

Regular Council Meeting

Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2014
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present: Mayor Robert Small
 Councillor George Baker
 Councillor Frank Balcom
 Councillor Robert Bird
 Deputy Mayor Lisa Emery
 Councillor David March
 Councillor Terry Rhindress

Staff Present: Greg Herrett, CAO
 Vince Arbing, Treasurer
 Roger MacIsaac, Director CED
 Jason MacDonald, Director of Planning
 Ian Naylor, Acting Police Chief
 Rebecca Purdy, Executive Assistant
 Kim Jones, HR

1. PUBLIC HEARING at 6:30 PM

1.1. Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Accessory Buildings

Mayor Small opened the Public Hearing by saying "Council is considering amending the Land Use Bylaw to restrict accessory buildings to a combined 80 square meters in area for residential properties under one acre, and a maximum area equal to 5% of the total lot area for residential properties larger than one acre. The purpose of this public hearing is to hear those in favour of or opposed to these amendments."

Jason MacDonald made a presentation on the issue and addressed comments and enquiries from Council. Members of the public in attendance were given an opportunity to speak. Jane Stanley and Gary Bainbridge both expressed support for the amendment.

There were no further questions or comments. The public hearing concluded.

2. CALL TO ORDER

3. O'CANADA

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By: Councillor George Baker
 Seconded By: Councillor Terry Rhindress
 That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

4.2. Approval of Minutes - January 27, 2014

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress
 Seconded By: Councillor David March
 That the minutes of the January 27, 2014 regular meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

5. REQUESTS FOR DECISION

5.1. Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Accessory Buildings

Moved By: Councillor David March
 Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Lisa Emery

That Council approve second reading P-2-18, of a bylaw to amend the Land Use Bylaw, that will restrict accessory buildings to a combined 80 square meters for properties smaller than 4,048 square meters (one acre), and 5 percent of the total lot area where the property is 4,048 square meters (one acre) or more in area.

Motion Carried

**Town of Amherst
By-Law to Amend the Land Use By-Law P-2**

1. This is a by-law to amend the Land Use by-Law of the Town of Amherst with respect to the matter of accessory building regulations.
2. In the Land Use By-Law, *Section 4.1 (a) Accessory Buildings* is amended as follows:
 - 4.1 (a) Changing the words "A detached accessory building" to say "Detached accessory buildings"
 - (vi) deleting the word "and" at the end of the paragraph;
 - (vii) Changing the paragraph from "exceed 80 m2 in total ground floor area." to "in the case of multiple accessory buildings, exceed a combined ground floor area of 80 m2 of all such buildings; and"

And by adding 4.1 (a)(viii):

- (viii) have a combined ground floor area greater than 5% of the lot area, where the lot area is 4,047 m2 or greater.

5.2. Funding Request ARHS Viking Boys Basketball

Moved By: Councillor George Baker

Seconded By: Councillor Frank Balcom

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$250 under the Town's Community Support Grants Policy in support of the ARHS Vikings Boys Basketball team hosting provincial championships in Amherst, February 27 to March 1, 2014.

Motion Carried

5.3. Funding Request Amherst Curling Club

Deputy Mayor Emery declared a conflict and was excused from the Council table for the discussion and decision on this matter.

Moved By: Councillor Terry Rhindress

Seconded By: Councillor David March

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$200 under the Town's Community Support Grants Policy in support of the Amherst Curling Club's hosting the 2014 Nova Scotia Senior Provincial Curling Championships, February 21 to 25, 2014.

Motion Carried

5.4. Funding Request International Amputee Hockey Tournament

Moved By: Councillor Frank Balcom

Seconded By: Councillor George Baker

That Council approve funding in the amount of \$2,500 under the Town's Community Support Grants Policy in support of the Canadian Amputee Hockey Committee's hosting the 2014 International Amputee Hockey Festival in Amherst April 23 to 27, 2014.

Motion Carried

5.5. Policy - Appointment of Traffic Authority

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Lisa Emery

Seconded By: Councillor Frank Balcom

That Council approve a new Traffic Authority Policy, 66000-04, to appoint Police Chief Ian Naylor as the Town's Traffic Authority.

Motion Carried

TOWN OF AMHERST POLICY NUMBER 66000-04	
DEPARTMENT:	<u>PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY SERVICES</u>
TITLE:	Traffic Authority for the Town of Amherst
<u>Minutes reference date: 24 February 2014</u>	
PURPOSE OF THE POLICY:	
Section 311(2) of the <i>Municipal Government Act</i> authorizes Council to appoint a Traffic Authority.	
POLICY STATEMENT:	
Police Chief Ian Naylor is hereby appointed as the Traffic Authority for the Town of Amherst.	

5.6. Appointments to Planning Advisory Committee

Moved By: Councillor David March

Seconded By: Councillor George Baker

That Council appoint Glen Hudson to the Planning Advisory Committee for a three year term ending March 31, 2017 and reappoint Dale Fawthrop for a one year term ending March 31, 2015.

