

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Amherst Town Council  
Held in Council Chambers  
Monday, September 29, 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

Councillor Angel requested that "Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce" be added to the Agenda as item 5.1.

4.2 Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Councillor Chitty seconded by Councillor Fawthrop to approve the agenda with the addition of Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

4.3 Approval of Minutes

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress seconded by Councillor Baker to approve following Council meeting minutes as distributed:**

- June 23, 2008 Regular Meeting
- July 16, 2008 Special Meeting
- September 3, 2008 Special Meeting
- September 4, 2008 Special Meeting

**MOTION CARRIED**

4.4 By-Laws / Development Agreements

1) By-Law to Amend Emergency measures By-Law, Second Reading, RFDE2008092

**Moved by Councillor Chitty seconded by Councillor March that Council approve Second Reading of a By-Law to Amend the Amherst Emergency Measures By-Law, C-8-A.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Town of Amherst**

A By-law to amend the Amherst Emergency Measures By-Law C-8

1. This by-law is entitled "A By-law to Amend the Amherst Emergency Measures By-law". The Amherst Emergency Measures By-law (C-8) was approved by Council on February 16, 2004, and by the Minister of EMO (NS) on May 19, 2004.
2. Amend the words "Emergency Measures" through out the By-law to read "Emergency Management".

2) Development Agreement – 82 Willow Street -1<sup>st</sup> Reading, RFD#2008091

**Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council approve First Reading of a Development Agreement with Amherst and Area Residential Services Society for an eight-bed long term care facility at 82 Willow Street, as recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee.**

On discussion on the main motion, Councillor March added the following motion:

**Moved by Councillor March seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that the Development Agreement recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee be amended to include a two-meter landscaped buffer along the common property lines of the two adjacent property owners and to change the easements to reflect the location of the proposed driveway.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED WITH THE AMENDMENT**

4.5 Audited Financial Statements, RFD#2008095

The CAO presented the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2008, and reviewed them outlining the following:

- How the Town's actual revenues and expenditures were compared to the budget with an overall positive result of \$23,709; The Water Utility had a positive result of \$78,834.
- What the issues were that resulted in any significant discrepancies, both positive and negative;
- How much do we owe? Long term debt for General and Water capital is \$4.3 million, which is within the prescribed level debt service to own source revenue as identified by SNSMR.
- What do we have set aside for the future? The CAO referred to page 23 of the financial statements. The capital has \$1.3 million, the majority of which is set aside for the future Sewage Treatment Plant, which is as a result of the \$23 surcharge and the federal Gas Tax fund. The operating reserve balance is \$322,907, made up mostly of unappropriated reserved fund equity. He briefly described the order from the superintendent of Pensions to fund the deficiency in the PANS Pension Plan, our share of which is \$1,013,000, which was withdrawn from the operating reserve. He pointed out that the expenditure is funded from a withdrawal from reserves, as it was rated for and reserved over the last five year.

Gary Bickerton, presented the Auditor's Report, which he described as an unqualified report, stating that it is the auditor's opinion that the statements present fairly in all material respects. He pointed out that this year, Town staff prepared the statements, which were then audited by Jorgensen Bickerton.

**Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council Council accept the Consolidated Financial Statements for the Town of Amherst to March 31, 2008 which have been audited by Gary Bickerton, CA from the firm of Jorgensen & Bickerton, as recommended by the Audit Committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council re-appoint the firm Jorgensen Bickerton as the Auditors for the Town for the fiscal year April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009 as recommended by the Audit committee.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councillor Chitty congratulated staff for their work on preparation of the statements, and as well, for the manner in which they managed the finances of the Town.

4.6 Citizen Appointee to the Heritage Advisory Committee, RFD#2008090

**Moved by Councillor Angel, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council approve the following appointments to the Town of Amherst Heritage Advisory Committee:**

**Gil Collicott to a three year term effective October 1, 2008**

**Jim Kerr to a two year term effective October 1, 2008**

**Avis Chapman to a one year term effective October 1, 2008**

**MOTION CARRIED**

4.7 Citizen Appointee to the Planning Advisory Committee, RFD#2008087

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council approve the following appointments to the Town of Amherst Planning Advisory Committee:**

**Terry Farrell to a three year term effective October 1, 2008**

**Joe LeFurgey to a two year term effective October 1, 2008**

**Wayne Berry to a one year term effective October 1, 2008**

**MOTION CARRIED**

4.8 Appointment of Development Officer – Jeremy Fenton, RFD#2008093

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Angel that Council appoint Jeremy Fenton as Development Officer for the Town of Amherst.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

4.9 LED Street Lights in Industrial Park, RFD#2008094

**Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rhindress that the Town of Amherst submit funding applications under the Municipal Clean Air and Climate Change Program and the FCM Green Municipal Fund for conversion of our existing mercury vapor street lights in the Amherst Industrial Park to LED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

The CAO pointed out that this is authority to start the process of funding applications, not to commence installation of LED lights.

