

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Amherst Town Council
Held in Council Chambers
Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 PM**

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

1. O'CANADA

2. HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

3. CALL TO ORDER

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Additions to Agenda

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Chitty that the following item be added to the agenda: 5.1 192 East Victoria Street - Deregister Heritage Property

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop to approve the Agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

4.3 Approval of Minutes - January 28, 2008 Regular Meeting

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Baker to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2008 Regular Meeting as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes -February 1, 2008 Special Meeting

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Baker to approve the Minutes of the February 1, 2008 Special Meeting as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 Financial Support - Midget Minor AAA Hockey Provincials - RFD#2008013

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council authorize funding in the amount of \$500 to the Cumberland DW Thompson Esso Scotsburn Dairy Bombers to assist with costs in hosting the Midget Minor AAA Hockey Provincials in Amherst from March 13 to 16, 2008.

MOTION CARRIED

4.5 Financial Support - Ron Elliott Memorial Tournament - RFD#2008014

Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rhindress that Council authorize funding in the amount of \$250 to the organizing committee of the Ron Elliott Memorial Hockey Tournament to assist with costs in hosting their event at the Amherst Stadium from March 7 to 9, 2008.

MOTION CARRIED

4.6 Funding Application for Canada Day - RFD#2008015

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Angel that Council authorize the Town of Amherst to submit a funding application to Canadian Heritage in the amount of \$3,010 to help offset the costs related to the 2008 Canada Day celebrations.

MOTION CARRIED

Dale Fawthrop pointed out that this year marks the 250th anniversary of democracy in Canada and as such, Canada Day 2008 will be a significant one.

4.7 Development Agreements at First Reading

- a) 155 East Victoria Street - 32 Unit Condominium, RFD#2008016

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor March that Council give first reading to the proposed development agreement for a condominium on property located at 155 East Victoria Street, having a maximum of 32 units, as recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee and that a Public Hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED 4-3
NAY: Chitty, Fawthrop, Rhindress**

Case No. DA-2008-01

This Agreement made this _____ Day of _____ 2008.

Between: Excel Realty Owners of property located at 155 East Victoria Street (PID _____), hereinafter called the Owners

Of the one part

- and-

The Town of Amherst, a body corporate hereinafter called the Town

Of the other part

WHEREAS the Owner wishes to obtain permission pursuant to Policy RP-8 of the Municipal Planning Strategy of the Town of Amherst, to construct a 32 condominium type development on property located at 155 East Victoria Street.

AND WHEREAS a condition of the granting of approval of Council is that the Owner enter into an agreement with the Town;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town, at its meeting on the _____ Day of _____ 2008, approved the said development agreement subject to the registered owner of the land described herein entering into this agreement;

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH THAT in consideration of the granting by the Town of the development agreement requested by the Owner, the Owner agrees as follows:

- 2) That the Owner is the registered owner of the aforesaid lands in the Town of Amherst, hereinafter called the lands. The aforesaid lots are the only lands in the Town of Amherst to which this agreement applies, and the lands are illustrated in the plan shown on Schedule B attached hereto and forming part of this agreement.
- 3) That the owner may construct a multi-family residential development up to a maximum of 32 units on the said lands, subject to the following Schedules A and B, attached.
- 4) Any failure of the Town to insist upon strict enforcement of any requirements or conditions contained in this agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any rights or remedies that the Town may have and shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach or default in the conditions or requirements contained in this agreement.
- 5) Should the owner fail to act in accordance with any aspect of this agreement, the Town shall retain the right to discharge the agreement upon 30 days notification and / or enter the property and conduct the required work. The cost of the said work will become a lien on the property tax bill.
- 6) The Town shall issue the necessary permit for the development upon the expiration of the appeal period specified for development agreements in the Municipal Government Act, Section 249 , as the same may be amended from time to time, or upon the withdrawal or dismissal of any appeal which may be taken.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED
in the presence of

FOR THE TOWN OF AMHERST
Jerry Hallee, Mayor
Gregory D. Herrett, CAO

FOR THE OWNER
Leslie Carrie

Schedule A**155 East Victoria Street - Development Agreement**

Terms and Conditions:

