

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Amherst Town Council  
Held in Council Chambers  
Monday, February 27, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor David March  
Councillor Robert Angel  
Councillor George Baker  
Councillor Ed Chitty  
Councillor Dale Fawthrop  
Councillor Terry Rhindress  
Greg Herrett, CAO  
Rebecca Purdy, Executive Assistant

**REGRETS:** Mayor Jerry Hallee

**1. O'CANADA**

**2. PETITION**

Greg Herrett read the following letter dated February 7, 2006 from concerned citizens requesting a warning flashing crosswalk light at the intersection of Mill and West Victoria Streets. It was accompanied by a petition with 48 signatures.

*I am writing to you in hopes that my concerns as a parent will be taken into serious thoughtfulness.*

*At the intersection of Mill Street and West Victoria Street we have a crosswalk. A crosswalk that poses great danger to our children. A power pole at the entrance of the crosswalk totally obscures the view of our children to vehicles traveling east. Unless the children are out on the road waiting with arms out to attract the attention of vehicles passing by, that is exactly what they do ... motor right on through. The traffic seems to proceed quite quickly down West Victoria Street and this frightens me. I have met my children a good many times at this intersection and even with my assistance .... Cars, transport trucks, a school bus and the local authorities have whizzed by. I have become quite agitated at this point. I have let it be known to all the children traveling this route, DO NOT think about crossing the street until all traffic has completely stopped. This upsets some cars due to the waiting time, but it is our children's safety that is #1.*

*I understand that the old (orange) crosswalk lights were taken down due to their age and ineffectiveness, but we need something. I am requesting that a warning flashing crosswalk light be installed at this location (similar to the one on South Albion Street).*

*Thanking you for your time and consideration. Looking forward to hearing from you on the matter.*

*Charlotte Ferguson  
53 West Victoria Street*

**3. CALL TO ORDER**

**4. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Additions to Agenda**

Moved by Councillor George Baker, seconded by Councillor Ed Chitty that the following item be added to the agenda:

**5. 1. Progress Report – Amherst Stadium and Sewage Treatment Plant**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor George Baker, seconded by Councillor Terry Rhindress that the agenda be approved as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED**

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor George Baker, seconded by Councillor Robert Angel that the Minutes of the January 23, 2006 Regular Meeting be approved as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Second Reading, By-Law to Amend the Tax Exemption By-Law

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Angel that Council approve Second Reading of the By-Law to Amend the Tax Exemption By-Law.

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Chitty to table second reading of the By-Law to Amend the Tax Exemption By-Law until the March 27, 2006 regular meeting.

MOTION CARRIED  
ORIGINAL MOTION TABLED

5. Resolution: Infrastructure Application

Moved by Councillor Ed Chitty, seconded by Councillor Dale Fawthrop that, whereas the federal and provincial governments have signed a five-year agreement to fund capital projects in Nova Scotia; and whereas Green Projects including sewage collection and treatment are to be given top priority for funding; that the North Town Collector be given #1 priority, and that the relocation of the sewer outfall be given #2 priority, and that Council approve the two applications for federal/provincial funding assistance under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation – Balloon Payment

The following Temporary Borrowing Resolution (file no 05/06-01, Refinancing 96-A-1) was moved by Councillor Dale Fawthrop and seconded by Councillor Terry Rhindress:

WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Town of Amherst, subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose authorized by statute; and

WHEREAS clause 66 (4) (b) of the Municipal Government Act authorizes the Town of Amherst to expend funds to pay and retire debentures;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Town borrow a sum or sums not exceeding Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations;

THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Town to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;

THAT the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that the Town borrow from time to time a sum or sums not exceeding Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) in total from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;

THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve Months (12) from the date of the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations of this resolution.

THAT the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and

THAT the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

**MOTION CARRIED**

The following Resolution for *Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate* was moved by Councillor Dale Fawthrop, and seconded by Councillor Ed Chitty:

WHEREAS Section 91 of the *Municipal Government Act* provides that a municipality is authorized to borrow money, subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations; and

WHEREAS the resolution of Council to borrow funds to pay and retire debentures was approved by the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations; and

WHEREAS Clause 91 (1)(B) OF THE *Municipal Government Act* authorizes the Council to determine the amount and term of, and the rate of interest, on each debenture, when the interest on a debenture is to be paid, and where the principal and interest on a debenture are to be paid; and

WHEREAS Clause 91 (2) of the *Municipal Government Act* states, that in accordance with the *Municipal Finance Corporation Act*, the mayor and clerk or the person designated by the Council, by policy, shall sell and deliver the debentures on behalf of the municipality at the price, in the sums and in the manner deemed proper;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT\_ under the authority of Section 91 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the TOWN OF AMHERST borrow by the issue and sale of debentures a sum or sums not exceeding Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000) for a period not to exceed five (5) years, subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations;

THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Town of Amherst in the amount that the mayor and clerk or the person designated by the Council deems proper, provided the average interest rate of the debenture does not exceed the rate of 6.00%;

THAT the debenture be arranged with the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation with interest to be paid semi-annually and principal payments made annually;

THAT this resolution remains in force for a period not exceeding twelve months from the passing of this resolution.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7. Proposed Policy: Dangerous and Unsightly Premises**

Moved by Councillor Terry Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Robert Angel that Council repeal the existing Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy #210-21 dated May 27, 2002, and adopt the following new Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy #210-21.

