

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

Date: May 19, 2020
Time: 4:10 pm
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members Present Mayor David Kogon
Deputy Mayor Sheila Christie
Councillor Vince Byrne
Councillor Darrell Jones
Councillor Wayne MacKenzie
Councillor Terry Rhindress

Staff Present Greg Herrett, CAO
Jason MacDonald, Deputy CAO Operations
Greg Jones, Fire Chief
Dwayne Pike, Police Chief
Tom McCoag, Corporate Communications Officer
Sarah Wilson, Financial Services Manager
Shelley Rector, Chief Financial Officer
Andrew Fisher, Manager of Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Kim Jones, Municipal Clerk
Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement for physical distancing, this was a virtual meeting held via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Kogon called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Moved By Deputy Mayor Christie

Seconded By Councillor MacKenzie

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

1.2 Approval of Minutes

1.2.1 April 17, 2020

Moved By Councillor Byrne

Seconded By Councillor Rhindress

To approve the minutes of the April 17, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting as attached.

MOTION CARRIED

1.2.2 April 20, 2020

Moved By Councillor Jones

Seconded By Councillor Byrne

To approve the April 20, 2020 Committee of the Whole minutes as attached.

MOTION CARRIED

1.2.3 May 6, 2020

Moved By Deputy Mayor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Rhindress

To approve the minutes of the May 6, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting as attached.

MOTION CARRIED

1.2.4 May 11, 2020

Moved By Councillor Byrne

Seconded By Councillor MacKenzie

To approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting as attached.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Presentations

2.1 Cumberland Business Connector Quarterly Update

Jonathan McLelland presented on behalf of the Cumberland Business Connector. He reported that since the COVID-19 pandemic their focus has been on six main areas, including:

1. COVID-19 Support for Business
2. Border Challenges
3. Cumberland Entrepreneurship Challenge
4. Forestry
5. Workforce Development
6. Economic Impact of COVID-19 and Restart Challenges

3. In Camera

Moved By Councillor Jones

Seconded By Councillor Byrne

That the Committee move to an In Camera session.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Council Direction Requests

4.1 Use of the Permanent Register of Electors

Moved By Councillor Jones

Seconded By Councillor Rhindress

That Council refer this to the May 25, 2020 regular meeting of Council for approval of the use of the Permanent List of Electors for the upcoming Municipal Elections and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into an agreement with Elections Canada to obtain said list.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Plebiscite

Moved By Deputy Mayor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Byrne

That staff be directed to contact the Municipality of the County of Cumberland to ask if they would offer their residents who are Amherst water customers an opportunity to participate in a plebiscite as part of their October 2020 election to ask the question : ‘Should the Town of Amherst fluoridate the municipal drinking water supply? Yes or No’, and report back to Council at the regular Committee of the Whole meeting in June.

MOTION CARRIED

4.3 Library Request to Present

Moved By Councillor MacKenzie

Seconded By Councillor Rhindress

That staff be directed to contact Denise Corey to arrange a presentation to Council, preferably at the May 25, 2020 regular meeting of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 Library Funding

Moved by Deputy Mayor Christie

Seconded by Councillor Rhindress

That as it is unclear what potential impact the review of the Town of Amherst’s contribution to the operating costs of the Library will have and Council have already approved the budget and set the Mandatory Provincial Contribution Area Rate, that the funding for the Library remain as approved on February 24th and that the proposed increase be discussed during the 2021-22 Budget year based on the findings of the review by the Province.

MOTION CARRIED

4.5 Setting of the General Tax Rate

Moved By Deputy Mayor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Byrne

That the setting of the General Tax Rate for Residential/ Resource at \$1.187 per \$100 of assessment and Commercial \$3.987 per \$100 of assessment be referred to the May 25, 2020 regular meeting of Council for approval. The total estimated expenditures for the fiscal period April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021 are \$14,045,827.

MOTION CARRIED

4.6 Capital Budget Carry Overs

Moved By Councillor Byrne

Seconded By Councillor Rhindress

That Council forward to the May 25, 2020 regular meeting of Council approval of the inclusion of carry forward projects to the Town of Amherst General Capital Budget and the Water Utility Capital Budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Adding the carry forward projects sets the overall General Capital Budget at \$3,505,883 (including \$1,354,932 for projects carried over) and the Amherst Water Utility Capital Budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year in the amount of \$713,000 (including \$40,000 for carryovers).

MOTION CARRIED

4.7 Property Tax Financing Policy

Moved By Deputy Mayor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Byrne

That Council forward the proposed COVID 19 Property Tax Financing Program Policy to the May 25, 2020 regular meeting of Council for formal approval.

MOTION CARRIED

5. Information Items

No Information Items

6. Monthly Reports

6.1 Corporate Services

Information item; no direction given or action required.

6.2 Operations

Information item; no direction given or action required.

6.3 Police Services

Information item; no direction given or action required.

6.4 Community Well Being

Information item; no direction given or action required.

6.5 Fire Services

Information item; no direction given or action required.

6.6 Planning & Strategic Initiatives

Information item; no direction given or action required.

6.7 Economic Development

Information item; no direction given or action required.

7. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Jones

Seconded By Councillor Byrne

To adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Kimberlee Jones
Municipal Clerk

David Kogon, MD
Mayor