

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Amherst Town Council  
Held in Council Chambers  
Monday, May 25, 2009 at 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Rob Small  
Deputy Mayor Robert Angel  
Councillor George Baker  
Councillor Robert Bird  
Councillor Dale Fawthrop  
Councillor David March  
Councillor Terry Rhindress  
Greg Herrett, CAO  
Rebecca Purdy, Executive Assistant  
Kim Jones, Executive Assistant  
Jason MacDonald, Director of Planning & Engineering Services  
Ben Pitman, Director of Transportation and Public Works

**1. O CANADA**

**2. HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS**

**3. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Small called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**3.1 Additions to Agenda**

**3.2 Approval of Agenda M-0905-04**

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor March to approve the agenda as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3.3 Approval of Minutes – April 27, 2009 Regular Council Meeting M-0905-05**

Moved by Councillor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2009 regular meeting as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Councillor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2009 special meeting as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. REQUESTS FOR DECISION**

**4.1 Tender – Sewer Main Cleaning & Inspection, RFD#2009022 M-0905-06**

Moved by Councillor Rhindress, seconded by that Councillor March that Council approve awarding the 2009 Sewer Main Cleaning and Inspection tender to Industrial Hydrovac at their bid of \$22,893.80 plus HST.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4.2 Amend the Amherst Heritage Property By-Law, RFD#2009035 M-0905-07**

Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council approve Second Reading of the By-Law to Amend the Heritage Property By-Law A-5, as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

BY-LAW TO AMEND THE HERITAGE PROPERTY BY-LAW, A-5

The Town of Amherst Heritage Property By-Law, A-5, approved by Council on June 23, 2008 is hereby amended as follows:

a. Paragraph 2.3

Replace the words “means Town Heritage Property” with the words “means Municipal Heritage Property”.

b. Paragraph 4.2

Delete paragraph 4.2 and replace it with the following:

- 4.2 Council shall appoint members of the Heritage Advisory Committee by resolution.
- (a) Membership shall include three members of Town Council and three members of the public who are residents of the Town of Amherst.
  - (b) The term for public members shall be three years, and members may be re-appointed to the Committee. Public member's terms shall be by fiscal year, with one member appointed each year.
  - (c) In January of each year, an advertisement for the public member(s) whose term is set to expire that fiscal year shall be placed in the local newspaper.
  - (d) At the beginning of the first meeting of the fiscal year the committee shall elect a Chairperson as well as a vice-Chairperson. Terms for such shall be one year. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be eligible for re-election.

**4.3 Amend Police Commission By-Law, RFD#2009034 M-0905-08**

**Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Rhindress to approve second reading of a new By-Law Respecting the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, Number C-1, as presented, and repeal the old by-law of the same number.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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
- (a) 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 at its first regular meeting following such event appoint a replacement. An absence from two consecutive meetings without just cause as determined by the chair and Board members shall be cause for a member's replacement.
  - (b) The members of the Board appointed from Council shall serve without remuneration.
  - (c) The Board shall, at its first meeting each year or as soon as practicable thereafter, choose its chairperson and vice-chairperson.
  - (d) The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board and in his/her absence the Vice-Chairperson shall preside.
  - (e) 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.
- (d) 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.
- 9 The Town of Amherst By-Law to Establish the Amherst Police Commission, By-Law Number C-1 approved by Council on January 18, 1977 and amended on February 20, 1984 is hereby repealed.