**MOTION CARRIED**

DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES POLICY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy to delegate the Town's powers and set priority with regard to Part XV of the Municipal Government Act (Dangerous or Unsightly Premises).

Part XV of the Municipal Government Act states, "Every property in a municipality shall be maintained so as not to be dangerous or unsightly".

POLICY STATEMENT:

Council delegates its authority to issue Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Orders to the Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Administrator, an employee of the municipality designated by the Chief Administrative Officer to be responsible for the Dangerous or Unsightly Premises provisions of the Municipal Government Act or successive legislation. The Administrator will determine whether or not a property is considered dangerous or unsightly in accordance with the definition of such in the Municipal Government Act.

Council delegates its authority under the provisions of the Dangerous or Unightly Premises contained in the Municipal Government Act to issue an order to demolish a building to the Dangerous or Unightly Premises Committee.

Council retains its authority under the provisions of the Dangerous or Unightly Premises provisions contained in the Municipal Government Act to conduct appeal hearings when an appeal is launched against an order issued by the Administrator or Committee.

Council's desire to maintain the appearance of the main thoroughfares throughout the Town of Amherst will be reflected in the administrative procedures associated with this policy.

**ROLE OF COMMITTEE:**

1. Upon recommendation by the Administrator, the Committee will make a decision on the issuance of an order to demolish a building;
2. Members of the Committee may submit to the Administrator properties they feel should be investigated for compliance with this policy which front on an arterial street as designated in the Municipal Planning Strategy.
3. Upon request of the Administrator, the Committee will provide advice on how to proceed in bringing a particular property into compliance with this policy.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

1. The Council shall appoint members of the Dangerous or Unightly Premises Committee by resolution.
2. Membership shall include two members of Town Council and three members of the public.
3. The term for members shall be two years, and members may be re-appointed to the Committee.
4. An advertisement for public membership on the Committee shall be placed in the local newspaper.
5. At the beginning of the first meeting of each fiscal year the Committee will elect a chairperson as well as a vice-chairperson. Individuals may be re-elected for consecutive terms.

**8. IODE Request to Plant a Tree in Victoria or Veterans Park**

**Moved by Councillor George Baker, seconded by Councillor Dale Fawthrop that, whereas the Town has received a request from the Tantramar Chapter IODE to celebrate their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary by having a tree planting ceremony in either Victoria Park or Veterans Memorial Park; and whereas the final concept for Veterans Memorial Park has not been developed, that the IODE tree planting ceremony be held in Victoria Park.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**9. Non-Union Job Evaluation**

**Moved by Councillor Robert Angel, seconded by Councillor George Baker that Council direct staff to engage the services of an outside consultant competent in working with the Aiken System to start work immediately to complete an evaluation of non-union jobs at the Town of Amherst, and to make a determination as to the market value of those jobs, including the positions of Mayor and Council, as recommended by Administration and supported by the Job Evaluation Committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10. Requests for Financial Assistance/Support**

- 1) Cumberland Bantam AAA Huskies  
**Moved by Councillor Terry Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Ed Chitty that Council support the Cumberland AAA Huskies by providing financial support in the amount of \$500 toward the Mainland Nova Scotia Bantam AAA Hockey Tournament, to be held in Amherst March 3 - 5, 2006, as recommended by Administration.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- 2) Cumberland Midget AAA Bombers  
**Moved by Councillor Dale Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor George Baker that Council support the Cumberland County Minor Hockey Midget AAA Bombers by providing financial support in the amount of \$500 toward the Nova Scotia Provincial Midget AAA**

Championship to be held in Amherst from March 23 - 26, 2006, as recommended by Administration.

MOTION CARRIED

- 3) Amherst Little League  
 Moved by Councillor Ed Chitty, seconded by Councillor Terry Rhindress that the request from the Amherst Little League Baseball Club to support their plans to replace their existing clubhouse located on Croft Street with a new, modern building by providing a renewal of the current land lease for a 50 year term, a letter of support for the project and a \$15,000 capital construction grant be referred to the upcoming budget process, and that representatives from the Little League Baseball Club be invited to make a presentation to Council on the proposal, as recommended by Administration.

MOTION CARRIED

- 4) Coastal Communities Network  
 Moved by Councillor George Baker, seconded by Councillor Ed Chitty that Council deny the request from Coastal Communities Network for financial support toward their annual conference to be held in Tatamagouche, as recommended by Administration.

MOTION CARRIED

- 5) Amherst Curling Club  
 Moved by Councillor Robert Angel, seconded by Councillor Dale Fawthrop to deny the request from the Amherst Curling Club for \$10,000, and that the Town of Amherst take the necessary action to facilitate the involvement of CREDA to offer the Club some strategic/business planning assistance, as recommended by Administration.

MOTION CARRIED

11. Motion to Receive Petition

Moved by Councillor Robert Angel, seconded by Councillor George Baker that Council receive the petition from concerned residents who would like to see a flashing crosswalk light at the intersection of Mill and Victoria Streets as presented, and refer the issue to the Traffic Authority.

