

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Amherst Town Council
Held in Council Chambers on Monday, April 24, 2006 at 7:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Hallee
Deputy Mayor David March
Councillor Robert Angel
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Ed Chitty
Councillor Dale Fawthrop
Councillor Terry Rhindress

1. O'CANADA

2. PRESENTATION - Seniors Secretariat

Presentation by Seniors Secretariat: Valerie White, Ex Dir, Seniors Secretariat and Nancy Radcliffe, Manager, Task Force on Aging, Seniors Secretariat.

3. CALL TO ORDER

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Additions to the Agenda

4.2 Approval of the Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED

4.3 Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting, March 27, 2006

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Deputy Mayor March to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2006 Regular Meeting of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Special Meeting, April 5, 2006

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Rhindress to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2006 Special Meeting of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Special Meeting, April 21, 2006

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Deputy Mayor March to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2006 Special Meeting of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 Councillor Baker's participation in FCM Mission

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Rhindress that Councillor George Baker participate on behalf of Mayor and Council in the upcoming Assessment Mission to Escalante from May 22nd to June 1st.

MOTION CARRIED

4.5 Tenders

1. Gravel

Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Deputy Mayor March that the tender for supply of gravel be awarded to Robert Blair Trucking at the following unit prices:

1. Type 1 and type 1s gravel	\$ 9.10 per tonne
2. Washed clear 28 mm stone	\$13.00 per tonne
3. Sand	\$11.65 per tonne

MOTION CARRIED

2. Public Solid Waste Collection

Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council accept the tender from PBS Waste Services as per the following unit prices:

1. \$3.25 each for solid waste collection from public waste receptacles
2. \$95 per special pickup from the Amherst stadium.
3. \$325 per month for Town Hall
4. \$140 per month for Police Station
5. \$290 per month for Public Works Garage
6. \$410 per month for Amherst Stadium
7. \$325 per month for Amherst Fire Station
8. \$200 per month for Robb Complex between May and September
9. \$368 per month for YMCA

MOTION CARRIED

3. Asphalt Patching

Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Deputy Mayor March that Council accept the low tender submitted by Costin Paving at their quoted unit prices of \$185 per tonne for type C asphalt hand patching, \$100 per tonne for type C spreader patching, \$153 per tonne for type B and C service cut patching, \$97 per cubic meter for gravel base installation and \$44.90 per lineal meter for asphalt curb replacement.

MOTION CARRIED

4.6 Development Agreement – 41 Townshend Ave

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Chitty to give First Reading to the proposed Development Agreement with Amherst Small Options Society to increase the number of clients on their property at 41 Townshend Avenue from three to four.

MOTION CARRIED

A public hearing will be held prior to Council's May meeting.

4.7 CREDA Appointment – Councillor Fawthrop

Moved by Councillor Angel, seconded by Councillor Rhindress that Councillor Dale Fawthrop be appointed as the Council representative on the CREDA Board of Directors for a two year term effective June 1, 2006.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Fawthrop provided Council with an update on current CREDA initiatives, which included:

- Investment and Trade Program
- Repopulation Strategy
- Provincial Nominee Program
- Downtown Amherst Revitalization Society (DARS)
- Amherst Centennial Trail Project
- Lunch and Learn partnership with the Chamber of Commerce
- Key Tourism Projects in Cumberland (Joggins Fossil Cliffs, Cape Chignecto)
- Pugwash Peace Exchange

4.8 Tax Reduction Policy – Proposed Amendment

Moved by Deputy Mayor March, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council amend the Town of Amherst Tax Reduction Policy, Number 110-02 by increasing the maximum total household income in Section 1 (1) from \$13,500 to \$14,000 and increasing the reduction amount from \$125 to \$150.

MOTION CARRIED

TAX REDUCTION POLICY, 110-02**PURPOSE:**

To establish a policy to determine the reduction in taxes for a person (s) whose income from all sources for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the Town of Amherst is below the amount set out in this policy AND to determine the reduction in taxes for the owner(s) of a building which has been completely or partially destroyed.

