

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

**Date:** April 13, 2026  
**Time:** 4:00 pm  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Town Hall

**Members Present** Mayor Rob Small  
Deputy Mayor Charlie Chambers  
Councillor Hal Davidson  
Councillor Nic Furlong  
Councillor Terry McManaman  
Councillor Dwayne Ripley  
Councillor Kathy Wells

**Staff Present** Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer  
Sarah Wilson, Director, Finance  
Denise Smith, Manager, Financial Services  
Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living  
Mallory Klooster, Manager, Community Well-Being  
Sean Payne, Marketing & Communications Officer  
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk  
Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant

---

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Small called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement**

Mayor Small gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**2. Community Support Grants**

The Director of Community Living Sharon Bristol reviewed the Community Support Grants spreadsheet included in the agenda package.

**Moved By Councillor Davidson**

**Seconded By Councillor Furlong**

**That Council does not approve a Community Support Grant application from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #10.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Against: Councillor Wells and Councillor McManaman

**Moved By Councillor Ripley**

**Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Social Equity Grant budget for the After the School Bell Program.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Davidson**

**Seconded By Councillor Wells**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the Social Equity Grant budget for the Amherst Food Assistance Network Association.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Ripley**

**Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the Social Equity Grant for the Amherst Pre-School Association.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Furlong**

**Seconded By Councillor Ripley**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the Community Support Grant budget for Amherst Little League.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Furlong**

**Seconded By Councillor Wells**

**That staff be directed to contact the Cumberland Hospice and Palliative Care Society for more information regarding the number of clientele they have in Amherst and if they submitted an application for funding to the Municipality of the County of Cumberland and bring this information back to the April Committee of the Whole meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Furlong**

**Seconded By Councillor Wells**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Community Support Grant budget for the Lillian Allbon Animal Shelter.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Ripley**

**Seconded By Councillor McManaman**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$6,000 to come from the Social Equity Grant budget for the Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Davidson**

**Seconded By Councillor Wells**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to come from the Social Equity Grant budget for the Cumberland County Transition House Association.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Deputy Mayor Chambers  
Seconded By Councillor McManaman**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to come from the Social Equity Grant budget for the Society of St Vincent De Paul.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Furlong  
Seconded By Councillor Davidson**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to come from the Community Support Grant budget for the 50+ Club.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Wells  
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$4,000 to come from the Social Equity Grant budget for Autism Nova Scotia.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor McManaman declared a conflict of interest and took a seat in the galley.

**Moved By Councillor Wells  
Seconded By Councillor Ripley**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$1,500 to come from the Social Equity Grant budget for the Bridge Adult Service Centre.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor McManaman returned to his seat in chambers.

Councillor Ripley, Councillor Furlong and Councillor Wells all declared a conflict of interest and took a seat in the galley.

**Moved By Councillor McManaman  
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to come from the Community Support Grant budget for the Bordertown Biker Bash.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor Ripley, Councillor Furlong and Councillor Ripley returned to their seats in chambers.

**Moved By Deputy Mayor Chambers  
Seconded By Councillor Furlong**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$7,000 to come from the Community Support Grant budget for the Great Amherst Cultural Society.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Furlong  
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$2,500 to come from the Community Support Grant budget for the Fibre Arts Festival.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Davidson**

**Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$1,000 to come from the Community Support Grant budget for the Relay for Life.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor Ripley and Councillor Wells declared a conflict of interest and took a seat in the galley.

**Moved By Councillor Davidson**

**Seconded By Councillor McManaman**

**That Council direct staff to get more information from the Amherst Downtown Business Association regarding their application for \$20,000 to host a concert at the Amherst Stadium in August, particularly around the composition of the Amherst Downtown Business Association, expenses and anticipated revenue relating to the event and where any potential profit would go, and further obtain legal advice regarding the Town entering a Memorandum of Understanding with the Amherst Downtown Business Association limiting the Town from any financial liability regarding this event, and bring this information back to the April Committee of the Whole meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor Ripley and Councillor Wells returned to their seats in chambers.

**Moved By Councillor Furlong**

**Seconded By Councillor McManaman**

**That Council does not approve a Community Support Grant application from the YMCA for the Kids of Steel Triathlon.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor McManaman**

**Seconded By Councillor Wells**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$1,500 to come from the Community Support Grant budget for the Amherst Minor Basketball Association.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor McManaman declared a conflict of interest and took a seat in the galley.

**Moved By Councillor Furlong**

**Seconded By Councillor Davidson**

**That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to come from the Community Support Grant budget for the Cumberland Minor Baseball Association.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor McManaman returned to his seat in chambers.

**Council agreed to not approve the application from the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Cumberland County.**

**Council directed staff to contact the Cumberland Twirlers Square Dance Club regarding their application for funding in the amount of \$2,116 to purchase an automated external defibrillator to ask where their Club is located, if they applied to the Municipality of the County of Cumberland for funding, and investigate if there is other funding available from organizations such as EHS and bring this information back to the April Committee of the Whole meeting.**

**Moved By Councillor Furlong  
Seconded By Councillor McManaman  
To continue the meeting past 6:00 p.m.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Wells  
Seconded By Deputy Mayor Chambers  
That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to come from the Community Support Grant budget for the All-Saints Parish Truth and Reconciliation Committee contingent on them receiving other funding.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Davidson  
Seconded By Councillor McManaman  
That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to come from the Social Equity Grant budget for the Nova Scotia Community College, and further that staff draft a Memorandum of Understanding to continue providing this funding in future years.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved By Councillor Davidson  
Seconded By Councillor Furlong  
That Council forward to the April 27, 2026, regular meeting, approval of a grant in the amount of \$3,720 to come from the Community Support Grant budget for the Fundy Winds Marsh.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Small adjourned the meeting.

---

Natalie LeBlanc  
Municipal Clerk

---

Rob Small  
Mayor