MOTION CARRIED

5. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

1. Progress Report, Amherst Stadium and Sewage Treatment Plant

Greg Herrett read the following report:

Progress Report – Amherst Stadium and STP

*As directed at the last regular meeting of council, staff have analyzed the options available to the Town of Amherst with respect to the proposed renovation of the Amherst Stadium, after considering the potential impacts of other major capital projects such as the Pollution Abatement Strategy.*

Amherst Stadium

*Appendix A sets out the details of five available options with regard to the Amherst Stadium, in terms of the scope of the project. Clearly there are other options and different combinations of options, but these five represent a range from the large scale expansion/renovation to a temporary patch up of items that, in the opinion of staff, must be done. They are summarized below:*

Option	Net Cost
1	\$3,768,377
2	\$2,568,377
3	\$2,016,352
4	\$1,335,150
5	\$541,650

*At a recent meeting of Council, a resolution was approved to submit an application for funding in the amount of \$1.2 million to the NS Department of Health Promotion, which would represent Option 2 as listed above. As Council is aware, this submission was made in order to meet application deadlines for the Health Promotions' Recreational*

Facility Development program, and may not necessarily represent what the final project looks like.

We have held discussions with the County of Cumberland aimed at having them as a partner in funding the capital cost of any proposed renovation, and in the subsequent operation of the renovated facility. The County responded, advising that they would defer any decision pending the outcome of their long range planning process, and that this could well take several months and not be complete until the Fall of 2006 at the earliest. This leaves the Town of Amherst to make the decision on whether to renovate at all, and what the renovated facility will look like when it's complete.

Currently the operation of the Amherst Stadium requires anywhere from \$100,000 to \$200,000 of taxpayer subsidy in order to operate. This represents an average of 5.5 cents on the commercial and residential tax rates. While the facility does generate significant user fees in the form of ice rental fees, our ability to increase the amount raised from this source is somewhat limited, given that we are competing with facilities in Sackville, New Brunswick, Springhill, and to a lesser degree, Oxford. Given this set of constraints, the only real options in terms of funding any significant capital cost are senior government funding, fund raising, increased tax rates or a combination of the three.

**Much of the discussion that we had with the County of Cumberland centred upon the level of usage by residents of Cumberland County. County officials do not refute the data that we provided to them indicating that approximately 36% of usage of the Stadium facility is by County residents. As well, the fact is that the Stadium is also used by residents of Springhill and Oxford, but at least in those cases there is some reciprocal use of the Springhill Community Centre and the Oxford Arena by Amherst residents. The County's reluctance to provide capital assistance and the Town's feeling that the capital cost of a significant renovation/ expansion, beyond some base level, should be funded by the users of the facility leaves the Town really only one viable option – fund raising. It is recommended that Council adopt a resolution approving the expenditure of funds for the repairs and renovations that absolutely need to be done. In staff's opinion this is represented by Option 5 above, less roof replacement. This work should be completed this year, in 2006, before the fall ice season. This would require the expenditure of \$410,550 and if financed, would cost approximately \$41,500 per year. This amount would be budgeted in the upcoming 2006/07 fiscal year.**

It is further recommended that Council approve in principle the replacement of the ice slab, dashboards and plexiglass during the summer of 2007. This approval in principle would not be the final approval for the expenditure of funds, but rather, the authorization for staff to proceed with firming up the cost estimates for this phase of the project.

#### Project Timeline

Beyond the basics, the design work that has been completed to date by the architect has not been given final approval by Council. While there has been some significant discussion in terms of what should be in and what should be out, no formal or final decisions have been taken. It is recommended that Council discuss and approve a "tentative preferred design". This preferred design would be based on the work that could be accomplished by some reasonable level of fund raising. **Once Council has approved a tentative preferred design, a public consultation will be held to inform the public of the components of the preferred design and to receive input from present and potential users of the facility as to what might be desired. This consultation could take the form of an evening or two at the fire hall where members of the public could listen to a brief description of the project and spend some time looking at conceptual drawings and cost estimates.**

Following the opportunity for public input, Council should approve a final preferred design. It is upon this design that cost estimates for the fund raising campaign would be based.

**Following approval of the final preferred design, it is recommended that Council launch a fund raising campaign to determine the level of committed financial support for the project. The theory here is that the users of the facility, and their supporters, would be the ones contributing. In this way we would, hopefully, receive some level of support from those outside our boundaries without the political issues involved in receiving the funds from the County itself. Council would set some fund raising amount and time targets above which the project would proceed and below which it would not. If the targets were met, then Council would consider its final approval for the design of the renovated facility and tenders could be called. If targets were not met, contributions would be refunded, or the project scaled back.**

*There is a realization on the part of staff that the actions recommended above may not be the best possible alternatives in the opinion of all concerned and that they most certainly will add time to the process. However, it appears to be the most prudent path to follow. The debate in the greater Amherst area will continue, but ultimately the users and potential users of the facility can vote with their dollars to determine exactly what level of service is desired and/or required.*

### **Pollution Abatement Strategy**

*The most current cost estimates for our Pollution Abatement Strategy are attached at Appendix B.*

*There are two basic milestones remaining before the completion of the Pollution Abatement Strategy: the North Town Collector, and construction of the actual wastewater treatment plant. As well, given the Province's apparent decision to move the aboiteau on the Laplanche River there may be some additional costs related to pumping effluent to a new outfall. Given the amounts of dollars required to undertake projects of this magnitude, it has long been understood that the Town of Amherst cannot afford to complete them without significant assistance from senior levels of government.*