POLICY STATEMENT (1): LOW INCOME

It shall be the policy of the Amherst Town Council that an exemption from taxes will be granted, pursuant to Section 69(2) (a) of the Municipal Government Act, up to an amount of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) as per the following conditions:

- a) That the exemption be granted to every person assessed with respect to taxable property in the Town of Amherst, who is resident of the Town of Amherst, and whose total household income from all sources for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the Town of Amherst was less than Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000). Allowances paid pursuant to the War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada) or military pension paid pursuant to the Pension Act (Canada) are not to be included in a person's total income;
- b) That the exemption be granted only in respect of property occupied by the applicant ratepayer at his/her home;
- c) That, where two or more persons, one or more of whom are entitled to an exemption, are by an interest the owners of taxable property together, the person(s) is entitled to that portion of the amount of the exemption that the amount of his/her assessment bears to the whole property;
- d) That the person applying for the exemption make an affidavit regarding his/her income for that period and return such affidavit to the Town Office not later than July 31 of the year in which the taxes are payable.

POLICY STATEMENT (2): BUILDING DESTROYED

In accordance with Section 69(A) of the Municipal Government Act, that where a building(s) situate on a property has become permanently unlivable or unusable due to fire and the current assessment of the property does not reflect that the building (s) has been destroyed, it shall be the policy of the Amherst Town Council to permit the reduction or rebate of property taxes on the building(s) alone for the balance of the taxation year under the following conditions.

- a) The taxpayer shall apply in writing to the Clerk asking for a reduction or rebate of property taxes.
- b) The Clerk shall ask the Building Inspector to confirm the complete destruction of the building(s).
- c) The Clerk shall ask the Regional Assessment Office to determine the following year's assessment value before any subsequent rebuilding or construction.
- d) Upon receipt of the Building Inspector's and Provincial Assessment's report, the Clerk shall authorize the Treasurer to reduce the amount of the taxes on the building(s) by pro rating the same over the balance of the taxation year from the date of destruction.
- e) This policy section shall be made retroactive to April 1, 2005; provided that if, as a result of this policy being made retroactive, it results in property taxes being rebated such sums shall be paid without interest.
- f) If the owner of the property in question is found guilty of arson, either civilly or criminally, the Clerk shall not rebate any taxes. In the event that taxes have already been rebated, then that rebate shall be void ab initio, and the taxes with interest accrued thereon will become immediately due and payable, it being the overriding policy of the Town of Amherst that a person shall not benefit from his or her own wrongdoing.

4.9 Surplus Land – Lawrence Street

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Deputy Mayor March That the 1.5 acre parcel of land located on Lawrence Street identified under PID # 25005091 be declared surplus to the needs of the Town of Amherst and to be disposed of according to Town of Amherst Policy 211-07.

MOTION CARRIED

4.10 May Council Meeting

Moved by Deputy Mayor March, seconded by Councillor Chitty that the regular meeting of Council be changed from May 22 to May 29, 2006, due to the Victoria Day holiday.

MOTION CARRIED

4.11 Municipal Endowment Fund

Moved by Councillor Terry Rhindress, seconded by Deputy Mayor March that Council decline the request from the College of Continuing Education, Dalhousie University to make a financial contribution to the Municipal Endowment Fund.

MOTION CARRIED

4.12 Transient Vendors By-Law, Second Reading

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Rhindress to give Second Reading of the Transient Vendors By-Law.

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop seconded by Councillor Chitty to table Second Reading of this By-Law until the May Council meeting as requested by the Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce.

MOTION CARRIED

4.13 Property Line Agreement with Gil Collicott, 67 Albion St

Moved by Deputy Mayor March, seconded by Councillor Angel that Council authorize Mayor and CAO to sign a property line agreement with Gil Collicott for the property located at 67 Albion Street

MOTION CARRIED

BOUNDARY LINE AGREEMENT

PARTIES:

THE TOWN OF AMHERST, a Municipal Corporation, in the County of Cumberland, Province of Nova Scotia, Hereinafter referred to as the "**Town**"

- and -

GILBERT G. COLLICOTT of Amherst, in the County of Cumberland, Province of Nova Scotia, Hereinafter referred to as "**Collicott**"

BACKGROUND RECITALS:

1. The Parties to this Agreement own adjoining lots of land on Albion Street, in Amherst, in the County of Cumberland, Province of Nova Scotia. The Town lot is identified as PID No. 25009895, and the Collicott lot is identified as PID No. 25009879.
2. The southern and the western boundary lines of the Collicott lot and the two lines of the Town's lot which border on the Collicott lot are vague and imprecise and are, in part, based on structures which no longer exist.
3. Collicott had a survey sketch prepared of the boundary lines of his lot, including the division line between the Town lot and the Collicott lot, a copy of which is attached as Schedule "A" hereto.
4. The Parties acknowledge that the boundary line between their respective lots shows what is believed to be the line of occupation and each party is satisfied with that boundary line as shown on the sketch.

THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. That the boundary line between the Town lot (PID No. 25009895) and the Collicott lot (PID No. 25009879) shall be the line shown on the sketch.
2. Collicott releases and quits claim to the Town all land to the south and west of the boundary line shown on the sketch.
3. The Town releases and quits claim to Collicott all land to the north and northeast of the boundary line shown on the sketch, which is described in accordance with the sketch and this Agreement as shown on Schedule "B" hereto.

This Agreement shall be binding upon and is to the benefit of the respective parties, their heirs, administrators, successors and assigns.

SCHEDULE "B"

ALL that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situated at Amherst aforesaid on the westerly side of Albion Street and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the west side of Albion Street at the southeast corner of a lot of land formerly owned by A. E. Wry Standard Limited and now owned and occupied by Hilburn V. and Judith G. Williston (Book 764, Page 270 - PID No. 25009853);

THENCE westerly along said Williston lot a distance of One Hundred and Fifty feet (150') to the land owned by the Town of Amherst;

THENCE south easterly along the Town land a distance of Eighty-Four feet (84') to a point;

THENCE easterly along the Town land a distance of One Hundred and Twelve feet (112') to the west side of Albion Street;

THENCE northerly along Albion Street a distance of One Hundred and Fourteen feet (114') to the place of beginning

BEING the same lot of land as was conveyed by Sybil Kane Shipley to Gilbert G. Collicott by Deed dated the 10th day of February, A. D., 1981, and recorded at the Registry of Deeds Office for the County of Cumberland at Amherst, Nova Scotia, in Book 404, at Page 54-57.

4.14 Expropriation of Land on Derby Street

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Amherst proceed under the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act, 1998, c. 18, s. 52 as amended*, and the *Expropriation Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 156*, to expropriate certain lands in fee simple, the interest not to be subject to any existing interest in the land, for the statutory purpose of construction of the North Town Collector Sewer and future street on those lots of land described as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain lots, piece or parcels of land situate, lying and being on Derby street in Amherst and being more particularly described as follows:

ALL AND SINGULAR THAT CERTAIN LOT of land situate on the south westerly side of Derby Street in Amherst, Province of Nova Scotia being shown as **Lot 37** on a plan of survey showing Lot 36 & Lot 37 lands proposed to be expropriated by the Town of Amherst prepared by Jerry L. Borden, N.S.L.S. dated April 20th, A.D. 2006 and being more particularly described as follows:

Directions in the following are oriented to the Nova Scotia Co-ordinate Grid 3 deg. MTM Zone 5 Central Meridian 64 deg. 30 min. West Longitude].

Beginning at a survey marker on the southwesterly boundary of Derby Street said survey marker being N 46 deg. 28 min. 03 sec. E a distance of 989.863 metres from N.S. Control Monument No. 15107, said survey marker also being the northerly corner of Lot 36;

THENCE S 41 deg. 17 min. 29 sec. E a distance of 36.849 metres along Lot 36 to a survey marker on the northeasterly boundary of lands of David E. Bugley and Leona A. Bugley;

THENCE N 53 deg. 28 min. 10 sec. W a distance of 15.392 metres along lands of David E. Bugley and Leona A. Bugley and lands of Walter C. Rayworth to a survey marker;

THENCE N 41 deg. 29 min. 32 sec. E a distance of 37.126 metres along lands of Walter C. Rayworth to a survey marker on the southwesterly boundary of Derby Street;

THENCE S 52 deg. 28 min. 30 sec. E a distance of 15.240 metres along the southwesterly boundary of Derby Street to the place of beginning.