4.10 October Council Meeting, RFD#20080997

**Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Baker that the regular meeting of Council scheduled for October 27, 2008 be cancelled, and that a special meeting be convened if necessary to address any issues which may arise prior to the next regular meeting, scheduled for November 24, 2008.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

4.11 Organizational Changes and Amendment to the Salary Administration Policy

**Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Baker that the Salary Administration Policy be amended as follows:**

- 1) **That the position of “Director of Planning and Development” be amended to “Director of Planning and Engineering” and moved from Salary Level 10 to Salary Level 11 ;**
- 2) **That the following positions be eliminated from the Job Classification List:  
Operations Manager; and  
Incumbent Town Engineer**
- 3) **That the position of “Director of Transportation and Public Works” be created and placed at Salary Level 11.**
- 4) **That the position of “Administrative Assistant to the CAO – Policy, Research, Human Resources and Special Projects” be created and added to the Job Classification List and placed at Salary Level 6**

**AND FURTHER,**

**That That Mr. Ben Pitman, P. Eng., be appointed to the position of “Director of Transportation and Public Works.”**

**MOTION CARRIED**

5. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**5.1 Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce

Councillor Angel reported that the annual Christmas Light Up Ceremony will be held Friday, November 21, with the Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 22. The Chamber is planning a gala event, Excellence Award Evening on October 23, 2008 at the Wandyn Inn. The Chamber is calling for nominations in a number of categories to receive awards at that event.

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**6.1 Community and Economic Development Department Monthly Report

**Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council accept the following report from the Community and Economic Development Department:**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Facility Operations

The Town's mowing and maintenance program continues. The weather during August and September has kept us very busy and there has been difficulty getting equipment into areas that are soft because of the all the water in the soil. Activities at Robb's Complex have just concluded for the year and we will begin preparing the parks for winter by mid October. Staff commenced making ice at that Stadium on August 8<sup>th</sup> and we were ready for users on August 18<sup>th</sup> with the Rambler Hockey School commencing. On September 13<sup>th</sup> an official "reopening ceremony" was held at that stadium prior to the Rambler Home Opener. Users appear to be pleased with the renovations at the Stadium. The walking track is being used more as the weather cools down. The Stadium is now open daily from 8am to 9pm and effective October 6, we will be opening at 7am daily for those wishing to use the walking track.

### 2008 Summer Program

We have had a very successful year with our summer program activities. Our playground program registered 120 children; tennis program had 36 registrants; 172 youth in the instructional swim program; and 440 registered for the recreational swim program. Our senior programs saw 120 individuals take part in 3 tours during the summer. In addition, 131 youth participated in 4 summer program trips. This year again we were very fortunate to partner with the Tim Horton's Camp for a day camp in which we had 50 participants and 20 involved in a 2 day camp in August.

### Visitors Information Centre

Once again this year, the Town partnered with the Province of Nova Scotia providing information services at the Provincial Visitors Information Centre. Our staff provides overall information related to Nova Scotia however, they also staff the Amherst Kiosk and provide information on Amherst to visitors. During July and August, our staff counseled 6,972 visitors.

### Business Development

In partnership with CREDA, Industry Canada and the NS Department of Economic Development, Novus Consulting has been contracted to develop a five year market identification and attraction strategy for the aerospace, metal fabrication and wholesale distribution industries in the region.

The project objectives are:

- 1) to position and promote Amherst as a strategic location for expansion and investment in the distribution sector;
- 2) to position and promote Amherst for increased investment and activity related to the aerospace sector;
- 3) to position and promote the Cumberland region as conducive to attracting metal fabrication industries and investment.

The study is to be completed by year end.

## 6.2 Corporate Services Department Monthly Report

**Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council accept the following report from the Corporate Services Department:**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### MONTHLY EXPENDITURES

Expenditures during the month of June, July & Aug 2008 totaled \$3,531,039 compared to \$3,368,999 for the same months last year.

Cost centers	June, July, Aug 08	June, July, Aug 07	Variance
***** Corporate Services	\$797,214	\$783,289	\$13,925
***** Amherst Police Dept	658,060	577,190	80,870
***** Amherst Fire Dept	307,094	315,177	-8,083
***** Operational Services	965,429	914,446	50,983
***** Planning Department	68,141	70,076	-1,935
***** Community & Economic	377,518	363,747	13,771
***** Water	357,583	345,074	12,509
***** <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,531,039</b>	<b>\$3,368,999</b>	<b>\$162,040</b>

### OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Total amount owing to the Town of Amherst at August 31, 2008 was \$6,753,993. The majority of this amount is for the final property tax bills which were recently mailed in late August.