4. The YMCA agrees and undertakes with the Town:
- a) to provide for a well maintained pool and recreation facility and employ responsible policies and procedures in the day to day operation of its facilities;
  - b) to supervise the pool in accordance to generally accepted standards with lifeguards appropriately qualified under the National Lifeguard Service and qualified in First Aid;
  - c) to ensure that lifeguards are supervised and coordinated by the YMCA's Aquatics Director at all times and that program staff are supervised and coordinated by the YMCA's Program Director;
  - d) to indemnify the Town from liabilities, damages, costs, claims, suits or actions resulting from:
    - i) a breach, violation or no-performance of any covenant or proviso of this agreement on the part of the YMCA;
    - ii) damage to property or equipment owned by the YMVA used in the delivery of the services and programs on behalf of the Town;
    - iii) injury to person or persons, including death resulting at any time there from, occurring in or about the YMCA, and on the roads, parking lots or sidewalks adjacent to them.
5. The Town agrees and undertakes with the YMCA:
- a) to pay the Cumberland YMCA an annual cash amount of \$47,976.96 payable in bi-monthly instalments of \$11,994.24 on July 15, July 30, August 15 and August 30.
6. Provided always and it is agreed between the parties:
- a) The Town shall not be liable or responsible in anyway for any loss suffered by any party while the YMCA is providing programming on behalf of the Town and the YMCA shall indemnify the Town against any loss suffered.
  - b) In the event the YMCA building or pool is closed which results in the cancellation of a Town sponsored program, the YMCA will issue a credit against the monthly statement (Appendix A) of account issued to the Town.
  - c) All media releases to provide updates on Town sponsored programs facilitated by the Cumberland YMCA will be issued by the Town in accordance with existing Town policy and procedures.
  - d) It is understood that the terms of this agreement will be adhered to for both the summer instructional swim program and the recreational swim program if notice of termination as per "d" below is not received prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - e) This agreement will remain in force from this date forward contingent on annual approval of funding within the Town of Amherst budget. This agreement may be terminated by either party upon receipt of written notice of 60 days.
7. This AGREEMENT and everything contained in it shall extend to, bind and enure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of each of the parties to it, subject to such consents as required by the terms of this AGREEMENT.

**4.7 Funding Request, Amherst Co-ed Softball, RFD#2009036 M-0905-12**

**Moved by Councillor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council provide funding support under Policy 72000-03, Grants to Organizations, in the amount of \$500 to the Amherst Co-ed Softball team attending the Canadian Championships in Niagara Falls, Ontario, in August 2009.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4.8 Funding Request, Cross Border Challenge, RFD#2009036 M-0905-13**

**Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council authorize funding for the Cross Border Challenge in the amount of \$500 under Policy 72000-07, Festivals and Events, and an additional \$500 under Policy 72000-03, Grants to Organizations in support of this Run Nova Scotia and Run New Brunswick event.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4.9 Citizen Appointments, Tree Committee, RFD#2009033 M-0905-14**

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councilor March that Council appoint Wayne MacLeod, Edward Faulkner and Lorne Etter to the Town of Amherst Tree Advisory Committee effective immediately, with terms expiring on March 31, 2012.

MOTION CARRIED

**4.10 Citizen Appointment, Unsightly Premises Committee, RFD#2009038 M-0905-15**

Moved by Councillor Bird, seconded by Deputy Mayor Angel that Council appoint Ned Douglas to the Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Committee, for a two-year term effectively immediately and expiring in June 2011.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Bird pointed out that the Town continues to seek a member for this committee, and encouraged interested citizens to submit their expressions of interest.

**4.11 Citizen Appointment, Cumberland Regional Library Board, RFD#2009037 M-0905-16**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Angel, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council appoint Morris Haugg to the Cumberland Regional Library Board effective June 1, 2009.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Small extended Council's appreciation to John Matthews for serving the community as Library Board member over the past number of years.

**5. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS****6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES****6.1 Dickey Park Redevelopment – Status Report**

Councillor Baker reported that all activities are currently on schedule and both interest and support for the redevelopment plan continue to grow. CED staff has completed some winter clean-up at the Park and the mowing program will commence there shortly. Staff from Planning and Engineering Services are completing details and material requirements for the walking track and the installation of power lines. The budget process is moving forward, and it is hoped that funding will be approved to permit the project to get started in the coming months.

