

Amherst Town Council

Regular Council Meeting

Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday, September 26, 2011
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

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

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

1. O'CANADA

2. HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS / PETITIONS

3. CALL TO ORDER

3.1. Amendments to the Agenda

3.2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor George Baker
 Seconded by Councillor David March
 That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

3.3. Approval of Minutes of September 7, 14 and 21 Special meetings

Moved by Councillor Terry Rhindress
 Seconded by Councillor Dale Fawthrop
 That the minutes of special meetings of Council held September 7,
 September 14 and September 21, 2011 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

4. REQUESTS FOR DECISION

4.1. Junior Firefighter Policy - RFD#2012056

The following Policy 368300-03 was presented for Council's consideration:

POLICY #68300-03 JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

To establish a policy for the governance of the Amherst Junior Firefighter Program.

BASIS:

The Junior Firefighter Program is designed to attract youth 16 - 19 years of age from the Amherst schools; it will provide them with extra credits in the school curriculum and encourage them to apply to be full time volunteers when they graduate.

ROLE OF PROGRAM:

1. The Junior Firefighting Program will introduce youth to the fire service and provide a safe environment for social activities for youth within our community.
2. The Junior Firefighting Program will serve as a recruitment and succession tool for the Department.

MEMBERSHIP:

1. Junior members shall be between the ages of 16 and 19 (inclusive), be of good character from within the community and must maintain such standing while active in the program. Any change in such good character, or action which may bring discredit upon the Program or the Fire Department as a whole, may be reviewed by the Junior Advisory Committee, and lead to discipline or expulsion from the Program.
2. A person desiring membership shall submit a Volunteer Firefighter application to the Senior Program Advisor (SPA). All applications must be accompanied by a completed Parent/Guardian Consent Form.
3. The SPA or designate shall interview the applicant and at least one parent/guardian to ensure they are familiar with all details of the program and to obtain parental consent (signed consent by both if possible) for participation.
4. The SPA or designate will present the application with a recommendation for or against acceptance to the Advisory Committee, who shall then make the recommendation of acceptance of members to the Fire Chief.
5. New members will serve a probationary period of three months. At the end of the probationary period the SPA shall make a recommendation to the Advisory Board regarding the continuation of the member in the program.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Junior members must attend a minimum of training activities and scheduled Junior Program Activities conducted each year. Junior members are not required to respond to emergency alarms or department business meetings. Participation of junior members shall be monitored annually in accordance with department policy.

DEFINITIONS:

Senior Program Advisor (SPA)- Shall be the Chair of the Advisory Committee and be appointed by and report to the Chief. He/she will be an active firefighter from the local fire service with a minimum Level 1 qualification and two years experience.

**Moved by Councillor David March
Seconded by Councillor Dale Fawthrop
That Council adopt the new Junior Firefighter Program Policy, #68300-03.**

Motion Carried

4.2. Amend Policy 10350-05 Enquiries from Council - RFD#2012057

The following amended policy was presented for Council's consideration. The amendments are housekeeping in nature and do not alter the intent of the policy.

POLICY NUMBER 10350-05 INQUIRIES FROM COUNCIL

POLICY STATEMENT

Members of Council will make inquiries for information to the Chief Administrative Officer / Acting Chief Administrative Officer or in his absence, the appropriate Director.

PURPOSE

Response to a Councillor's inquiries will be prepared in the approved standard format and submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for review and recommendation. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all requests for information are directed through the CAO and prepared for Council in a standard format setting out the information. The response will be forwarded directly to the CAO. This will allow him to review same and acquaint himself with the subject before he approves and refers it to Council.

DEFINITIONS

- a) "Councillor's Inquiry" This is a request by a Councillor for information either at a regular Council meeting, committee meeting, or directly to the CAO or Director.
- b) "Council Inquiry" This is a request by a Councillor for information at a regular meeting of Council.

**Moved by Councillor Dale Fawthrop
Seconded by Councillor Terry Rhindress
That Council approve the amended Policy #10350-05 Inquiries from Council.**

Motion Carried

4.3. Funding Request - CCTS - RFD#2012058

Deputy Mayor Baker declared a potential conflict and excused himself from the Council table for discussion and decision on this agenda item.

**Moved by Councillor Robert Angel
Seconded by Councillor David March
That Council decline the request from Cumberland County Transportation Services Society for \$10,000 in funding.**

Motion Carried

4.4. Funding Request - Fibre Arts Festival - RFD#2012060

**Moved by Councillor Robert Bird
Seconded by Councillor Robert Angel
That Council provides funding in the amount of \$500 under the Town's Festivals and Events Policy in support of the 4th annual Fibre Arts Festival.**

Motion Carried

4.5. Funding Request - BMO National Soccer Championships - RFD#2012061

Moved by Deputy Mayor George Baker
 Seconded by Councillor Dale Fawthrop
 That Council approve funding in the amount of \$250 in support of Katelyn Peters who plays for the Suburban FC Under 18 Tier 1 Girls Soccer Team that will be Nova Scotia's representatives at the BMO National Soccer Championships being held October 5 - 10, 2011 in New Brunswick.