*We have submitted applications under the MRIF program for funding for the North Town Collector project and for the costs of a new outfall (although we maintain that the costs of moving the outfall should be borne completely by the Province of Nova Scotia).*

*In terms of logic the North Town Collector should be completed before the wastewater treatment plant is constructed. It would make no sense to have the plant processing only a portion of the Town's sewage with the rest simply flowing into a stream.*

*Given that current cost estimates for the wastewater treatment plant indicate that it will cost at least \$8.8 million, we simply cannot afford to undertake that project at this time. To do so, for example this year, would result in an immediate doubling of the present sewer rate. That said, the project is one worth doing some day – in fact some day we may be ordered to do so. Therefore it is necessary to begin to reserve funds, in a significant way, to address this future requirement.*

*Last fall when the transfer of the federal gas tax to municipalities was announced, it was estimated that Amherst's share of the funding over five years would be approximately \$1.8 million. It is recommended that a resolution be passed committing to reserve 100% of the gas tax funding to defray the future cost of the wastewater treatment plant. With interest, this amount should exceed \$2.0 million at the end of the five years. This, however, by itself, will not be enough; we must find a way to set aside more funds so that when the next round of infrastructure funding comes our way we can afford to do the project. In the opinion of staff, at least \$100,000 per year must be set aside above and beyond the gas tax dollars.*

*There are several alternatives available to raise this money. It could be funded by simply raising the sewer charge, but this would make it variable with water consumption and not as easy to plan for. It is recommended that the Town levy a fixed charge, similar to the solid waste charge, on all properties, commercial and residential, to fund this reserve transfer. This amount would not go to the operation of the sewer department but rather would be added to the reserve established by the gas tax funds. At the end of the five years we would have approximately \$2.5 million invested and ready to be used to address the wastewater treatment plant.*

### **Conclusion**

*These recommendations may seem simply like a project to defer every major project but the fact of the matter is that we have other responsibilities, both operating and capital, in order to continue to make The Town of Amherst the "best place to live". We cannot simply set aside these other demands on our resources to complete these two major projects. Our capital renewal program must continue, and other operating costs, most notably policing, continue to rise dramatically.*

**Moved by Councillor George Baker, seconded by Councillor Ed Chitty to accept the Progress Report – Amherst Stadium and Sewage Treatment Plant dated February 20, 2006 as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Councillor Terry Rhindress, seconded by Councillor George Baker to authorize staff to proceed with the arrangements necessary to complete Option 5, less the roof replacement; essentially the washrooms and dressing rooms.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

On the question, Councillor Ed Chitty confirmed that these renovations are to be dovetailed with the other renovations of the Stadium, not just projects on their own.

**Moved by Councillor Robert Angel, seconded by Councillor Terry Rhindress to authorize staff to proceed to confirm the cost estimates associated with the replacement of the ice slab, dashboards and plexiglass, and bring a report back to Council for final approval.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Councillor Ed Chitty, seconded by Councillor Terry Rhindress to approve in principle the "Project Timeline" as outlined in the staff report and direct staff to report back to Council with a proposed formal project timeline.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Councillor Dale Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Ed Chitty to authorize staff to submit an amended application to the Office of Health Promotion to reflect the decisions made this evening.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 6. INFORMATION ITEMS

### 1. Monthly Reports

#### 1) Planning and Development Department

**Moved by Councillor George Baker, seconded by Councillor Robert Angel that Council accept the following Planning and Development Department Report:**

#### Building Activity

As of January 31, 2006 the total value of building permits issued in the Town was **\$6,551,530** compared to **\$8,722,010** last year. During the last month there was one significant permit issued for a new industrial building in the industrial park.

#### Staff Training

Both Tim LeFurgey and Monty Maddison have attended a National Construction Codes seminar in January which explained the technical changes to the new National Building Code which will be instituted shortly. The department is now ready to work with the proposed changes.

#### Former R. B. Dickey School Site

The new owners have commenced demolition of the building and are in the process of salvaging much of the interior material. The demolition is on schedule and at this point the new owners are in compliance with the purchase and sale agreement.

#### Residential Development

The owner of the former hospital site has completed construction of one dwelling and has put in a foundation for a second. Staff have been informed that construction on the second dwelling will commence this spring. The owner has also put up a number of lots along Townshend Avenue for sale. There has been some interest expressed by developers on potential street extension projects for this summer. Finally, staff are working with a developer on a potential new townhouse development within Town.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### 2) Corporate Services Department

**Moved by Councillor Dale Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Terry Rhindress that Council accept the following Corporate Services Department Report:**

#### Monthly Expenditures

Expenditures during the month of January 2006 totaled \$980,898 compared to \$888,355 for the same month last year.



Yearly Operating Statement

As of January 31, 2006 we are 10 months into our fiscal year. Our total revenue to date is \$12,240,220 compared to the budgeted amount of \$12,298,574. Our total expenditures to date are \$10,079,617 compared to the budgeted amount of \$10,609,517.

Collections

Total amount owing to the Town at the end of January 2006 was \$1,423,325. During the month of January 2006 we collected \$498,316.