SAID DESCRIBED LOT to contain 564.9 square metres., **BEING AND INTENDING to be Lot 37 of the Golden Park.**

AND ALL AND SINGULAR THAT CERTAIN LOT of land situate on the southwesterly side of Derby Street in Amherst, Province of Nova Scotia being shown as **Lot 36** on a plan of survey showing Lot 36 & Lot 37 lands proposed to be expropriated by the Town of Amherst prepared by Jerry L. Borden, N.S.L.S. dated April 20th, A.D. 2006 and being more particularly described as follows:

Directions in the following are oriented to the Nova Scotia Co-ordinate Grid 3 deg. MTM Zone 5 Central Meridian 64 deg. 30 min. West Longitude].

Beginning at a survey marker on the southwesterly boundary of Derby Street said survey marker being N 46 deg. 28 min. 03 sec. E a distance of 989.863 metres from N.S. Control Monument No. 15107, said survey marker also being the easterly corner of Lot 37;

THENCE S 52 deg. 28 min. 30 sec. E a distance of 15.240 metres along the southwesterly boundary of Derby Street to a survey marker at the northerly corner of lands of Pearl Bugley;

THENCE S 41 deg. 05 min. 06 sec. W a distance of 36.572 metres along lands of Pearl Bugley to a survey marker on northeasterly boundary of lands of David E. Bugley and Leona A. Bugley;

THENCE N 53 deg. 28 min. 10 sec. W a distance of 15.392 metres along lands of David E. Bugley and Leona A. Bugley to a survey marker at the south corner of Lot 37;

THENCE N 41 deg. 17 min. 29 sec. E a distance of 36.849 metres along Lot 37 to a survey marker on the southwesterly boundary of Derby Street being the place of beginning.

SAID DESCRIBED LOT to contain 560.5 square metres.

BEING AND INTENDING to be Lot 36 of the Golden Park.

Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Councillor Rhindress that the expropriation be now approved and the Mayor and CAO be authorized to execute a Certificate of Approval on behalf of the Town approving the expropriation of those lands as described in the above resolution.

MOTION CARRIED

5. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Planning and Development Department Monthly Report

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Chitty to accept the following Planning and Development Department Monthly Report:

MOTION CARRIED

Building Activity

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006 the total value of building permits issued in the Town was **\$7,507,930** compared to **\$9,242,266** last year. During the last month there was one significant permit issued for a new 4 unit townhouse on Paradise Avenue.

Dangerous and Unsightly Premises

During the last fiscal year the Department has processed 75 complaints, 71 of which have been resolved. There have been 10 orders issued to properties. Only one order remains outstanding, however work is being performed on the property and it is being closely monitored. We would like to thank the residents of the Town for helping to keep Amherst a beautiful community.

Staff Training

Both Tim LeFurgey and Monty Maddison have attended a two day course on proposed changes to the Nova Scotia Building Code and Regulations.

Both Jason MacDonald and Councilor Dale Fawthrop recently attended a one day "Science Forum on Brownfield Redevelopment" in Halifax. Topics covered included: risk communication; contaminated site characterization, contaminant issues and redevelopment challenges; the application of environmental quality guidelines at contaminated sites; and liability issues related to brownfield redevelopment. Of particular interest was the importance of communication with all stakeholders throughout a cleanup - redevelopment process; the potential for a change to environmental legislation which would make a property owner liable for past contamination (which meets current guidelines); and the challenges to redeveloping these sites, including financing, liability, stigma and regulation. The following websites may be of interest to councilors; Eproject.com; Aboutremediation.com.

Former R. B. Dickey School Site

The new owners of the property have removed the building and are about to commence construction of a new street. The project is progressing nicely and is within the timelines established by Council.

Former St. Charles School Site

The Town has sold this property to Alpha Outreach Society as of April 13th, 2006. We are pleased that the building is going to be put to a use that benefits the entire community.

Other Units

Staff is working with the Town of Oxford in order to delineate a flood risk area for that community. This information will have many uses, including the development of a new municipal planning strategy for the Town. Staff continues to provide building inspection services to the Town of Parrsboro, as well as work on the development of a new municipal planning strategy and land use bylaw for the town.