Motion Carried

4.6. Tender - Church / Albion Intersection Reconstruction - RFD#2012062

Moved by Councillor Terry Rhindress
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor George Baker
 That Council award the tender for the reconstruction of the Church/Albion Street Intersection to Maritech Construction Inc at their low bid of \$392,411.19 plus HST subject to the purchase of the property located at 85 Church Street by the Town.

Motion Carried

5. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**5.1. CJSMA Inter-Municipal Agreement**

Moved by Councillor David March
 Seconded by Councillor Terry Rhindress
 That the draft CJSMA inter-municipal agreement be referred to staff to bring a report to the October Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried

7. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**7.1. Planning Advisory Committee**

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

A meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee was held on September 12, 2011. At the meeting the Committee dealt with the following issues:

1. The Committee reviewed the draft amendments to the Land Use Bylaw for automobile related uses within the Downtown area and directed staff to bring specific wording for these amendments to the PAC for a recommendation at their October meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the Land Use Bylaw regarding ground floor residential uses in the Downtown area as recommended in the Centre First – Downtown Amherst Action Strategy. After much debate the Committee made a motion to recommend that the Bylaw NOT be amended. This recommendation will be brought to Council along with numerous other downtown Land Use Bylaw issues at a later date.
3. The Committee reviewed the current PAC Policy with regards to the timing of meetings. Due to specific time constraints of some Committee members, and the fact that noon meetings often do not provide enough time to appropriately consider all issues on the agenda, the Committee is recommending that meeting times be changed from 12 noon to 6 pm on the first Monday of the month. This recommendation will be brought to Council in October.

4. A public participation session has been scheduled for October 3at 7 PM to consider amendments that will regulate how a new dwelling is located on a property relative to the street and surrounding buildings.

7.2. Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

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

The Amherst Board of Police Commissioners met on September 13, 2011 in Council Chambers at Town Hall. Cst. Jason Galloway, one of two drug recognition experts in the Amherst Police Department made a very informative presentation to the Commission on that subject.

Other items addressed at the meeting included:

Goals

The Chair reviewed the list of the Board's goals, stated that this is an ongoing process that the Board will continue to work on over the year.

Citizen Engagement Information

Halifax Regional Police have used this process to get information from the public. The Commission will discuss this further at its October meeting.

Chief's Report

The Chief reported that a recommendation to select a consultant to conduct the Police Facility analysis was to be held following the meeting. This has since been done, and the proposal fromRebanks Pepper Littlewood Architects was accepted by Council at a special meeting held September 21. The cost of the study will be\$27,000 plus disbursements estimated at \$7,400 plus HST for a total of \$35,000, with funding to come from the approved 2011-2012 capital budget.

The Chief said he hopes to have the strategic plan for the Department finished by January 2012. That will include input from members of ABPC and APD.

7.3. Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee

Councillor March presented the following report on behalf of the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee:

A meeting of the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee was held on August 18thto hear two appeals of decisions made by the Administrator. The following two motions were made:

1. A motion was made that the house and shed located at 136 Cordova Street be demolished by the property owner by September 15, 2011 and that, if by this date the house and shed are not demolished, the Town will have the house and shed demolished will all costs being charged to the property owner.
2. A motion was made to give the property owner at 3 Russell Street an extension to October 15, 2011 to finish painting the exterior of the dwelling. If by October 15, 2011 the exterior painting of the dwelling is not complete, the Town will have the painting completed with all costs being charged to the property owner.

7.4. Youth Advisory Council

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

The Youth Advisory Council met on September 12th for the first meeting of the 2011-2012 school year. Youth Advisory Council members had the opportunity to meet Arts, Culture & Heritage Coordinator, Andrew MacGregor. They learned about his position and the potential to partner with him to host a youth friendly event with a cultural basis.

A review of the previous year was carried out. All members are content with the progress the Youth Advisory Council has made thus far. One major area of focus for the upcoming year will be branding. Youth members will strive to create a greater awareness of the Youth Advisory Council with their peers as well as with older age groups so adults can view youth in a positive manner in our community. Youth members anticipate that building awareness in the community for the Youth Advisory Council will result in greater participation levels at their events.

Currently, expressions of interest are being sought from Amherst resident youth, from grades 7-12 who are energetic and eager to hold a position on the Youth Advisory Council. Applications have been placed in the Junior High School as well as the High School. Applications are also available on the Town website. Applications are due by October 31st. There are approximately three vacant positions. Rachel Pond-Kirk tendered her resignation as she graduated high school in June and will be furthering her studies this fall at Mount Allison. Her sister, Elizabeth Pond-Kirk resigned to focus on other commitments with community involvement.

The Youth Advisory Council will meet next for their monthly meeting on October 3rd at 4:00 PM in Council Chambers.