Departmental Update

Corporate Services has started the Pandemic Planning process for their department. Vince Arbing, Sarah Wilson and Jennifer Borne have been involved in various meetings with the County, Oxford and Springhill for intergovernmental Pandemic Planning. The goal of Corporate Services is to have a Pandemic Procedure manual prepared for the department in case of a Pandemic or disaster. When complete this manual will be updated yearly to maintain its accuracy.

Sarah Wilson, Accountant has completed her first CGA course Financial Accounting 1 with a final mark of 98%.

**MOTION CARRIED**

3) Operational Services Department

**Moved by Councillor Ed Chitty, seconded by Councillor Dale Fawthrop that Council accept the following Operational Services Department Report:**

Further to Council's letter to the Minister of Agriculture in December, senior staff met with senior Department of Agriculture officials in Truro on February 21 to discuss the impact of their decision to relocate the LaPlanche River aboiteau and our plans to build our sewage treatment plant. The meeting was progressive and we are assured that we will not have to relocate our sewage outfall this year. Work on this issue will continue as we pursue a long-term solution.

The Stadium continues to be busy, monthly rental hours have increased over the same period last year.

The Amherst Ramblers are playoff bound. We wish them well and hope they continue to draw large crowds to the stadium. We will also be hosting three Minor Hockey Tournaments in March:

Mainland Bantam AAA Provincials March 3 – 5  
 Ron Elliott Memorial Girls Hockey Tournament March 10 – 12  
 Minor Midget AAA Hockey Championships (shared with Springhill)  
 March 24 & 26

The Family Skating sessions on Sundays have been a success with growing crowds every week. The Elementary and Junior and Senior High skate after school is a minor success; we will continue this program for a few more weeks.

This week we will be installing retrofit designed non-slip fiberglass stair tread covers to the treads on the metal stairways from the front lobby of the stadium. This is being done to improve both traction and visibility on these stairways.

We continue to work with the Lions Club and Amherst Playground Committee on the replacement of the main play structure at the Lions Playground.

All 14 DED trees have been removed with four stumps, two at Victoria Park and two at Brown's Guest Home at 158 East Victoria Street, remaining to be carved this spring.

During the month our operators built a series of salt brine storage tanks in our shop. We are using brine from the Sifto Salt Plant to "pre-wet" our salt before it is spread from the truck. A "pre-wet" causes the salt to start working as soon as it hits the street.

The very unseasonable weather during January caused havoc in our SCADA system which is dependent on dedicated phone lines to the Wellfield to transmit data back and forth. A problem with the phone line to P-2 caused our system to be "off-line" several times during the month. We continue to work with Aliant to ensure these problems do not re-occur.

**MOTION CARRIED**

4) Police Department

**Moved by Councillor Robert Angel, seconded by Councillor Ed Chitty that Council accept the following Police Department Report:**

Request for Proposals - Truck

Our department has requested proposals from all local dealers on a late model truck to be used for Canine Control purposes.

Community Officer

Community Officer Cst. Francis Smith partnered with MADD, Pure Energy, Pizza Delight and the YMCA to present programs about Bullying to students of West Highlands School. Each class produced a poster on the subject, which was displayed at Pizza Delight and voted on by the public. Students received prizes such as free swims at the YMCA, pizza party at Pizza Delight, Rocket Pocket radios from Pure Energy, rulers, brochures, posters and pencils. The Amherst Daily News has taken photos of the posters and forwarded them to the editors of the Bullying web page [www.pulltheplug.com](http://www.pulltheplug.com) in New Glasgow, should they wish to include them in their website.

Provincial Training Standards Committee

D/Chief Naylor is the representative of the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association on the Provincial Training Standards committee. He attended a meeting in January and the committee identified the Officer Safety Training requirements for 2006. The training will be provided to all members of the department by the department's Officer Safety trainers, D/Chief Naylor, Sgt. Cairns and Cst. Hunter.

Major Crime Unit

The unit has been involved in several investigations resulting in charges under the Criminal Code, CDSA and the Revenue Act. Charges are pending for local residents in relation to the possession of contraband tobacco products, under the Revenue Act. James Daniel Lynch of Amherst entered a not guilty plea to charges of aggravated assault, stemming from an incident that occurred in July of 2004 on Church Street. Lynch is scheduled to appear on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to set dates for a Supreme Court hearing. An adult male from Sydney Nova Scotia appeared in Provincial Court in Amherst entering a guilty plea in relation to a home invasion of a local home in November of 2005. Three other persons are awaiting their appearance in court on the same matter.

Arbitration

The arbitration decision settling collective agreement issues between the Town of Amherst and its unionized police officers, Local 104 of the Police Association of Nova Scotia, was rendered yesterday. In his 180 page written decision, arbitrator Milton J. Veniot awarded the officers a 28% pay increase over the six year span of the contract, when compounding is taken into account. By years, those increases break down as follows:

April 1, 2002 – 2%	April 1, 2005 – 4.75%
April 1, 2003 – 4.5%	April 1, 2006 – 4.75%
April 1, 2004 – 4.5%	April 1, 2007 – 4.75%

These increases would see the base salary of a first-class constable rise from the 2001 level of \$45,872 to \$58,728 on April 1, 2007. The arbitration award also addressed several other outstanding language, operational and financial issues.