6.2 Corporate Services Department Monthly Report

Moved by Deputy Mayor March, seconded by Councillor Baker to accept the following Corporate Services Department Monthly Report:

MOTION CARRIEDMonthly Expenditures

Expenditures during the month of March 2006 totaled \$1,469,026.13 compared to \$1,437,626.38 for the same month last year.

	Mar-06	Mar-05
Corporate Services	\$ 575,762	\$ 627,438
CAO's Office	42,338	72,482
Police Department	242,461	285,717
Fire Department	106,138	110,150
Operational Services	371,681	254,918
Planning & Development	26,374	21,174
Community & Economic Development	22,186	20,312
Water Department	112,086	45,436
	<u>\$ 1,499,026</u>	<u>\$ 1,437,626</u>

Collections

Total amount owing to the Town at the end of March 2006 was \$907,549. During the month of March 2006 we collected \$304,344.

	31-Mar-06			31-Mar-05		
	Current	Prior	Total	Current	Prior	Total
Property Taxes	\$ 231,281	\$ 186,399	\$ 417,680	\$ 287,671	\$ 186,498	\$ 474,169
Business Taxes	83,798	113,598	197,396	105,103	162,021	267,124
Sewer Rates	37,290	42,584	79,875	96,871	52,026	148,898
Water Rates	33,301	121,917	155,218	88,802	141,972	230,774
Other	38,510	18,871	57,380	60,190	18,882	79,072
	<u>\$ 424,180</u>	<u>\$ 483,369</u>	<u>\$ 907,549</u>	<u>\$ 638,638</u>	<u>\$ 561,399</u>	<u>\$ 1,200,037</u>

Yearly Operating Statement

The Operating Statement for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006 is not available at this time. Upon completion of year end procedures, the statement will be made available.

Departmental Report

Vince Arbing, Treasurer and Sarah Wilson, Accountant attended an SAP Municipal Advisory Group Meeting and discussed with other Municipalities the implementation of Accounts Receivable / Revenue SAP computer software. This is the next phase of SAP accounting software implementation for the Town of Amherst. Upon completion of this implementation it will make the Town compatible with the provinces accounting software. It is anticipated the conversion will happen with the next twelve months.

Interim tax bills will be mailed by the end of April with a due date of May 31, 2006.

6.3 Operational Services Department Monthly Report

Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Deputy Mayor March to accept the following Operational Services Department Monthly Report:

MOTION CARRIED

Asphalt patching tenders closed last week and a recommendation for award is included in tonight's regular Council agenda. Prices for asphalt have increased dramatically during recent years related to the price of heavy crude oil. Asphalt hand patching has increased 23% while spreader patching has increased 19% over last year's costs.

Mitchelmore Engineering are into the third week of work on the Phase 1 study of the Brookdale Dam. We expect the study to be finished in another four weeks with presentation of options and related costs.

Dillon Engineering are proceeding with the design work on the gravity piping, lift station and forcemain for the North Town Collector sewer. It is expected we will be ready for a tender call by early June.

Pot holes were filled with cold asphalt mix and utility cuts were topped off with gravel in March. The hot asphalt patching program is expected to get underway sometime in May.

Our street sweeper has started cleaning streets on dry days. Last year we had one student spending part of three mornings per week on cleaning the downtown core sidewalks. It is our goal to intensify the cleanup and maintenance of the downtown area especially during the tourist season.

Spring cleanup for leaf and yard waste started April 24 and will continue for the next two weeks. The spring special collection will occur during the week of May 15. Timing of these special collections will concur with the regular pick up day. All residential customers were delivered a special spring collection flyer last week to assist in what can and cannot be placed for collection.

This year council has expanded the special collection to include privately owned apartment buildings with four or more apartment units. This will be done to enhance our commitment to a clean community. Items for this collection will include furniture, box springs, mattresses, sofas and chairs, televisions, toys and appliances (all Freon must be removed and the "coolant removal sticker" must be attached). This special collection does not include: carpet and vinyl flooring, construction and demolition debris, doors, windows, lumber, siding or roofing, batteries, automotive parts, propane tanks, tires or hazardous waste.

