council to implement the Downtown Action Strategy. The Committee had been presented with a summary of the changes at its January meeting, and had asked staff for this further refinement before recommending the amendments to Council.

Public Information Session

A public information session was held on the proposed Design Guidelines developed as a part of the amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw to implement the Centre First Downtown Amherst Action Strategy. The session was well attended and several issues raised by those participating will be further reviewed before presentation of the finalized Guidelines to Council.

7.2. Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

Deputy Mayor Fawthrop presented the following report on behalf of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners:

The Amherst Board of Police Commissioners met on February 15. It included a presentation of the consultant's report on the planning exercise held in late January. This document will form the basis for the Strategic Plan for the Amherst Police Department for 2012-2015. The Commission will review the report and expects to accept and ratify the Plan at its March 2012 meeting. In the meantime, some of the action items identified in the Plan will be put into place.

The Board voted in favour of amendments to the Nova Scotia Association of Police Boards Bylaws that would see incorporation of the Police Advisory Boards throughout the province into full membership in the NSAPB. This was considered to be an important move forward for the NSAPB, as issues in policing affect all areas of the province, whether the service provider is a municipal police force or the RCMP.

The Commission supported the request from Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and approved \$400 toward the registration for the annual Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving (CYAID) conference. This conference is being held in Edmonton, Alberta this year.

The CAO reported that a collective agreement between the Town and the police members has been negotiated along with the Towns of Kentville, New Glasgow and Bridgewater. The collective agreement includes a resolution to the pension issue that will see joint governance and a commitment to share solvency deficiencies equally between the Town and the members. In return the officers will be paid in line with other municipalities. 1st class officer will make 76,941 as of April 1, 2013. Percentage increases are 4%, 4%, 3%, 5.19% and 3%. Also pension contributions will increase from 7% to 9% for both sides.

Mayor Small expressed Council's appreciation to the CAO for his efforts in negotiating the collective agreement and resolving the pension issue.

7.3. Youth Advisory Council

Councillor Bird presented the following report on behalf of the Youth Advisory Council:

The Amherst Youth Town Council met last on February 6, 2012 in Council Chambers. At this meeting members were joined by Mayor and Town Council to provide an update on the status of action items. Discussion items were presented by all youth council members regarding: Branding, attaining policy objectives, YouthFest, Skate Jam, Concert and 24 Hour Physical Activity Day.

As a result of this meeting, youth will continue to focus efforts on branding and promotion of the AYTC to become more recognizable in the community. Youth will continue to also focus on policy and become more familiar with the workings of local government. Members will research and propose ideas with budget for potential events, for example: Skate Jam.

The next meeting will be held on March 5, 2012 in Council Chambers at 4:00 PM.

Councillor Bird added that the AYTC was heavily involved in the 24 hour activity day, particularly in the Amazing Race, which was well attended and had positive results. It went a long way to enhancing the visibility of the AYTC.

Councillor Baker asked if there were plans to enhance the new AYTC logo to better identify it; Roger MacIsaac will look into it.

8. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1. Cumberland Public Libraries

Councillor Angel presented the following report on behalf of Cumberland Public Libraries:

Renovations

The Four Fathers Memorial Library is in the midst of renovations. Come visit us when we reopen to see our beautiful new paint, carpet, and circulation desk.

Did you know?

The Library has e-books and audiobooks that you can download for free from our website? Take a look at what we have at www.cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca. In the month of January we signed out 342 of these electronic items.

March Break

March Break is coming up and so is a week of exciting programs for the kids. We'll be having Science Day, movies, paper airplane races, and more. Keep an eye on our website or call the library to find out about everything in store.

Food For Fines

The 2011 Food for Fines campaign, which ran at all the Cumberland Public Libraries for the month of December, raised 842 items to go to food banks throughout the County; 535 of those items were donated at the Four Fathers Memorial Library. For these donations we forgave over \$1,600 in fines.

8.2. Cumberland Regional Development Authority – Nil Report**8.3. Cumberland YMCA**

Deputy Mayor Fawthrop presented the following report on behalf of the YMCA:

YMCA Membership numbers as of February 2nd are 943 full paying memberships + 110 subsidized members = 1,053 members

Strong Kids Awareness Month February 15th– March 15th

Strong Kids Campaign encourages people across the country to invest in YMCA programs that help provide more opportunities for children. It is aimed at raising public awareness and much needed financial support for the work that the YMCA does to provide children, teens, and families with the values and life skills they need to succeed. The Cumberland YMCA encourages the development and maintenance of a healthy mind, body and spirit through health, fitness and social programs.

Big Fish is sold out! Profit \$4000 for Strong Kids.

In house Strong Kids Awareness & Events – (All Proceeds go to the Strong Kids Campaign):

Childcare Art Basket In front lobby. Tickets are 3 for \$2.00.