**MOTION CARRIED**

5) Fire Department

**Moved by Councillor Terry Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Dale Fawthrop that Council accept the following Fire Department Report:**

Alarm Responses

From Jan. 12/06 – Feb. 17/06 the members of our Fire Department responded to 15 calls in the Town of Amherst and 9 calls to the County coverage area.

Training and Fire Department Activities

Recruit training is going very well at this time with ten of our newest members taking part in this training, which is preparing them for the provincial exam that will probably be given in July of this year. Chief Crossman was in Truro Feb. 15, 16 and 17, taking part in a training course on NFPA 101 Life Safety Code for new and existing buildings. Firefighter John Matthews was on a Public Information Officers course held at the Wandyln Inn on Feb. 14, 15 and 16. This course was delivered by EMO Nova Scotia.

Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness

On Feb. 15, at 5 pm, the Town of Amherst held a table top exercise at the Amherst Fire Station. The purpose of this exercise was to test the Town's Emergency Plan. The Emergency Operations Centre was used during this exercise and all members of the Emergency Operations Group were present as is required in the Emergency Plan. The Mayor also took part in the exercise as it was necessary for him to sign a Declaration of State of Local Emergency. All Departments of the Town were given parts to play in this table top exercise as well as Red Cross, Community Services, Amateur Radio, EHS, and the EMO Zone Controller for this part of the Province. All who took part felt that it was a very good exercise, which brought to light a number of areas that could be improved on.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Fire Chief Bill Crossman was recognized by Council for all the planning and effort he put into the exercise.*

6) Community and Economic Development Department

**Moved by Councillor Dale Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor George Baker that Council accept the following Community and Economic Development Department Report:**

Winter Fest 2006

This year's Winterfest celebrations which were held from Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> consisted of various community-based activities. Once again this year, events were launched with the Mayor and Council presenting over 125 athletic achiever certificates to Amherst and area residents who had achieved a gold medal performance while competing in provincial or higher athletic championship events during 2005. Initial reports indicate that the events held during Winter Fest were well attended and very popular with residents. Staff are evaluating the outcomes of this program and looking at options for future years' activities.

Volunteer Recognition Program

April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> is Provincial Volunteer week. A letter of request to clubs and community organizations to participate in the annual Town of Amherst Volunteer recognition program has been sent encouraging them to nominate worthy volunteers representing their organizations. The deadline for nominations is March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Town of Amherst, in observance of Provincial Volunteer Week, will host a Volunteer Ceremony and Reception on April 25, 2006. Further information related to the nomination process can be obtained by contacting Dwight Jones at 667-6503.

Spring and Summer Bulletin

Work is getting underway in the preparation of the 2006 Spring and Summer Bulletin. Community groups, organizations and clubs wishing to promote their activities or events through the Town's Community Information Bulletin are asked to contact Community and Economic Development at 667 – 6503.

Business Development

On Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, the principals of Maritime Pride Eggs along with the Hon. Ernest Fage announced that the company would be building a new egg grading and processing facility which would employ up to 50 people. Construction will begin in the spring with operations commencing in the late fall. We welcome Maritime Pride Eggs to our community and thank them to choosing Amherst as their choice to invest and do business.

**MOTION CARRIED****7. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councillor Terry Rhindress the meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