The ice plant was shut off on April 18 after a very successful playoff run by the Amherst Ramblers. Overall the Stadium season was a very good one. The floor will soon be ready for a busy May of rentals that will include the Y's Men's Lifestyle and Leisure Show May 5-7, the Annual Highland Fling May 13 and the Tantramar Kennel Club Dog Show May 19-21.

6.4 Police Department Monthly Report

Moved by Councillor Angel, seconded by Councillor Rhindress to accept the following Police Department Monthly Report:

MOTION CARRIED

Provincial Training Standards Committee

D/Chief Naylor, a representative of the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association on the Provincial Training Standards committee, attended a recent meeting at which the committee identified the Officer Safety Training requirements for 2006. The training consists of: live fire, neck restraint, weapon retention and escape holds, and will be provided to all members of the department by the department's Officer Safety trainers, D/Chief Naylor, Sgt. Gairns and Cst. Hunter. In May, Sgt. Gairns will be providing Emergency Vehicle Operation training. This is training mandated by the Province of Nova Scotia for all police officers in the Province.

Training

All members of the department participated in Containment Training, provided by members of the Halifax Regional Police Service. Officers received instruction on dealing with an armed person or persons and "containing" the scene in order to de-escalate the threat to potential victims, the community at large, police, and the offender(s).

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 May 26th 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, and was sentenced to two years incarceration. Three other persons are awaiting their appearance in court on the same matter on May 31st 2006.

Arbitration

The interest arbitration award has been completed by Mr. Milton Veniot. Mr. Veniot handed down his decision on February 17th 2006. A new Collective Agreement between PANS Local 104 and the Town of Amherst has been drafted. It is currently being reviewed by both parties.

Criminal Intelligence Service of Nova Scotia - Infrastructure

Sgt. Lepper and Cst. Fenton began work in their new positions as Criminal Intelligence Officers for the Province of Nova Scotia on January 3rd 2006. During the initiation period, the officers will attend several training programs and seminars related to the Criminal Intelligence positions. A Memorandum of Understanding with CISNS has been signed, which will govern the conditions of their secondment to these positions.

Statistical Data

The department adopted PROS as the case management database for police reporting in May 2005. The change to the new database makes it difficult to compare statistics for the same period last year as the information for that period is contained in the PIRS system. The first quarter statistics for 2006 however, have been reviewed based on general knowledge of previous statistics and are consistent with last year.

6.5 Fire Department Monthly Report

Moved by Councillor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Baker to accept the following Fire Department Monthly Report:

MOTION CARRIED

Alarm Responses

From -March 10/06 – April 18/06 the members of our Fire Department were unusually busy responding to emergency calls. We had 39 calls in total, 25 calls in the Town of Amherst and 14 calls to the County coverage area.

Training and Fire Department Activities

This year's recruits from our Department and the members from the other Fire Departments, who are enrolled in the Level One Firefighter Training Program, completed the last module of the Program that has been provided to them over the past seven months. They are now scheduled to attend the Nova Scotia Fire School where they will be tested on the proficiency of their firefighting skills. Every Thursday night is a training night at the Fire Station. A schedule has been developed to ensure that sufficient training is provided to our firefighters that will cover all areas of our response requirements. Extra training has also been scheduled to help our newest members develop the necessary skills to answer calls to Hazardous Materials Spills.

Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness:

Chief Crossman recently attended a meeting in Truro with the Provincial Fire Marshal to discuss the problems facing the Fire Inspectors thru ought the province concerning churches, community halls, apartment buildings, licensed taverns and restaurants. Fire inspections in the Town of Amherst are moving along fairly well, with the main emphasis still on apartment buildings. Pandemic planning is progressing well and a draft plan should be ready for Council to view by the end of the summer.

6.6 Community and Economic Development Department Monthly Report

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council accept the following Community and Economic Development Department Monthly Report:

MOTION CARRIED

Volunteer Recognition Program

April 23rd to 29th is Provincial Volunteer week. The Town of Amherst will host a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Reception tomorrow evening, April 25th commencing at 6:30 PM here at Town Hall. This event will provide the Mayor and Council an opportunity to formally recognize the efforts of volunteers. The general public is encouraged to attend and to applaud the efforts of our volunteers in our Town.