1. The use of the property be limited to a multi-family residential development with a maximum of 32 units;
2. The building be limited to a maximum of 4 floors and 12 metres in height;
3. The location of the buildings be generally in accordance with Schedule B;
4. Street access to be substantially in accordance with the attached Schedule B, and to the satisfaction of the Development Officer;
5. A minimum of one parking space per dwelling unit be provided on the property. Such spaces may be any combination of underground, surface or at grade garage parking. All parking facilities shall be provided generally in accordance with Schedule B;
6. The exterior design of the buildings shall be generally in accordance with Schedules C and D;
7. The first floor exterior cladding of the main building shall be sandstone type block and the upper floors shall be horizontal cement composite boards (Hardy Board) and generally in accordance with Schedules C and D;
8. The exterior cladding of the parking garages (if provided) shall be horizontal cement composite boards (Hardy Board) and generally in accordance with Schedules C and D;
9. All driveway and parking areas be maintained with asphalt and kept clear of snow and otherwise be unobstructed at all times so as to be passable by emergency vehicles;
10. Water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer services be provided in accordance with the Town of Amherst Subdivision Bylaw & Development Standards and the National Building Code;
11. Storm water on the site be channeled so as to not impact adjacent properties and so as not to flow directly onto adjacent public streets and sidewalks;
12. Signage on the property be limited to one free standing sign a maximum of 1.6 square metres in size and one fascia wall sign with a maximum height of 0.6 metres. Such signage are not to be internally illuminated;
13. Usual residential outdoor recreation apparatus shall be permitted on the property, subject to the applicable town bylaws and regulations;
14. Garbage pickup will be private, and the responsibility of the owner;
15. Landscaping will be provided in accordance with the following:
 - a. A one metre high evergreen buffer be planted along the entire length of any property line adjacent to at grade surface parking;
 - b. A minimum of 3 deciduous trees be planted at approximately equal intervals along the East Victoria Street frontage of the property, such trees to be a minimum of 1.5 in height at the time of planting.
 - c. A minimum of 8 shrubs or trees be planted along South Adelaide frontage of the property, or two 'flower gardens' be planted in the front yard.
 - d. Grass or other suitable landscaping material be maintained in all areas of the property not utilized for buildings, parking or walkways.
 - e. Such planting is to take place within one growing season of the construction of the said unit.
 - f. Existing trees on the property which are maintained after the development may be used to offset the number of trees / shrubs required above.

b) 171 Willow Street - Long Term Care Facility, RFD#2008017

Councillor Fawthrop stepped down from his seat at the Council table and did not Participate in the discussion or voting on this issue.

Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council give first reading to the proposed development agreement for a 36 bed long term care facility and a 130 unit integrated retirement community on property located at 171 Willow Street as recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee and that a Public Hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Case No. DA-2008-02

This Agreement made this _____ Day of _____ 2008.

Between: Shannex Healthcare Owners of property located at 171 Willow Street (PID _____), hereinafter called the Owners

Of the one part

- and-

The Town of Amherst, a body corporate hereinafter called the Town

Of the other part

WHEREAS the Owner wishes to obtain permission pursuant to Policy RP-18 of the Municipal Planning Strategy of the Town of Amherst, to construct a 36 bed long term care facility and integrated 130 unit retirement community on property located at 171 Willow Street.

AND WHEREAS a condition of the granting of approval of Council is that the Owner enter into an agreement with the Town;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town, at its meeting on the _____ Day of _____ 2008, approved the said development agreement subject to the registered owner of the land described herein entering into this agreement;

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH THAT in consideration of the granting by the Town of the development agreement requested by the Owner, the Owner agrees as follows:

- 1) That the Owner is the registered owner of the aforesaid lands in the Town of Amherst, hereinafter called the lands. The aforesaid lots are the only lands in the Town of Amherst to which this agreement applies, and the lands are illustrated in the plan shown on Schedule B attached hereto and forming part of this agreement.
- 2) That the owner may construct a 36 bed long term care facility and integrated 130 unit retirement community for a total of 166 residential units on the said lands, subject to the following Schedules A, B, C, D, E and F attached.
- 3) Any failure of the Town to insist upon strict enforcement of any requirements or conditions contained in this agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any rights or remedies that the Town may have and shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach or default in the conditions or requirements contained in this agreement.
- 4) Should the owner fail to act in accordance with any aspect of this agreement, the Town shall retain the right to discharge the agreement upon 30 days notification and / or enter the property and conduct the required work. The cost of the said work will become a lien on the property tax bill.
- 5) The Town shall issue the necessary permit for the development upon the expiration of the appeal period specified for development agreements in the Municipal Government Act, Section 249 , as the same may be amended from time to time, or upon the withdrawal or dismissal of any appeal which may be taken.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED
in the presence of

FOR THE TOWN OF AMHERST
Jerry Hallee, Mayo
Gregory D. Herrett, CAO

FOR THE OWNER
Jason Shannon

Schedule A171 Willow Street - Development Agreement

Terms and Conditions:

1. The use of the property be limited to the following:
 - a. a one storey 36 bed long term care facility;
 - b. a three storey, 40 unit, retirement apartment building;
 - c. a three storey, 70 unit, assisted living retirement building;
 - d. five, 4 unit townhouses;
2. The location of the buildings be in accordance with Schedule B;
3. Street access be limited to two access points on Willow Street and one access point on East Pleasant Street, and be substantially in accordance with the attached Schedule B, and to the satisfaction of the Development Officer;
4. All internal access roads, driveway and parking areas be maintained with asphalt and kept clear of snow and otherwise be unobstructed at all times so as to be passable by emergency vehicles;
5. Parking facilities be located in accordance with attached Schedule B, and more specifically provide:
 - a. 40 spaces at the rear of the long term care facility;
 - b. 19 spaces at the front of the long term care facility, labeled "Visitor Parking"
 - c. 14 spaces at the front of the retirement apartment building, labeled "Visitor Parking"
 - d. 19 spaces at the north of the retirement apartment building;
 - e. 40 underground parking spaces in the retirement apartment building;
 - f. 5 spaces for each of the townhouse buildings;
6. A 1.2 metre high vegetation buffer be planted along the north east and north west edges of the parking lot behind 167 Willow Street and the south and east edge of the parking lot behind 152 and 154 East Pleasant Street. This buffer shall be designed to avoid headlight glare on the adjacent residential properties.
7. The exterior design of the buildings shall be generally in accordance with Schedules C, D and E. The Townhouses shall be one storey in height and compliment the other buildings on the site;
8. The exterior cladding of all buildings shall be some combination of stone, brick, cement composite boards or stucco and generally in accordance with Schedules C, D and E.
9. Water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer services be provided in accordance with the Town of Amherst Subdivision Bylaw & Development Standards and the National Building Code;
10. A storm water management plan be conducted by a qualified professional, and implemented during construction of the development. This plan is to ensure that storm water on the site is channeled so as to not impact adjacent properties and so as not to flow directly onto adjacent public streets and sidewalks. Furthermore, this plan is to ensure that peak storm water flows on the site do not increase from their current levels.
11. Signage on the property be in accordance with attached schedule F and additional directional signage be permitted as per the Land Use Bylaw;
12. Usual residential outdoor recreation apparatus shall be permitted on the property, subject to the applicable town bylaws and regulations;
13. Garbage pickup will be private, and the responsibility of the owner;
14. Landscaping will be provided in accordance with the following:
 - a. A minimum of 10 shrubs be planted in the front of each of the three main buildings on the property;
 - b. A minimum of 3 deciduous trees be planted in the front of each of the three main buildings, such trees to be a minimum of 1.5 in height at the time of planting.
 - c. Grass or other suitable landscaping material be maintained in all areas of the property not utilized for buildings, parking or walkways
 - d. All required planting is to take place within one growing season of the construction of the said unit.