Book Sale in front lobby. Books and magazines are \$1.00.

Individual or Corporate Pledges - Pledge Cards are available at the Front Desk

4th Annual Strong Kids Ball Hockey Tournament

March 31st at the Cumberland YMCA Ages:8 – 14

All games will be played 4-on-4, (Team registration up to 6 players) including the goaltender, 3 out players plus one goalie on the street at all times. A team may play without a goaltender, if they choose to do so, at any time during the match..Early Bird registration March 1st to the 17th 2012 \$50 per team, after March 17th \$60 per team.

8.4. Downtown Amherst Revitalization Society – Nil Report**8.5. Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority**

Councillor Baker presented the following report on behalf of the CJSMA:

2012/13 Budgets

At its most recent meeting the Authority passed a motion recommending that the 2012/13 operating and capital budgets be approved by its member Councils. We discussed that motion earlier this evening

Solid waste changes(Clear Bags)

As everyone is aware, the Town of Amherst clear bag program takes effect May 1 of this year and enforcement will begin as of that date. As of that date all residual garbage will have to be placed in a clear bag when put out for pickup. Sorting rules have not changed; the only change is the color of the bag.

An acceptable bag is one that is clear non-colored and is transparent. Colour tinted bags will not be accepted. To address privacy concerns, residents will be able to place 1 (one) opaque bag, no larger than 20" x 20" within each clear bag.

If anyone requires more information on this program please call the Solid Waste Hotline at 667-7743.

8.6. Northern Region Solid Waste Committee – Nil Report**8.7. L. A. Animal Shelter**

Councillor Angel presented the following report on behalf of the L. A. Animal Shelter:

25th ANNIVERSARY: The LA animal shelter Board is busy preparing a variety of events to celebrate its 25th anniversary of incorporation. On June 1st the Shelter will begin a month long series of activities throughout the county. Preliminary plans will include the launching of the events with the Jessie Payne Memorial dog walk to be held on Sunday May 27th at the Rotary Park on Willow Street. The walk will commence at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is \$10 for an adult and children will walk for free. There will also be a Barbecue for all participants and friends of the shelter who attend the event.

A financial solicitation campaign is presently being conducted throughout the county. This is replacing the annual telethon. All donors will be acknowledged on a day long radio-a-

thon to be held on Tantramar Community radio Saturday June 2nd. It is hoped that individuals and local organizations will offer to conduct a fundraising event in their community to promote the 25th anniversary of the shelter. If you are interested please contact the shelter.

NEWS LETTER: The first edition of the Shelter News Letter is now available. If you wish to receive a copy and become a "Shelter Friend" e-mail shelterfriends@laanimalshlter.ca Provide your e-mail address and you will be kept informed of shelter activities and receive a copy of each newsletter.

CAT AND DOG ADOPTION: All mature, spayed and neutered cats can be purchased from the shelter for \$50. All cats are vaccinated and treated for parasites and feline leukemia. At the present time the shelter has 30 cats available. The adoption fee for medium and large dogs is \$225. Five dogs are available.

SHELTER ON LINE AUCTION: To view and purchase online auction items go to the shelter web page at www.laanimalshelter.ca and click on the auction link. If you wish to donate auction items take them to the shelter during open hours.

VOLUNTEERS: If you are able to assist with minor repairs please contact the shelter. At the present time there is a need for two or three individuals to remove some cages from the cat room so new stainless steel cages can be installed. This task would take about two hours. All you need is a hammer, crowbar and screwdriver.

DOG LICENSES: The Town By-Law states that as of April 1, all dogs within the Town boundaries must be licensed. This may be done at the Town Hall or at the LA Animal Shelter. The annual fee is \$15 with written proof that the dog is spayed or neutered and \$30 without proof. Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town, all licensing fees are credited to the animal shelter up to the amount of \$10,000.

8.8. Victorian Order of Nurses

Councillor Baker presented a verbal update on the VON; he thanked the people who supported the valentine dance, which resulted in funds raised in the amount of \$2,900. The Board is looking at its foot care program which is running in the red; the Board has asked the VON to examine all their foot care locations to determine which ones are more financially draining.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to the motion to adjourn, Mayor Small expressed his pride in being a citizen of Amherst considering the generosity of the community in raising funds to help families in need. He said he hopes everyone turns out to support the benefit for Daren White on Saturday at the Knights of Columbus. Daren has done a lot for this community and we need to help him now.

The Mayor encouraged people to complete and return the colon cancer screening tests the Province sent out, saying it is simple to do and will save money and lives.

He announced that Council is still looking for options for the BMO building, stating we can expect public information sessions on that building and encouraging people to attend and speak out.

On motion by Councillor March, the meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Gregory D. Herrett,CA
Town Clerk and CAO

Robert Small
Mayor