Spring and Summer Bulletin

Community & Economic Development Department will be distributing the 2006 Spring and Summer Bulletin direct to Amherst households during the first week of May. Residents will find this publication useful in planning their leisure time activities in the coming months. If you don't receive one, there will be a limited supply located both at Town Hall and the Stadium after May 8th.

Amherst Senior Games

The 2006 Amherst Senior Games to be held May 3 - 12. The Amherst Senior Games are open to all men and women 55 years of age and over residing in Amherst or who are registered members of an Amherst Senior Club. This year, Senior Games activities will consist of cribbage, candlepin bowling, crokinole, darts (singles and mixed), auction 45's, and golf. Activities will be held only if the number registered for an event exceeds the allowable number of participants permitted to advance to the Fundy Senior Games.

The purpose of the Amherst Senior Games is to earn the right to represent our community at the Fundy Senior Games being held June 13th and 14th. This year, the Fundy Senior Games will be held in Amherst. For the Amherst Senior Games, there is no registration fee.

Youth Fishing Derby

The Annual Youth Fishing Derby will be held on Friday, May 19th from 4pm to 7:30pm at the Pumping Station in Brookdale. Last month it was indicated that we'd have to postpone this event this year due to some work being carried out by Operational Services however, it is now evident that this work will not interfere with this event. Once again, we would like to thank our sponsor, Canadian Tire for their ongoing support of this popular event.

Business Development

The Stenek Group is progressing well on the construction of their new distribution centre in the Industrial Park. It is anticipated that the company will be moving to the location over the next month. Maritime Pride Eggs have commenced construction of their new 41,000 sq. ft. egg grading and distribution facility. Both of these operations are welcomed additions to our community. The department continues to follow up on other potential investment opportunities.

Community Youth Fair

Community and Economic Development is hosting the second Spring Community Youth Fair on June 3, 2006 at the Amherst Regional High School from 11:am to 2pm.

The purpose of the Fair is to provide children, youth and their parents with an opportunity to view and gain useful information about the many summer programs and services available in this community. This year the fair will include information on recreational, health and wellness activities and services.

Participants are asked to provide an information display booth and /or an interactive station for youth. From each booth individuals will learn about programs- registration information, activity day[s] and time[s], equipment requirement, travel and how to assist as a volunteer, coach or counselor.

Golf Instruction Program

A reminder to register for this years' Golf Instruction Program. This program has continued to be extremely popular and will once again be conducted at the Riverbend Driving Range under the direction of CPGA/APGA Instructor Frank MacShane. As a participant in the program, you will receive one on one training and information to help you in gearing up your swing mechanics for another golfing season. The program is designed for both novices and experienced "want to be pros" and will consist of 3 one hour sessions over a 3 week period commencing May 16th. For further information on this program, please contact Dwight Jones at 667-6503.

NCCP Coach's Course

A level one NCCP coach's course will be held in Amherst on June 9th and 10th. A level two NCCP course has been scheduled for June 23rd 24th and 25th. All courses will be held at Amherst Regional High School. To register contact Community and Economic Development at 667-6503.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councillor Rhindress the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Approved:

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Greg Herrett, CAO

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Jerry Hallee, Mayor

1. O'CANADA
2. PRESENTATION – Seniors Secretariat
3. CALL TO ORDER
4. BUSINESS ITEMS
 1. Addition to Agenda
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Approval of Minutes
 4. Councillor Baker's participation in FCM Mission
 5. Tenders: 1) Gravel 2) Public Solid Waste Collection 3) Asphalt Patching
 6. Development Agreement, 41 Townshend Avenue
 7. CREDA Appointment – Councillor Fawthrop
 8. Tax Reduction Policy – Proposed Amendment
 9. Surplus Land – Lawrence Street
 10. May Council Meeting
 11. Municipal Endowment Fund
 12. Transient Vendors By-Law; Second Reading
 13. Property Line Agreement with Gil Collicott, 67 South Albion Street
 14. Expropriation of Land on Derby Street
5. ADDITIONAL ITEMS
6. INFORMATION ITEMS
 1. Planning and Development Department Report
 2. Corporate Services Department Report
 3. Operational Services Department Report
 4. Police Department Report
 5. Fire Department Report
 6. Community and Economic Development Report
7. ADJOURNMENT