4.8 Amend Capital Budget - Ice Dams - Amherst Stadium, RFD#2008119

Moved by Councillor Angel, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council amend the 2007/2008 Capital Budget to provide for the purchase of 256 ice dams from Fitz construction at a price of \$6,212.50 plus HST, to be placed on the snow fencing on the existing Amherst Stadium roof.

MOTION CARRIED

4.9 March Council Meeting - RFD#200800

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rhindress that Council change the date of its regular meeting from March 24, 2008 to March 31, 2008, due to the Easter holiday.

MOTION CARRIED

4.10 Democracy 250 - CREDA Committee, RFD#2008021

Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Councillor Angel that Council appoint Councillor Dale Fawthrop to the Regional *Democracy 250* Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

4.11 CJSMA Budget 2008-2008, RFD#2008022

Moved by Councillor March seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council approve the 2009-09 Operating and Capital Budgets of the CJSMA as presented, and as recommended by the CAO Advisory Committee

MOTION CARRIED

4.12 Returning Office, 2008 Municipal Election - RFD#2008023

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council appoint Kimberlee Jones as Returning Officer for the 2008 Municipal Election.

MOTION CARRIED

4.13 Construction Safety Association Certification - RFD#2008024

Moved by Councillor Angel, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rhindress that the Town of Amherst require all construction contractors who work for the Town to obtain a Letter of Good Standing from either the Nova Scotia or New Brunswick Construction Safety Association.

MOTION CARRIED

5. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**5.1 Deregistration of Heritage Property - 192 East Victoria Street

The following resolution was moved by Councillor March and seconded by Councillor Angel:

WHEREAS the owner or property located at 192 East Victoria Street had applied to have the property de-registered from the Town's list of registered heritage properties; and

WHEREAS Council, at its January 28, 2008 meeting defeated a motion recommended by the Heritage Advisory Committee to deny the request to de-register the property; and

WHEREAS, in order to clarify Council's intent on that matter,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the property located at 192 East Victoria be removed from the Town of Amherst list of registered heritage properties.

**MOTION CARRIED 6-1
NAY: COUNCILLOR CHITTY**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Angel that the CAO draft a resolution for Council's approval for submission to the fall conference of the UNSM proposing a review of the Heritage Property Act.

MOTION CARRIED

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Community & Economic Development

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor March that Council accept the following monthly report from the Community & Economic Development Department.

MOTION CARRIED

Facilities Operations

The Amherst Stadium continues to be busy as we conclude the regular season schedule for the Amherst Ramblers. Playoffs will commence on March 1st which equates to larger numbers of spectators and more demands on the facility and staff. Work on the stadium is progressing well and we anticipate being fully operational using the front entrance and second floor sometime during the week of March 3rd. While the project will be substantially completed at that time, there will no doubt be various deficiencies that will need the attention of the contractor over the following month or so.

Staff has started to plan forward to the spring and operational issues related parks, playground, athletic fields and green areas in the Town. We have recently requested quotes for flowers and will again work partners such as the Rotary Club, Lions Club and DARS to address their commitments for the coming year.

Athletic Achievement Awards

The Town of Amherst has hosted the Athletic Achievement Awards on Wednesday February 20, 2008 at the Tantramar Theatre. This event provides Mayor and Council with an opportunity to formally recognize individuals and teams who have accomplished a provincial or higher championship or honor during the past calendar year. Once again we have a very good attendance and congratulate all who were recognized for their achievements.

6.2 Corporate Services Department Monthly Report

Moved by Councillor March seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council accept the following monthly report from the Corporate Services Department.

MOTION CARRIED

MONTHLY EXPENDITURES

Expenditures during the month of January 2008 totaled \$1,022,934 compared to \$1,011,208 for the same month last year.