**6.2 Festival Sponsorship / Support – Status Report**

Deputy Mayor Angel reported that over the past month, two meetings of the Four Fathers Festival organizing committee have taken place. The interest level in the festival is high and the number of activities is growing significantly. While this is not the complete list of activities, the following is a sample of some things planned during the festival:

**Wednesday, July 01, 2009**

Regular Canada Day Activities

**Thursday, July 02, 2009**

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Lions Club Pancake Breakfast - Tent  
 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Lions Club Doll Carriage Parade/Bike Competition – Tent  
 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Cumberland Museum Heritage Home Walk - Museum  
 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Lions Club Sidewalk Chalk Art Competition – Tent  
 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Cumberland Museum Royalty Dinner – Museum  
 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM Showcase Productions Night of Entertainment – Tent  
 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Music in the Park – Live entertainment

**Friday, July 03, 2009**

9:00 AM – 12:00 AM Children's Puppet Shows - Tent  
 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Trinity/St. Stephens Strawberry Lunch – Trinity Church  
 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Music in Victoria Park - Cansa  
 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Children's Activities – Cumberland Regional Library.  
 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Cumberland Museum Heritage Home Walk – Museum  
 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Amherst Ramblers Spaghetti Supper – Lions Den  
 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Music in the Park – Live entertainment

**Saturday, July 04, 2009**

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM Cross Border Challenge  
 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM Cross Border Challenge awards ceremony/BBQ – YMCA  
 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM TBA

A complete itinerary of activities will be completed during a committee meeting on Thursday, May 28. Posters and publications will be completed and circulated throughout the community in addition to the Cumberland County Museum, The Nova Scotia Visitor Information Centre, Town Hall and other locations as opportunities arise.

### 6.3 **Arts Culture & Heritage – Project Status Report**

Councillor Fawthrop reported that the request for proposals for this project is set to go; we are just waiting final word on funding. While awaiting funding, Councillor Fawthrop and staff have continued to do background research on the various options we have for this project. In anticipation of the project being undertaken we are researching opportunities for the display of public art, a location and operational issues surrounding and arts and culture centre and ways to improve how we promote our heritage to Town residents and visitors alike. He said they are brainstorming on how to use the Town's arts, culture and heritage to further diversify the economic base of the community.

### 6.4 **Skateboard Park Feasibility – Project Status Report**

Councillor Bird reported that a request for proposals has been advertised for the completion of the Skateboard Park Feasibility Study. Pending the approval of this year's budget and funding for this activity, selection of a consultant will be completed. In an effort to get quality community input, we have placed a Skateboard Park Survey on our website, [www.amherstns.com](http://www.amherstns.com) and invite Amherst youth to download the survey, complete it and get it back to us prior to June 30th. Surveys can be dropped off at either Town Hall or the Summer Program office at the Stadium. In addition, if the survey cannot be downloaded and printed, blank surveys will be available at either Town Hall or Stadium. These surveys will provide the consultant with good information regarding skateboarding in Amherst and provide the Town with some good general information on recreational programming for youth in Amherst. To make things more interesting, each person who completes the survey and brings it back to one of our offices will be asked to fill out an entry form for a chance to win a digital camera. There will only be one survey per person and one entry per person. The surveys will be available for completion during the month of June and the draw for the camera will be made on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> during the Four Fathers Festival events.

### 6.5 **Downtown Revitalization – Project Status Report**

Councillor March reported that the Town, along with the Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association and the Downtown Amherst Revitalization Society engaged internationally renowned Planner, educator and facilitator, Michael von Hausen to kick off the Center First – Downtown Amherst Action Strategy. Strategy sessions were held with Town Council, DARS and downtown stakeholders throughout the day and evening of May 12. The day was a great success with much enthusiasm and momentum for the strategy being developed. The request for proposals for the strategy development is set to go, pending government funding. We hope to release the RFP very shortly.

He also reported that a number of Councillors and staff attended the NSPDA's "Making Main Street" conference in Halifax May 14 and 15. All attendees returned to Amherst with lots of enthusiasm and great ideas to help improve our downtown. Some are big, some are small – the next step is to refine and implement those ideas.