**APPROVED:**


---

Gregory D. Herrett, CAO

---

Jerry Hallee, Mayor

Amherst Stadium Comparison of Scope and Costs					
Architectural/Structural	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
New ice slab and associated work Dashboards and glass					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$660,000.00</b>	<b>\$660,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 660,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 660,000.00</b>	
Rear Elevation - Clad/insulate exterior block masonry					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$32,000.00</b>	<b>\$32,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,000.00</b>
Insulate and replace South asphalt shingle roofing Option One replace entire roof with standard metal roof Option Two replace entire roof with Standing Seam metal roof					
<b>Subtotal (based on option 2)</b>	<b>\$356,250.00</b>	<b>\$356,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 114,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 114,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 114,000.00</b>
Replace 2nd floor windows above entry Partial replace 2nd floor windows Concourse (Solera) Provide 2nd floor window security screens Provide insulated infill and cladding between windows Replace ground floor side windows Replace ground floor side window security screens					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$67,850.00</b>	<b>\$67,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 67,850.00</b>		
Sheet rubber flooring to Concourse floor Plywood underlayment					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$48,000.00</b>	<b>\$48,000.00</b>			
Renovate Public Washrooms Men Women Demolition					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$75,500.00</b>	<b>\$75,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,500.00</b>
Renovate Team Rooms Renovate Team Room Washrooms/Showers Team Room subfloor and rubber flooring Demolition					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$158,500.00</b>	<b>\$158,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 158,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 158,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 158,500.00</b>
Spectator Seating Remedial work New seats					
<b>Subtotal Spectator Seating</b>	<b>\$286,750.00</b>	<b>\$286,750.00</b>			
<b>Provision for Future Skyboxes</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>			
<b>Elevator - Barrier Free Access</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>			
Add Second Floor Meeting Rooms Demolition existing Second Floor Offices New Walking Track Addition over front entry Add Second Floor Washrooms					
<b>Subtotal Second Floor Improvements</b>	<b>\$248,250.00</b>	<b>\$248,250.00</b>			
New Entrance Addition/Renovation New Workshop/Storage Painting Demolition					
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$573,250.00</b>	<b>\$573,250.00</b>			
<b>Subtotal Architectural/Structural</b>	<b>\$2,631,350.00</b>	<b>\$2,631,350.00</b>			
<b>Mechanical</b>					
New DCW service to building New DHW system DCW and DHW piping insulation Heating and piping insulation Arena ventilation system Zamboni Room ventilation system Boiler Room Ventilation system Infrared controls system Energy Management Control System Refrigeration Plant chiller replacement Portable fire extinguishers Heat recovery system for Zamboni hot water Boiler and hot water heating system					
<b>Subtotal Mechanical</b>	<b>\$467,500.00</b>	<b>\$467,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 467,500.00</b>		
<b>Electrical</b>					
Option 1 Upgrades to Electrical General improvements Replace existing ice surface lighting Replace existing fire alarm panel					
<b>Subtotal Electrical</b>	<b>\$178,000.00</b>	<b>\$178,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 178,000.00</b>		
<b>Total Cost Improvements</b>	<b>\$3,276,850.00</b>	<b>\$3,276,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,753,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,161,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 471,000.00</b>
Design Contingency	\$491,527.50	\$491,527.50	\$ 263,002.50	\$ 174,150.00	\$ 70,650.00
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$3,768,377.50</b>	<b>\$3,768,377.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,016,352.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,335,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 541,650.00</b>
<b>Note: HST is NOT included in above costs</b>					
<b>Assumed Funding From Province of Nova Scotia</b>	\$0.00	\$(1,200,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Town of Amherst Debt Requirement</b>	<b>\$3,768,377.50</b>	<b>\$2,568,377.50</b>	<b>\$2,016,352.50</b>	<b>\$1,335,150.00</b>	<b>\$541,650.00</b>
	\$381,600.00	\$260,074.00	\$ 204,177.00	\$ 121,111.00	\$ 44,252.00

POLLUTION ABATEMENT STRATEGY						
	CAPITAL COST	ANNUAL DEBT COST	OPERATING COST	TOTAL ANNUAL COST	INCREASE IN SEWER RATE	TOTAL DEBT
1 NORTH TOWN COLLECTOR	\$1,400,000.00	\$56,728.00	\$10,000.00	\$66,728.00	10%	\$560,000.00
2 PUMP SEWAGE TO NEW ABOITEAU IF REQ'D	\$1,500,000.00	\$60,780.00	\$30,000.00	\$90,780.00	15%	\$600,000.00
3 SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT	\$8,840,000.00	\$358,196.80	\$320,000.00	\$678,196.80	111%	\$3,536,000.00
4 STP AND WIND TURBINE	\$10,000,000.00	\$405,200.00	\$220,000.00	\$625,200.00	102%	\$4,000,000.00
5 NTC PLUS STP PLUS TURBINE ( 1+2+4)	\$12,900,000.00	\$522,708.00	\$230,000.00	\$752,708.00	116%	\$4,720,000.00
<b>ASSUMPTIONS</b>						
1 TOWN SHARE OF CAPITAL COSTS WILL BE 40%						
2 BORROWING AT 6% FOR 15 YEARS, USED ROGERS FORMULA						
3 CURRENT SEWER RATE GENERATES \$ 610,000 ANNUALLY						
4 ITEM 5 ABOVE COMPLETES THE POLLUTION ABATEMENT STRATEGY						
5 WIND TURBINE WILL SAVE \$100,000 PER YEAR ( GUESS)						
6 WORST CASE FOR STP COST						
<b>IMPACT OF OPTION 5 ON CUSTOMERS</b>						
1 TYPICAL RESIDENTAL CUSTOMER USING 45000 GALLONS ANNUALLY WILL SEE INCREASE OF \$150 PER YEAR						
2 ONE OF THE LARGEST COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS IS IMP WHO WOULD SEE AN INCREASE OF \$8000 PER YEAR.						
<b>OUTCOME OF ANALYSIS</b>						
1 STP CONSTRUCTION SHOULD BE DERERRED AT LEAST 5 YEARS						
2 CONSIDER MAJOR SEWER RATE INCREASE TO BUILD UP A CAPITAL RESERVE						
3 I EXPECT ENVIRONMENT WILL INSIST WE PUMP OUR SEWAGE TO NEW ABOITEAU LATE THIS YEAR						
4 ARRANGE MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE RE ABOITEAU RELOCATION IN NEAR FUTURE						
5 CONSIDER MAKING APPLICATION TO FEDERAL PROVINCIAL PROGRAM FOR NTC AND PUMPING OF SEWAGE AS DETAILED IN 1 AND 2 OF STRATEGY						