Cost centers	January 2008	January 2007
***** Corporate Services	253,692.54	281,306.47
***** Amherst Police Department	206,850.34	197,740.36
***** Amherst Fire Department	86,361.69	96,757.83
***** Operational Services	276,829.46	224,228.00
***** Planning Department	19,025.55	30,892.52
***** Community & Economic Department	87,746.80	100,971.15
***** Water	92,427.31	79,311.98
TOTAL	1,022,933.69	1,011,208.31

OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Total amount owing to the Town at the end of January 2008 was \$1,248,508

	January-08			January-07		
	Current	Prior	Total	Current	Prior	Total
Taxes & Other	402,166	348,370	750,536	542,919	307,201	850,120
Sewer Taxes	183,331	23,607	206,937	183,695	9,990	193,685
Water Taxes	251,401	39,633	291,034	244,537	33,711	278,248
	<u>836,898</u>	<u>411,610</u>	1,248,508	<u>971,151</u>	<u>350,902</u>	1,322,053

YEARLY OPERATING STATEMENT

As of January 31, 2008 we are ten months into our fiscal year. Our total revenue to date is \$13,526,584 compared to the budgeted amount of \$13,488,182. Our total expenditures to date are \$10,863,077 compared to the budgeted amount of \$11,414,529 a difference of \$551,522 under budget. In general all departments are under budget for expenditures.

Yearly Operating Statement - April 1 to January 31, 2008 :

	YTD	Budget	Variance	%
Corporate Services				
Revenue	\$3,903,423	\$3,787,830	\$115,593	103.05%
Expenditure	(2,791,931)	(2,906,263)	114,332	96.07%
Net Contribution	1,111,492	881,567	229,925	
Police Department				
Revenue	\$2,688,209	\$2,729,689	(\$41,480)	98.48%
Expenditure	(2,025,964)	(2,243,856)	217,893	90.29%
Net Contribution	662,246	485,833	176,413	
Fire Department				
Revenue	\$1,430,229	\$1,395,223	\$35,006	102.51%
Expenditure	(1,142,707)	(1,205,990)	63,283	94.75%
Net Contribution	287,522	189,233	98,289	
Operational Services				
Revenue	\$3,805,923	\$3,808,343	(\$2,420)	99.94%
Expenditure	(3,488,176)	(3,465,822)	(22,354)	100.64%
Net Contribution	317,747	342,521	(24,773)	
Planning & Development				
Revenue	\$375,944	\$343,858	\$32,086	109.33%
Expenditure	(235,936)	(303,623)	67,687	77.71%
Net Contribution	140,008	40,236	99,773	
Community & Economic Development				
Revenue	\$1,322,855	\$1,423,239	(\$100,384)	92.95%
Expenditure	(1,178,294)	(1,288,975)	110,681	91.41%
Net Contribution	144,561	134,264	10,297	
Grand Totals				
Revenue	\$13,526,584	\$13,488,182	\$38,401	100.28%
Expenditure	(10,863,007)	(11,414,529)	551,522	95.17%
Net Contribution	2,663,576	2,073,653	589,923	128.45%

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

A tax sale was held on February 1st, with three properties remaining on the list. Bids were received on just one of the three, vacant land at 193 Willow Street, which went for just over \$2,000 more than the taxes and costs. This property is non-redeemable and a tax sale deed has been requested. 12 Dundonald St. was put up for tender closing on February 13, 2008. No bids were received.

Arrears notices went sent out in January and the front desk was busy receiving payments and inquiries. As mentioned last month, the Town's Revenue Officer will be taking a Maternity/Parental Leave at the end of February. At the same time, the Executive Assistant of Corporate Services will be retiring after over 27 years of service. An internal competition was conducted for the latter, and Ann Porter has accepted the Executive Assistant position. That left the Revenue Officer's term position open and an open competition took place. Molly Rose-Smith was the successful applicant and she began training on January 11th. Ann Porter has been cross-training in the Revenue Officer position, training the new term water/sewer billing clerk, and receiving an introduction to the Executive Assistant's tasks prior to month end, when she will take up that position full time.

The quarterly water/sewer billing went out in the mail on January 31st and is due by February 29th. The co-operation of all those involved in the accommodation of the staff changes in the Corporate Services Department is greatly appreciated. Service to the public remains the number one goal of our staff.

6.3 Fire Department Monthly Report

Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council adopt the following monthly report from the Amherst Fire Department.