### 6.6 **Youth Issues**

**M-0905-17**

Mayor Small reported that he and CED staff had met with youth in various contexts. World Café was held on May 14 at ARHS. The purpose of this cafe style setup was to provide an intimate, comforting atmosphere to encourage discussion between local area youth. The intention was to gain input into what more the community (not necessarily municipal government) could be doing to support youth development. This event was organized entirely by ARHS students with the support of adults on the *Youth Led Community Capacity Building Project* committee. The Town of Amherst Youth Advisory Council (YAC) was proposed at the World Café event. A full list of youth responses to the discussion items at the World café was presented at the follow up meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by staff, and Mayor. The committee chair is producing a smaller list for circulation. In addition, the Terms of Reference of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) have been completed and are attached to this report. Key components of the Terms of Reference are as follows:

- YAC to act as an advisory body to Council, on matters within the influence of the TOA which have an impact on youth of Amherst.
- YAC comprised of diverse Amherst youth. Grades 6-12, with a maximum of 7 available positions. Meeting will be every 2<sup>nd</sup> month or as needed.
- YAC will work to promote the image of Amherst youth, altering negative perceptions, and open communication between adults and local youth.

- Overall goal to increase youth participation in local government, and empower youth to take action for community affairs affecting them, which ultimately address youth retention in Amherst.
- Applications will be accepted in September 2009 for the YAC.

**Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councilor Fawthrop that Council adopt the Terms of Reference for a Youth Advisory Council to the Town of Amherst.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Town of Amherst  
Youth Advisory Council ~ Terms of Reference**

**Name**

- This organization shall be known as the Town of Amherst Youth Advisory Council, hereinafter referred to as the YAC.

**Purpose**

- YAC will act as an advisory body to Town Council, on those matters within the influence of the Town of Amherst which have an impact on the youth of this Town, regardless of their cultural and religious identity, socioeconomic background, intellectual and physical abilities, sexuality or gender.
- To improve the image of the Town of Amherst by raising the profile of the Town's youth.
- To create community awareness of youth facilities, youth services, youth organizations and the opportunities and programs they provide.

**Objectives**

- It will also be within the review of YAC to identify and bring forward issues which have impact on the youth of Amherst and, while not directly under the control of the corporation of the Town of Amherst, may be of sufficient significance to warrant the Town's consideration or support.
- YAC shall encourage its members to become more familiar with the workings of local government through education, involvement and participation.
- YAC will, through researching issues and presenting constructive solutions, act as a realistic advocate for the youth of our community.
- YAC will endeavor to participate actively in community events and activities in Amherst, and through this involvement, foster a positive image for all young people.
- YAC may address, foster discussion, or make recommendations on issues pertaining to all levels of government.
- YAC members are volunteers on the YAC organization and all YAC members will operate as volunteers.

**Membership**

- Membership of the Amherst Youth Advisory Council will be open to residents of the Town of Amherst, in grades 7 to 12.
- The YAC shall be comprised of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, certain ex-officio members, executive will be selected by membership. Up to seven positions are available for youth on the YAC.
- Elected member positions are
  - Chairperson
  - Vice-Chairperson
- Ex-officio members are: (no vote on Executive Committee)
  - Mayor of the Town of Amherst, or designated Councillor
  - Designated Town of Amherst Staff Member
- The YAC will meet every second month, or as required, adjourning for the summer months, to discuss any correspondence and /or issues affecting YAC.
- The Mayor, or designated elected official shall provide a full report to Amherst Town Council of each YAC meeting.
- The YAC shall meet on at least two occasions annually with Amherst Town Council.



### **Membership Responsibilities**

- All members attend each committee meeting. If a member cannot attend a meeting, they must tender their apologies to the Chairperson of the YAC prior to the meeting date.
- Should a member fail to attend three (3) consecutive meetings, their membership will be reviewed and options discussed regarding their ability to continue on the YAC. Necessary support will be provided to help them stay involved and special consideration can be given in certain circumstances. Otherwise, their membership will be terminated and that position considered vacant. Notice of the lapse of membership will be sent to that member in writing.

### **Application Process**

- Application as provided by the Town of Amherst must be completed in full. A selection panel formed, and interviews conducted. ??