Motion Carried

6. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1. Water Pressure Study Report

Councillor Bird presented the following report on the Amherst Water Pressure and Flow Study:

The firm CBCL has completed their Amherst Water Pressure and Flow Study. CBCL was tasked with investigating the low water pressure at the top of the hill on Willow and Church Streets, and provide options for improvements. They were also asked to investigate fire flows in the downtown area. In order to complete the work, the team developed a computer model to simulate pressures and flows within the Town's water system.

Pressure Improvements

CBCL has provided three options to create a higher pressure zone in the upper Church and Willow Streets area. All three options are quite costly and will have to be considered as part of the Town's long term capital upgrade plans. The three options are:

- Construct a Booster Station \$ 1,938,000
(booster station building and equipment to increase pressure)
- High Pressure Stand Pipe \$ 2,358,000
(construct stand pipe near existing reservoir to increase pressure)
- Construct a New Higher Reservoir \$ 6,619,000
(new elevated reservoir to increase water pressure)

Our existing reservoir is 35 years old. Although it has been kept in good condition, it may be nearing the end of its expected life span and constructing a new one may be the best option. Staff are now conducting a thorough inspection inside and out, with the goal of identifying an expected replacement year for the reservoir. With this information, a recommendation on a preferred course of action can be brought to Council.

Downtown Fire Flows

Using the computer model, CBCL studied the fire flows and identified that the Town meets minimum recommended fire flows within the downtown area. The flows could be improved by replacing the aged water mains along Church and Willow Streets. Given that the minimum flows are being met, the replacement of these mains could be worked in over the course of time with the eventual reconstruction of these two streets. The replacement of some of our smaller mains would improve the flow as well, and this work will be folded into our long term infrastructure replacement plan.

7. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

Deputy Mayor Emery presented the following report on behalf of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners.

The Amherst Board of Police Commissioners met on February 5, 2014. The nominations for chair and vice-chair results were Chair: Lisa Emery; Vice Chair: Paul Calder.

Chair Emery introduced the new Chief of Police, Ian Naylor. Subsequently Chief Naylor introduced his administrative team including D/Chief Dwayne Pike and Staff Sgt. Scott White.

Chief Naylor and Chair Emery distributed the \$2000 worth of cheques between the Bridge Adult Service Centre in Amherst and the Golden Vocational Opportunities in Springhill. The money came from the profits from the policing conference held in Amherst last September.

The fall conference for the NSAPG and NSCPA for this year will be held in Sydney September 18th to 20th, 2014.

Chief Naylor provided an overview of a 2013 report on the health effects of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) (Taser). The report was completed by the Council of Canadian Academics and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. The report assessed the current state of scientific knowledge about the medical and physiological impacts of CEW's, identified existing gaps in this knowledge, and the research required to close these gaps. A presentation on CEW's will be provided to the Board this spring by members of APD.

There is online board training provided by the Department of Justice. The phone number to call to get the online code was given to board members so they can do training when they have time. Chair Emery will also facilitate training during board meetings during the year.

Due to the weather, Chair Emery was unable to attend a meeting with the Minister of Justice, the Provincial Justice critics and the executive of both the NSAPG and NSCPA in Halifax on February 19th. She will receive a report on the meeting from the NSAPG in March.

The proposed budget for the 2014/2015 fiscal year should be ready for presentation to the Board in early March.

7.2. Amherst Youth Town Council

Councillor Bird Balcom presented the following report on behalf of the Amherst Youth Town Council:

The Amherst Youth Town Council last met on February 19; during that meeting the group discussed a plan to support Jordan Hunter and his bid for Amherst to become the next Kraft Hockeyville. During this meeting we also discussed hosting a youth "Rail Jam" event on March 29 at Dickey Park. This event would bring the snow board and skier enthusiast to Dickey Park for a day of outdoor activities.

Also, during the meeting on February 19, the youth selected their Provincial Youth Volunteer of the Year. This entry will be submitted to Recreation Nova Scotia by February 28.

In early February, the AYTC was heavily involved in volunteering with the 24 Hour Physical Activity Day in Amherst. Members volunteered their time at Dickey Park and other locations ensuring we had plenty of help to carry out the activities.

The AYTC members are very interested in the Youth Strategy completed by Dr. Lena Walker; thus every member will receive a copy. In the coming month they are strictly focusing on their presentation to Council on the events they accomplished and events they are planning.

7.3. Amherst 125 Committee

Deputy Mayor Emery presented the following report on behalf of the Amherst 125 Committee:

The Amherst 125 Committee last met on February 6, 2014 as a part of its bi-weekly meeting schedule. The focus of the meeting was to discuss proposals that have been submitted to the committee by local organizations to be a part of the Amherst 125 celebrations.

