

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

Date: September 20, 2021
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present Mayor David Kogon
Deputy Mayor Hal Davidson
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Sheila Christie
Councillor Lisa Emery
Councillor Dale Fawthrop
Councillor Leon Landry

Staff Present Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Hunter, Chief Financial Officer
Dwayne Pike, Police Chief
Greg Jones, Fire Chief
Andrew Fisher, Manager of Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Aaron Bourgeois, Operations Manager
Cheryl Laliberte, Community Well-being Manager
Tom McCoag, Corporate Communications Officer
Kim Jones, Municipal Clerk
Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

Others Present Sean Borden, Director of Regional Operations, NSP
Mary Black, Government Relations, NSP
Amie Woodford, Manager of Customer Relations, NSP
Jason Lyver, Senior Forester, NSP
Baron Young, Operations Manager, NSP

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this was a virtual meeting held via Zoom.

1. **Call to Order**
Mayor Kogon called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
- 1.1 **Approval of Agenda**
Moved By Councillor Landry
Seconded By Councillor Emery
To approve the agenda as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

- 1.2 **Approval of the Consent Agenda**
Moved By Councillor Landry
Seconded By Councillor Emery
To approve of the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

- 1.3 **Approval of Minutes**
The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:
Moved By Councillor Landry
Seconded By Councillor Emery
That the minutes of the June 21, 2021 and August 4, 2021 Committee of the Whole meetings be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Presentations

- 2.1 **Nova Scotia Power**
Representatives from Nova Scotia Power conducted their presentation, included as part of the agenda package.

3. Council Direction Requests

- 3.1 **Community Support Grants**
Due to their involvement with the organizations requesting grants, Councillor Fawthrop and Councillor Emery both declared conflict of interests.
Moved By Councillor Christie
Seconded By Councillor Baker
That Council forward the Community Support Grant requests to the September 27, 2021 regular Council meeting for consideration with the following amounts:
- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| West Highlands Home and School: | \$4,000.00 |
| Amherst Artisan Gallery: | \$3,000.00 |
| Trail of Treats: | \$ 750.00 |

MOTION CARRIED 4-1
NAY vote: Councillor Baker

- Moved By Councillor Baker
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Davidson
That Council forward the Community Support Grant requests to the September 27, 2021 regular Council meeting for consideration with the following amounts:
- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| West Highlands Home and School: | \$ 500.00 |
| Amherst Artisan Gallery: | \$3,000.00 |
| Trail of Treats: | \$ 750.00 |

MOTION DEFEATED
NAY votes: Councillor Landry, Councillor Christie, Mayor Kogon

3.2 'A' Fresh Start Policy Amendment

Moved By Councillor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Baker

That Council forward the recommendation to cancel the fall A Fresh Start Initiative to the September 27, 2021 regular Council meeting for approval and further direct staff to review the Community Support Grants Policy and bring back recommendations to the October Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3.3 Crosswalk 260 Church Street

Moved By Councillor Emery

Seconded By Councillor Christie

That Council approves of a 6-month pilot project utilizing 'crosswalk flags' at the crosswalk located at 260 Church Street as well as other crosswalks in town that share similar characteristics. If successful, findings will be developed into policy.

MOTION CARRIED

3.4 Scholarship and Bursary Policy Amendment

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Emery

That Council forward the Scholarship and Bursary Policy with the amendment to the September 27, 2021 meeting of Council for approval.

MOTION CARRIED

3.5 User Fee Policy

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Emery

That Council forward to the September 27, 2021 meeting of Council approval of an amendment to the User Fee Policy for fiscal year 2021/22 in regard to the HST application for sewer and storm sewer connections to be HST exempt.

MOTION CARRIED

3.6 Fall Debenture Approval

The following motion was approved as part of the consent agenda:

Moved By Councillor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Emery

That the Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance in the amount of \$390,000 for long term financing be referred to the September 27, 2021 meeting for Council's approval to fund the Albion Street water main replacement in the amount of \$390,000.

MOTION CARRIED

3.7 Year End Capital Financing Adjustments

Moved By Councillor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Baker

That Council forward approval of the following changes to the funding for the Water and General Capital Budget to the September 27, 2021 Council meeting for approval:

1. Approval of the increase of Water Operating capital from revenue from \$40,000 to \$114,497.16;
2. Approval of the increase of General Operating capital from revenue from \$575,000 to \$606,018.17;
3. Withdraw from the Operating Reserve of \$591,000.00 to fund the new pumper fire truck;
4. Withdraw from the Operating Reserve – Stabilization Reserve of \$271,371.93 to fund the Stadium Solar project.

MOTION CARRIED

3.8 Capital Budget Funding Adjustments - Zamboni

Moved By Deputy Mayor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

That Council forward approval of the following change to the funding in the General Capital Budget to the September 27, 2021 Council meeting for approval:

- Withdraw from the Operating Reserve of \$200,000 to fund the new Zamboni.

MOTION CARRIED

3.9 Year End Operating Reserve Transfer to General Operating - Solid Waste Deficit

Moved By Councillor Christie

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Davidson

That Council forward approval of the following transfer from the Operating Reserve to General Operating to the September 27, 2021 Council meeting for approval:

1. Withdraw from the Operating Reserve – Reserve for Solid Waste of \$14,378.17 to fund the deficit in the Solid Waste department for the 2020/21 fiscal year.

MOTION CARRIED

3.10 Capital Funding Adjustment - Fire Station Parking Lot

Moved By Councillor Emery

Seconded By Councillor Baker

That Council forward approval of the increase in General Operating (capital from revenue) by \$80,000 to fund the asphalt overlay of the Fire Station parking lot to the September 27, 2021 Council meeting for approval:

MOTION CARRIED

3.11 Tactical Placemaking Funding Agreement

Moved By Councillor Fawthrop

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Davidson

That authorization for the CAO to sign the Contribution Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the Tactical Placemaking Program, be forwarded to the September 27, 2021 meeting of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Information Items

4.1 Skate Park Update

Moved By Deputy Mayor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

To approve, in principle, the installation of a shelter and outdoor drinking fountain at the Skate Park in the Spring of 2022.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Policy Review Update

This item was reviewed as part of the consent agenda.

5. Monthly Reports

The following monthly reports were approved as part of the consent agenda:

5.1 Corporate Services

5.2 Operations

5.3 Police Services

5.4 Fire Services

5.5 Planning & Strategic Initiatives

5.6 Community Well-being

6. In Camera

Moved By Councillor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Emery

That the Committee move to an in camera session.

MOTION CARRIED

7. **Adjournment**
Moved By Councillor Landry
Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop
To adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Kimberlee Jones
Municipal Clerk

David Kogon, MD
Mayor