## **6.7 Town Beautification**

Councillor Rhindress reported that the Town is once again participating in the Communities in Bloom program, and he reminded all residents to keep their yards “clean and green”. Town Council recently passed a new Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Policy which is intended to streamline the process for bringing such properties into compliance. We are currently working on a new Vacant Building Bylaw which is intended to be brought forward to Council for consideration in June. The intent of the new bylaw is to have any vacant buildings within Town utilized more effectively. New garbage cans are being distributed within the downtown area. These new cans look much better than the ones being replaced. Included in the recent water/sewer bills was a reminder that yard sale signs are not permitted on telephone poles. I would like to remind everyone to remove their signs from the poles after their sales; or better yet, use the community bulletin board at the Stadium. We are developing an anti – littering campaign which we hope to bring to Council for approval in June.

Councillors discussed the issue of the annual brush pick up, and Ben Pitman was asked to comment on the status of that activity. Mr. Pitman reported that his department has been removing brush continuously during the past two weeks and that this special pick up will end this week. On a number of streets homeowners continued to put brush piles out after they had been picked up, resulting in Town crews having to repeat pick up on those streets. He reported that homeowners are able to take their brush to the Little Forks Land Fill, and that the Town’s site on Motor Avenue will be open during specified periods for people to drop their brush off. The CAO advised that the Town will determine when the Motor Avenue site will be open and advertise it accordingly.

## **7. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **7.1 Planning Advisory Committee**

Councillor Bird reported that a meeting of the PAC was held on May 6, 2009. Significant issues included:

- A public participation session for the proposed housekeeping amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy was held. The session was advertised in the Amherst Daily News, however no members of the public were in attendance.
- The Committee unanimously passed a motion to recommend proposed MPS amendments to Council.
- The Committee also asked staff to develop a report regarding regulations surrounding back yard swimming pools. This report will be presented to the PAC at their June meeting.

### **7.2 Amherst Board of Police Commissioners**

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

#### **Public Consultation:**

The Mayor, CAO and Chair of the Police Commission recently met with Mr. Jack Novack, of Dalhousie University to discuss how best to proceed with the public consultation process. It was decided to proceed with a two stage approach. The first stage is a focus group of about 20 individuals, representative of the community, who would meet and discuss issue similar to those identified in the questionnaire previously circulated. Board members are actively contacting business and individuals for representatives to attend this session. This session is planned for June 24.

This is to be followed by a general public session involving members of the community who would meet for about two hours to discuss the findings of the focus group and other issues from the floor. This session would be open to the public and actively promoted through the media as well as by other means. This session is planned for the evening of June 25, and would be open to anyone who would like to attend. The locations have not been finalized as of this date. Mr. Novack will be the facilitator for both sessions and he will prepare a report for the Board.

**Other:**

The Needs Analysis Committee will hold its first meeting to review and identify the facility requirements of the Department within the next few weeks. We will keep you advised of our progress on this topic. The Board was advised of a letter of appreciation directed to the Police Department from the Municipality of the County of Cumberland in recognition of their efforts and services in providing assistance to County residents during the recent ice storm. In addition Cst. Chris Jobe was recognized internally by Department staff for the assistance he provided to an 85 year old citizen who was without power, heat, etc., for days during the ice storm. He arranged for a generator, heater and electric blanket, and after setting it up he continued to monitor her wellbeing even during his off duty time.

The CAO added a comment on the upcoming June 25 public consultation session, advising that it will be held at Tantramar Theatre. Issues that will be given consideration during that workshop will include:

- What are the most important areas of policing for Amherst?
- What areas of policing in Amherst are currently working well?
- What areas of policing in Amherst are in need of improvement and what can be done to improve these areas?
- How can the Amherst Police Department earn and maintain the public's trust?
- How should the Amherst Police Department be held accountable?
- How should the Board of Police Commissioners consult with the public?

**7.3 Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Committee**

Councillor Bird reported that a meeting of the Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Committee was held on May 8, 2009. Significant issues included a review of the newly passed Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Committee Policy, and direction to the Administrator to take action on four properties which were held over from last year. At the June meeting of the Committee the Administrator will report on any new complaints as well as provide his report on the arterial street survey currently being conducted.