MOTION CARRIED

ALARM RESPONSES:

During the reporting period from January 13/08 – February 13/08 our Fire Department responded to 16 calls in the Town of Amherst and 6 call to the County coverage area. The calls in Town, consisted of structure fires, alarm equipment malfunction, assists to other agencies, and motor vehicle accident. The calls to the County coverage area consisted of alarm equipment malfunctions, chimney fire, assists to other agencies and motor vehicle accidents.

TRAINING & Department Activities:

The February training schedule is going well and covers weekly training on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus use and maintenance, Heavy Hydraulics equipment use and maintenance, Fire Ground Operations and inventory control. On February 09/08, eight of our firefighters attended a Hazmat Expo in Bible Hill with all members returning with certificates on CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear explosive training).

FIRE PREVENTION:

Our Fire Inspections are proceeding as scheduled and we are very pleased with the cooperation we are receiving from the property owners in Amherst, Oxford and Parrsboro.

EMERGENCY MEASURES:

Chief Crossman, our emergency management coordinator has registered eight people for the Basic Emergency Management Course, 2 people for the Emergency Public Information Course, 2 people for the Emergency Operations Centre Course and 2 people for the Emergency Site Managers Course. All of these courses are to be held at the Wandlyn Inn in West Amherst during March and April. Vince Arbing has been registered to attend a course in Dartmouth this month for training on Business Continuity Management. All of this training is essential to maintaining the Town of Amherst's Emergency Plan.

6.4 Operational Services Department Monthly Report

Moved by Councillor Angel, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council adopt the following monthly report from the Operational Services Department.

MOTION CARRIED

In January snow removal and salting was again a major issue. The Town received 91cm of snow during the month. This is more than the two previous Januarys combined.

During a severe winter like this year's, our Department receives a number of questions and critical comments regarding snow plowing and snow removal. Council has established policies which govern our winter storm maintenance work, and we do our best to carry out our work in accordance with these policies.

This winter is having a significant impact on the snow budget. As of January 31, 2008 Operational Services is over budget in our snow removal cost center by \$45,000. If this trend continues we will be over budget by \$75,000 at the end of this fiscal year. This cost center includes labor, overtime, fuel, salt, contracted parking lot snow removal and contracted trucks and a snow blower used during downtown and major streets snow cleanup.

In a typical year we will normally have about 12 water main breaks, this winter we have had 14 to date. Water main breaks are normally caused when there is ground movement caused by frost. This year we have been having frequent freeze and thaw cycles, and further water main breaks are expected.

Another consequence of the frequent freeze/thaw cycles is deterioration of our asphalt streets resulting in potholes and rough street surfaces. On days when we are not plowing snow we have one crew working full time putting cold mix asphalt in pot holes. This material is a very temporary fix and often is broken apart during the next freeze/thaw cycle.

The proposed South Albion Street reconstruction project is nearly ready for tender. We plan on tendering the sanitary sewer and storm sewer replacement along with street reconstruction, including repaving from Robert Angus Drive to Costin Drive, as one project. Staff has the design completed and plans to have tender documents ready in time to go to tender this week, with a tender close date of March 20, 2008. We also plan on organizing an information session drop in at the Fire Hall on March 4 from 4:00p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for all business owners along this section of South Albion Street. This project is being put to tender at this time with the condition that the acceptance of the tender is subject to approval of the funding for the project by Council, as well as the normal conditions. It is important that the project be tendered at this time to allow for preparation for all involved.

On the Stadium renovations project, our general contractor, Flagship Construction, has informed us the scheduled substantial completion date for this project is March 7, with deficiency clean up following this date.

Councillor Fawthrop suggested that business owners and residents who will be affected by this planned reconstruction be contacted directly to attend the information session on the South Albion project. Councillor Angel assured him that it is the intention of the Operational Services department to do so. Councillor Chitty questioned the logic in scheduling a meeting before the plans were approved in the upcoming capital budget.