Amherst Stadium Project Scope and Timetable				
	Calendar Year	Calendar Year	Calendar Year	
	2006	2007	2008	
<b>Architectural/Structural</b>				
New ice slab and associated work		\$ 500,000.00		
Dashboards and glass		\$ 160,000.00		
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 660,000.00</b>		<b>\$660,000.00</b>
Rear Elevation - Clad/insulate exterior block masonry	\$ 32,000.00			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 32,000.00</b>			<b>\$32,000.00</b>
Insulate and replace South asphalt shingle roofing				
Option One replace entire roof with standard metal roof				
Option Two replace entire roof with Standing Seam metal roof			\$356,250.00	
<b>Subtotal (based on option 2)</b>			<b>\$356,250.00</b>	<b>\$356,250.00</b>
Replace 2nd floor windows above entry			\$18,550.00	
Partial replace 2nd floor windows Concourse (Solera)			\$12,000.00	
Provide 2nd floor window security screens			\$4,500.00	
Provide insulated infill and cladding between windows			\$16,200.00	
Replace ground floor side windows			\$10,375.00	
Replace ground floor side window security screens			\$6,225.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$67,850.00</b>	<b>\$67,850.00</b>
Sheet rubber flooring to Concourse floor			\$36,000.00	
Plywood underlayment			\$12,000.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$48,000.00</b>	<b>\$48,000.00</b>
Renovate Public Washrooms				
Men	\$ 36,500.00			
Women	\$ 34,000.00			
Demolition	\$ 5,000.00			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 75,500.00</b>			<b>\$75,500.00</b>
Renovate Team Rooms				
Renovate Team Room Washrooms/Showers	\$ 119,000.00			
Team Room sub floor and rubber flooring	\$ 34,500.00			
Demolition	\$ 5,000.00			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 158,500.00</b>			<b>\$158,500.00</b>
Spectator Seating				
Remedial work			\$46,250.00	
New seats			\$240,500.00	
<b>Subtotal Spectator Seating</b>			<b>\$286,750.00</b>	<b>\$286,750.00</b>
<b>Provision for Future Skyboxes</b>			<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<b>Elevator - Barrier Free Access</b>			<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
Add Second Floor Meeting Rooms			\$60,000.00	
Demolition existing Second Floor Offices			\$5,000.00	
New Walking Track Addition over front entry			\$119,600.00	
Add Second Floor Washrooms			\$63,600.00	
<b>Subtotal Second Floor Improvements</b>			<b>\$248,250.00</b>	<b>\$248,250.00</b>
New Entrance Addition/Renovation			\$747,500.00	
New Workshop/Storage			\$42,400.00	
Painting			\$75,000.00	
Demolition			\$20,000.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$573,250.00</b>	<b>\$573,250.00</b>
<b>Subtotal Architectural/Structural</b>			<b>\$1,705,350.00</b>	<b>\$1,705,350.00</b>
<b>Mechanical</b>				
New DCW service to building	\$ 15,000.00		\$5,000.00	
New DHW system			\$20,000.00	
DCW and DHW piping insulation			\$20,000.00	
Heating and piping insulation			\$10,000.00	
Arena ventilation system	\$ 11,000.00		\$189,000.00	
Zamboni Room ventilation system	\$ 10,000.00			
Boiler Room Ventilation system			\$10,000.00	
Infrared controls system		\$ 30,000.00		
Energy Management Control System			\$50,000.00	
Refrigeration Plant chiller replacement			\$40,000.00	
Portable fire extinguishers			\$2,500.00	
Heat recovery system for Zamboni hot water	\$ 5,000.00			
Boiler and hot water heating system			\$50,000.00	
<b>Subtotal Mechanical</b>	<b>\$ 41,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>	<b>\$396,500.00</b>	<b>\$467,500.00</b>
<b>Electrical</b>				
Option 1 Upgrades to Electrical	\$ 50,000.00		\$20,000.00	
General improvements			\$80,000.00	
Replace existing ice surface lighting			\$25,000.00	
Replace existing fire alarm panel			\$3,000.00	
<b>Subtotal Electrical</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>		<b>\$128,000.00</b>	<b>\$178,000.00</b>
<b>Total Cost Improvements</b>	<b>\$ 357,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 690,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,229,850.00</b>	<b>\$3,276,850.00</b>
Design Contingency	\$ 53,550.00	\$ 103,500.00	\$334,477.50	\$491,527.50
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$ 410,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 793,500.00</b>	<b>\$2,564,327.50</b>	<b>\$3,768,377.50</b>
Note: HST is NOT included in above costs as it is 100% recoverable				

## AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>O'CANADA</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>PETITION</b> 1. Crosswalk at Mill & West Victoria Streets
<b>3.</b>	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>BUSINESS ITEMS</b>
	1. Additions to Agenda
	2. Approval of Agenda
	3. Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2006 Regular Meeting
	4. Second Reading, By-Law to Amend the Tax Exemption By-Law
	5. Resolution: Infrastructure Application
	6. Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation – Balloon Payment
	7. Proposed Policy: Dangerous and Unsightly Premises
	8. IODE Request to Plant a Tree in Victoria or Veterans Park
	9. Non-Union Job Evaluation
	10. Requests for Financial Assistance/Support
	1) Cumberland Bantam AAA Huskies
	2) Cumberland Midget AAA Bombers
	3) Amherst Little League
	4) Coastal Communities Network
	5) Amherst Curling Club
	11. Motion to Receive Petition
<b>5.</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL ITEMS</b>
	1. Progress Report – Amherst Stadium & Sewage Treatment Plant
<b>6.</b>	<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>
	1. Monthly Reports
	1) Planning and Development Department
	2) Corporate Services Department
	3) Operational Services
	4) Police
	5) Fire
	6) Community and Economic Development
<b>7.</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>