**7.4 Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee - Nil Report**

**7.5 Tree Committee**

Councillor Fawthrop reported that the Tree Advisory Committee met on Wednesday May 13 at the Amherst Stadium. Agenda items related to the finalization of the 2008 DED cutting program, planting of replacement trees, and review of the new Tree Advisory Committee Policy. The tree removal program has run late this year due to both the weather conditions in March and the closure of provincial roads until May 4. This year's program will be concluded by May 22 and will see approximately 45 trees infected with DED removed and buried. Discussions were held regarding encouraging property owners to replace the trees which have been cut under the DED program. Currently, when staff obtain a consent form from a property owner to cut a tree, the property owner has the opportunity to receive a new tree and instructions on planting in the spring. About 40% of the property owners take advantage of this opportunity and the Committee will be reviewing other ways we can encourage property owners in future years to re plant.

Committee members reviewed the new Tree Advisory Committee Policy and were pleased with the requirements and the structure. The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Committee will be held in September.

**7.6 Heritage Advisory Committee - Nil Report**

**7.7 Audit Committee - Nil Report**

**7.8 Committee of the Whole - Nil Report**

**8. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**8.1 Cumberland Regional Library Board - Nil Report**

**8.2 CREDA**

Councillor Fawthrop reported he had attended a Strategic Initiative meeting at CREDA in the past week. The initiatives discussed were: The Cyrus Eaton House renovation; the Community Investment Support Program; and Alternative Energy Projects. Amanda McInnis is the Youth Retention and Attraction Coordinator. It is important to note that, in the next five years, 75% of job openings will be due to retirement, and that 40% of new jobs will be in skilled trades and technologies. Canada suffers from a declining birth rate. If all Canadian adults aged 15-99 were working full time over the next 10-12 years, we would still have a shortage of 3.9 million workers!

This year Council has embarked on seven strategic initiatives – the ultimate goal is to make Amherst an attractive town to live, work and play. When a prospective worker and his family look at a town, they consider: vitality, earning, learning, social capital, cost of lifestyle, after hours, around town. Our strategic initiatives directly address those concerns. Our goal is to build on our central location and all of the positive assets that we presently enjoy.

**8.3 DARS - Nil Report****8.4 CJSMA**

Councillor Rhindress reported that the proposed CJSMA budget has been approved by all funding members with the exception of the Town of Springhill. It is anticipated that Springhill will approve the budget also in the coming weeks.

CJSMA is conducting a study of the compost collected from a certain area of Town to determine if the compostable bags provided to residents of the study area are more effective than biodegradable bags currently used by many residents. While the study is not yet complete, preliminary results would indicate that compostable bags are far superior to biodegradable bags.

**8.5 Northern Region Waste Resource Committee**

Councillor Baker reported that he had attended a meeting of the Northern Region Waste Resource Committee in East Hants on May 9 along with Engineering Services Manager Ron Curtis, and Director of Planning and Engineering Services Jason MacDonald. Reports and updates from each of the regional chairs and committees were presented. The Inter-municipal Northern Region Agreement was discussed and copies will be sent out for review and signature. The complex issue of diversion credits was discussed at length with more discussion and study sure to follow.

On May 15, Ron Curtis attended a meeting on Municipal Approved Programs that are funded and administered by the RRFB. This was a meeting to discuss what the program objective, process and outcomes were and what difficulties applicants had during the application process. From the discussions, changes to the application process will be studied. Also during the session some historical information was supplied as to the effectiveness of the program and what type of projects were being applied for. The Town once again hopes to use this program to offset some of our solid waste capital costs.

**8.6 Cooperation Committee - Nil Report****8.7 Airport Committee - Nil Report****8. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjournment, Mayor Small said Council was very saddened at the sudden passing of Earl Gouchie, and passed along condolences to his family.

In terms of the West Highlands School, Mayor Small pointed out that it was this Council that was at the table to push the provincial government to replace the West Highlands School. He specifically acknowledged the efforts of Councilor Rhindress in this matter.