Throughout January there were multiple efforts made by the committee to make citizens of Amherst aware of the celebrations that will be ongoing throughout the year. The Chamber of Commerce hosted a New Year's Eve Gala, which was supported by the Town and all guests were notified of the celebrations. There was also an outdoor event, held at Dickey Park as a tie-in event for 24 Hour Physical Activity Day to encourage involvement in Town events.

The Amherst 125 Committee supports the Nova Scotia Seniors Curling Championships and supported a funding request they submitted to the Town to help with their event. The championships were held in Amherst from February 21 – 25, 2014.

Amherst 125 has been promoted via multiple media and advertising opportunities, locally on both radio stations and in the Amherst News. An ad will be placed in the Nova Star magazine, which will be distributed on the ferry running between Yarmouth, NS and Portland, ME.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2014. The agenda will focus on further discussion on proposals as some organizations were contacted by staff to acquire further information, discussion on planned events and ideas for any events throughout the year, and discussion on the budget for the Amherst 125 celebrations.

8. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1. Cumberland Public Libraries

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

Coming Soon

Community Classes will be starting up for the again this spring in Amherst and Springhill. We are now looking for volunteers to teach five Monday classes from April 7 - May 12. Some of our previous classes have included crochet/knitting, fly-fishing, painting, and guitar. Please call the Amherst Library at 667-2549 for more information or to volunteer.

March Break 2014 is fast approaching and planning well under way. Last year the Cumberland Public Libraries had 468 kids attend programs that week. March Break is March 10 - 15 and all libraries in the Cumberland Public Library system will have programs for kids in grades Primary to six. Call your local library or check our website for more information.

Did you know?

The Cumberland Public Libraries received a grant of \$2,000 from the Dr. & Mrs. H.E Christie Community Foundation; this grant is for the purchase of e-books for Cumberland Library patrons exclusively on Overdrive.

Statistics

In the month of December, Cumberland Public Libraries signed out over 8,000 items! This includes books, movies, TV shows, magazines and more. Also in December, the seven libraries held 30 programs County-wide for children and adults, with 315 people in attendance.

Find out what's going on

Check out the library's webpage (www.cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca) to see our Calendar of Events and get information on upcoming programs. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@CumberlandPL) to get information on coming events, find out about new books and movies, and see pictures of our programs.

8.2. L. A. Animal Shelter

Councillor Balcom presented the following report on behalf of the L. A. Animal Shelter, and addressed comments and enquiries from Council.

The L. A. Animal Shelter's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Wednesday, March 10 at 6:00 PM. The meeting will conclude the society's annual year end, and all Shelter board seats are vacated and new nominations are put forth before the Shelter membership. Anyone interested in the Shelter and the work that is carried out daily for homeless dogs and cats is encouraged to attend.

The Shelter took part in the Anti-Tethering March/Walk for Buddy to demonstrate support for the government's intention to strengthen regulations to protect dogs from being tethered or chained outside for extended periods of time. The catalyst for the walk was "Buddy" himself, a dog in Cumberland County who had to be put down due to being chained outside for years and not being given proper care.

New Shelter visiting hours have been established for the convenience of the public and friends of the Shelter. The Shelter is now open to the public daily, seven days a week, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please drop out and show your support and have a look at the Shelter's new website at LAAAnimalShelter.ca.

8.3. Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority

Councillor Bird presented the following report on behalf of the CJSMA and addressed comments and enquiries from Council;

Members of the Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority met at Amherst Town Hall on January 30, 2014 for the regularly scheduled meeting. Attending from the Town of Amherst were Councillor Terry Rhindress and CAO Greg Herrett.

A number of issues were discussed however two issues of primary importance were the increase in tipping fees for the residential buildings being demolished pursuant to an order under the Dangerous and Unightly Premises provisions of the *MGA*. The current tipping fee is \$ 1,000; Solid Waste Manager Stephen Rayworth has recommended increasing the fee to \$ 1,500.

The second issue of paramount importance is the approval of the 2014/15 budget. It was moved by Councillor Rhindress, and seconded by Councillor White that the Board defer the approval of the budget to the next meeting, and that staff prepare a report for the next meeting addressing tip fee rate structure as discussed. Staff were also asked to bring an estimate on the cost of an upgraded office facility to the next meeting for possible inclusion in the budget.

It was also requested that the "CA" study be deferred to the next meeting; and that the Board ask the CAO Advisory Committee to meet and discuss the sustainable funding model project.

A special meeting of CJSMA is scheduled for February 26, 2014 to review the proposed budget.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to the adjournment, Mayor Small congratulated the Amherst Curling Club on their tournament currently underway, and the Comfort Inn on their recent open house unveiling their new and improved facility.

On motion by Councillor Rhindress, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Gregory D. Herrett, CA
Town Clerk and CAO

Robert Small
Mayor