7.5. Tree Advisory Committee

There was no written report from the Tree Advisory Committee included in the agenda package. Councillor Fawthrop did advise Council that many people have asked about the black spots on maple trees; he explained that they are caused by a fungi which is common in rainy summers. He encouraged residents to make sure they rake up the leaves and compost them this fall, to prevent this fungi from being perpetuated into the next summer.

7.6. Heritage Advisory Committee

8. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1. Cumberland Public Libraries (Angel)

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

Summer Reading Clubs

This summer the libraries throughout the County saw over 300 children join the Summer Reading Club. These children read over 2,700 books. The Summer Reading Club is a great way to get kids reading and enjoying it. Not to be left out, Teens and Adults have their own Summer Reading Programs. Teens in the County read for almost 1,600 hours this summer and the Adults submitted 950 ballots for books they read.

Statistics

In the 2010-2011 fiscal year the Cumberland Public Libraries:

- Saw a 4% increase in items loaned out--over 131,000 items. That's approximately four items borrowed for every person in the County.
- Had patrons use over 21,000 hours of free computer time and over 7,700 hours of free wireless.

- Our seven libraries and Books by Mail service answered approximately 9,800 questions.

Coming Soon

Look for the return of C.A.R.T (Children and Adults Reading Together), a popular pre-school program that teaches children the fundamentals of reading and their parents or guardians ways to incorporate literacy into everyday activities. For more information about C.A.R.T contact your local branch.

Donations

The Cumberland Public Libraries is a registered charity and welcomes donations, including an investment in our newly created Endowment Fund. The Nova Scotia Libraries Act requires the library to raise 3% of its operating budget; one of the ways we do this is with generous donations from the community.

8.2. Cumberland Regional Development Authority

Councillor Fawthrop presented the following report on behalf of the Cumberland RDA:

It has been a busy summer at the Thinkers Lodge in Pugwash. The refurbishment is now complete and the Grand Opening will be Friday, October 7th at 4PM. Members of Council are invited to attend this event.

We are now applying for funding to assist the next phase which will see the adjacent lobster factory refurbished into a dining facility to accompany the conference centre.

8.3. Cumberland YMCA

Councillor Fawthrop presented the following report on behalf of the Cumberland YMCA:

Work on the new childcare facility is progressing on target. We intend to complete the work by mid-November.

Membership numbers are up over other years in September. The new Health and Wellness centre is attracting many new members. Recently, we received nine new pieces of fitness equipment from the Moncton Y. These pieces were originally valued at over \$100,000. The parking lot is now paved. Pay us a visit and stay a while.

8.4. Downtown Amherst Revitalization Society

8.5. Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority

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

A meeting of the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority Board was held on September 22nd. At the meeting the following issues were on the agenda:

- A draft return to work policy;
- Draft amendments to the Inter-municipal Services Agreement;
- An update on the compost building;
- Fiscal report to August 31.

Due to the scheduling of the meeting relative to the writing of this report details of the agenda items are not available but will be included in the October report to Council.

8.6. Northern Region Solid Waste Committee

Deputy Mayor Baker presented the following report on behalf of the Northern Region Solid Waste Committee:

A meeting of the Northern Region Solid Waste Committee was held on September 9 in Truro. Currently the three solid waste management units which make-up the Northern Region share a Regional Coordinator position. Staff at each unit take turns filling the position on a rotating basis for a two year term. During this term, the unit receives 100% of the funding allocated to the Region. In order to 'smooth out' the funding for each unit a motion was passed to pay each unit one third of the funding every year for a minimum of six years. This change will not impact the total amount of funding each unit receives.

Also at this meeting a funding program for community groups was discussed. This program will provide up to \$500 to a community group to help offset the costs of one time purchases associated with solid waste management.

8.7. L. A. Animal Shelter**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to the adjournment, Mayor Small commented on the very busy summer the Town has had, especially with the downtown construction. He thanked Council, staff and citizens for their efforts.

Congratulations were extended to Rev. Byron Corkum on the 35th anniversary since his ordination; New businesses in town were congratulated as well.

Mayor Small advised that Council and the CAO met with the SNSMR minister today and expressed concerns for this community. Among those concerns were Access Nova Scotia, the Registry of Motor Vehicles and the Registry of Deeds and the importance keeping those services in Amherst. He said we will be writing to our MLA to indicate that we need support from him and from the Province to ensure that service is maintained here in Amherst.

On motion by Councillor Rhindress, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

APPROVED:

Gregory D. Herrett, CA
Town Clerk and CAO

Robert Small
Mayor



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Agenda

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 - 3.3 Approval of Minutes of September 7, 14 and 21 Special meetings
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 - 4.2 Amend Policy 10350-05 Enquiries from Council - RFD#20120579
 - 4.3 Funding Request - CCTS - RFD#2012058
 - 4.4 Funding Request - Fibre Arts Festival - RFD#2012060
 - 4.5 Funding Request - BMO National Soccer Championships - RFD#201206
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