He reported that a number of councilors had participated in the recent UNSM Conference in Cape Breton; the agenda included topics like workplace safety and the dramatic issues that the Town of New Glasgow went through; going green; sustainability and the importance of compliance; parliamentary procedure; municipalities moving forward with their ICSP's; and community trail development.

Mayor Small mentioned the May 29 deadline for the Cumberland Health Authority bursary program.

He said he had attended the Making Main Street session at the NSPDA Conference in Halifax last week, and he thanked Jason MacDonald for doing a fantastic job of organizing that

conference; he said Amherst was portrayed in several of the speakers' discussions and he was proud to have our town put in the spotlight in a favourable way. He announced that Council will be meeting at 9 AM on Thursday, May 28 to consider the 2009/2010 budget.

**On motion by Councillor Rhindress the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. M-0905-18**

**APPROVED BY:**

Gregory D. Herrett, CA  
Town Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer

Robert Small  
Mayor

**MAY 25, 2009 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

<b>1.</b>	<b>O'CANADA</b>			
<b>2.</b>	<b>HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS</b>			
<b>3.</b>	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>		<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Page</b>
3.1	Additions to Agenda			
3.2	Approval of Agenda		Baker	
3.3	Approval of Minutes - April 27, 2009 Regular Meeting; May 4, 2009 Special Meeting		Rhindress	2, 17
<b>4.</b>	<b>REQUESTS FOR DECISION</b>	<b>RFD</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Page</b>
4.1	Tender: Sewer Main Cleaning	2009022	Rhindress	18
4.2	By-Law at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: Amherst Heritage Properties By-Law (amend)	2009035	March	20
4.3	By-Law at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners (amend)	2009034	Fawthrop	23
4.4	By-Law at 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: Little Forks (repeal)	2009029	Baker	28
4.5	Development Officer Appointment: Andrew Fisher	2009030	Bird	31
4.6	Agreement: Summer Swim Program at YMCA	2009031	Angel	33
4.7	Amherst Co-ed Softball – Grants to Organizations	2009036	Rhindress	37
4.8	Cross Border Challenge – Grants to Organizations/Festivals & Events	2009032	March	43
4.9	Citizen Appointments: Tree Committee	2009033	Fawthrop	50
4.10	Citizen Appointments: Unsightly Premises Committee	209038	Bird	52
4.11	Citizen Appointment: Cumberland Regional Library Board	2009037	Angel	54
<b>5.</b>	<b>INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS</b>			
<b>6.</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b>			
6.1	Dickey Park Redevelopment - Project Status Report		Baker	56
6.2	Festival Sponsorship / Support – Project Status Report		Angel	57
6.3	Arts Culture & Heritage – Project Status Report		Fawthrop	58
6.4	Skateboard Park Feasibility - Project Status Report		Bird	59
6.5	Downtown Revitalization – Project Status Report		March	60
6.6	Youth Issues - Project Status Report & Terms of Reference		Small	61
6.7	Town Beautification – Project Status Report		Rhindress	65
<b>7.</b>	<b>INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>			
7.1	Planning Advisory Committee		Bird	66
7.2	Amherst Board of Police Commissioners		Fawthrop	67
7.3	Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Committee		Bird	68
7.4	Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee		No report	--
7.5	Tree Committee		Fawthrop	69
7.6	Heritage Advisory Committee		No report	--
7.7	Audit Committee		No report	--
7.8	Committee of the Whole		No report	--
<b>8.</b>	<b>EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>			
8.1	Cumberland Regional Library Board (to be distributed Monday)		No report	--
8.2	CREDA		Fawthrop	70
8.3	DARS		No report	--
8.4	CJSMA		Rhindress	71
8.5	Northern Region Solid Waste		Baker	72
8.6	Cooperation Committee		No report	--
8.7	Airport Committee		No report	--
<b>9.</b>	<b>MAYOR'S COMMENTS – West Highlands School</b>			
<b>10.</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>			