6.5 Planning and Development Department Monthly Report

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council adopt the following monthly report from the Planning and Development Department:

MOTION CARRIED

Building Activity

As of January 31, 2008 the total value of building permits issued in the Town was **\$12,204,349**. Significant permits issued for the month of January include a conversion of office space to 3 apartments at 134 Victoria Street (above Coldwell Banker), a major renovation at the Price Chopper retail outlet, and a renovation to the former Co-op store for another retailer. So far this year 81 dwellings have been constructed in the Town.

Dangerous and Unsightly Premises

No new complaint have been received. Staff continue to work towards resolving any outstanding files.

Variance Updates

There were no variances issued during the month of January.

Staffing

Tim Lefurgey, one of our Development Officers and Building Inspectors, will be off work for a few months while dealing with a very serious illness. We wish Tim a successful and speedy recovery. Staff are currently considering our options for a short term replacement. In the meantime, Monty Maddison, our Building Inspector, has taken on the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises duties, while Andrew Milton has taken on the continued development of our new building permit software.

171 Willow Street Development Agreement

A public participation session was held for the proposed 166 unit retirement community / long term care facility to be located at 171 Willow Street. A number of questions were asked by members of the public in attendance. Staff believe that the issues raised were addressed satisfactorily, and no direct opposition to the development was raised.

Other Developments

Staff continue to work with a number of developers interested in developing various properties throughout the Town.

6.6 Police Department Monthly Report

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council adopt the following monthly report from the Amherst Police Department:

MOTION CARRIED

Personnel

Kim Davison remains off duty.

Training

Six members of the department have enrolled in Dalhousie's Henson College Police Leadership courses for the winter semester. Cst. Phil Miller and Cst. John Haggerty attended a three day Forensic Interviewing course hosted by the Amherst Detachment of the R.C.M.P.

Radio System

The Amherst Police Department recently tested Motorola's new digital MOTOTRBO (pronounced Moto-turbo) radio system. Downeast Communications supplied the department with a temporary repeater, portables and mobile radios for a two week period, to determine the effectiveness of this digital system. Tests concluded that this system is indeed an improvement over the VHS radio system currently in use.

AVL

Aliant also provided our department with a two week test of its Fleet Freedom AVL system. We were very pleased with this user-friendly product and experienced no errors or concerns during the trial period.

Operation Christmas

The annual Provincial kick-off of "Operation Christmas" was held on November 29th 2007 in Springhill. Our department participated in this event. Checkpoints for the Amherst Police Department began that day and continued throughout the Christmas season.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Deputy Mayor Rhindress the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

APPROVED:

Gregory D. Herrett, CA
Chief Administrative Officer

Jerry Hallee
Mayor

AGENDA

1.	O'CANADA	
2.	HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS	
3.	CALL TO ORDER	
4.	ACTION ITEMS	RFD
4.1	Additions to Agenda	--
4.2	Approval of Agenda	--
4.3	Approval of Minutes – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 28, 2008 Regular Meeting • February 2, 2008 Regular Meeting 	
4.4	Financial Support - Midget Minor AAA Hockey Provincials	2008013
4.5	Financial Support - Ron Elliott Memorial Tournament	2008014
4.6	Funding application for Canada Day	2008015
4.7	Development Agreements at First Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 155 East Victoria Street - 32 Unit Condominium • 171 Willow Street - Long Term Care Facility 	2008016 2008017
4.8	Amend Capital Budget - Stadium - Ice Dams	2008019
4.9	March Council Meeting (Easter Monday)	2008020
4.10	Democracy 250 - CREDA Committee	2008021
4.11	CJSMA Budget 2008-2009	2008022
4.12	Returning Officer, 2008 Municipal Election	2008023
4.13	Construction Safety Association Certification	2008024
5.	ADDITIONAL ITEMS	
5.1	<i>Deregistration of Heritage Property - 192 East Victoria Street</i>	
6.	DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS	
6.1	Community & Economic Development	
6.2	Corporate Services	
6.3	Fire	
6.4	Operational Services	
6.5	Planning & Development	
6.6	Police	
7.	ADJOURNMENT	