	August-08			August-07		
	Current	Prior	Total	Current	Prior	Total
Taxes	\$5,767,041	\$450,837	\$6,217,879	\$5,615,940	\$530,374	\$6,146,314
Sewer Taxes	\$70,717	\$16,876	\$87,593	\$121,433	\$24,987	\$146,420
Water Taxes	\$82,317	\$23,900	\$106,218	\$138,256	\$45,639	\$183,895
Other	\$30,691	\$311,610	\$342,301	\$3,879	\$7,894	\$11,773
	<b>\$5,950,768</b>	<b>\$803,224</b>	<b>\$6,753,993</b>	<b>\$5,879,508</b>	<b>\$608,894</b>	<b>\$6,488,402</b>

**YEARLY OPERATING STATEMENT**

As of August 31, 2008 we are five months into our fiscal year. Our total revenue to date is \$12,683,621 compared to the budgeted amount of \$12,482,081 a difference of \$201,540 over budget. Our total expenditures to date are \$5,281,853 compared to the budgeted amount of \$5,573,453 a difference of \$291,600 under budget.

**Yearly Operating Statement April 1 to August 31, 2008**

	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>				
Revenue	\$4,021,513	\$3,961,216	\$60,297	101.52%
Expenditure	1,313,379	1,344,943	-31,564	97.65%
Net Contribution	2,708,134	2,616,273	91,861	
<b>Police Department</b>				
Revenue	\$2,572,668	\$2,551,110	21,558	100.85%
Expenditure	1,120,126	1,191,066	-70,940	94.04%
Net Contribution	1,452,542	1,360,044	92,498	
<b>Fire Department</b>				
Revenue	\$1,308,672	\$1,294,459	14,213	101.10%
Expenditure	517,981	557,971	-39,990	92.83%
Net Contribution	790,691	736,488	54,203	
<b>Operational Services</b>				
Revenue	\$3,265,967	\$3,188,749	77,218	102.42%
Expenditure	1,645,993	1,676,688	-30,695	98.17%
Net Contribution	1,619,974	1,512,061	107,913	
<b>Planning &amp; Devmt</b>				
Revenue	\$243,872	\$269,321	-25,449	90.55%
Expenditure	124,085	140,783	-16,698	88.14%
Net Contribution	119,787	128,538	-8,751	
<b>Community &amp; Economic Development</b>				
Revenue	\$1,270,929	\$1,217,226	53,703	104.41%
Expenditure	560,289	662,002	-101,713	84.64%
Net Contribution	710,640	555,224	155,416	
<b>Grand Totals</b>				
Revenue	\$12,683,621	\$12,482,081	\$201,540	101.61%
Expenditure	5,281,853	5,573,453	-291,600	94.77%
Net Contribution	7,401,768	6,908,628	493,140	

**CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

The 2008/09 final property tax bills were mailed out on August 25<sup>th</sup> and are due by Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Town's website continues to be a valuable source of information such as public and community notices, town resources, and media releases. We encourage all citizens to check it out at [www.amherstns.com](http://www.amherstns.com).

6.3 **Fire Department Monthly Report**

**Moved by Councillor Chitty, seconded by Councillor March that Council accept the following monthly report from the Amherst Fire Department:**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ALARM RESPONSES:**

During the reporting period from June 11/08 – September 15/08, our Fire Department responded to 40 calls in the Town of Amherst. These alarms consisted of equipment malfunctions, fuel leaks, motor vehicle accidents and structure fires. On July 7<sup>th</sup> our Hazmat Team was called to respond to a propane tanker overturned on Highway 104 near Barney's River. The reason our team was called to respond that far away was due to the fact that we have a computer software program that no other Hazmat team in the Province uses and it was determined to be necessary for that incident. In addition to the calls to the Town of Amherst our firefighters responded to 9 calls to the County coverage area. These alarms consisted of motor vehicle accidents, household monitored alarms, structure fires, carbon monoxide detection and an electrical fire.

**TRAINING & DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES:**

With the summer months behind us, our regular weekly training has commenced. The schedule for the annual level one training has been developed and an invitation to participate has been offered to all fire departments in Cumberland with some departments already responding advising that they will be sending firefighters to this training. The Amherst Fire Department's Annual Memorial Day is scheduled for Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Assembly will be at the fire station at 9am. The church service will be conducted at the First Baptist Church with a wreath laying ceremony to follow at the Amherst Fire Hall. Our Firefighters are preparing for Fire Prevention Week which will be from October 5 – 11. During that week we will be attempting to reach as many people as possible by visits to the senior's complexes, industry, schools and the general public stressing the importance of fire prevention.

**EMO:**

During the next few months the Town of Amherst Emergency Management Team will be meeting to evaluate and update our emergency plan. When this is completed the Town's web site will have a section where the public can access information on our emergency plan.

**RECRUITMENT:**

Starting in October our fire department will again be implementing a recruitment program with hopes of attracting more people interested in being volunteer firefighters.

6.4 Operational Services Department Monthly Report

**Moved by Councillor Angel, seconded by Councillor Chitty that Council accept the following monthly report from the Operational Services Department:**

**MOTION CARRIED****Water and Sewer Services**

Fifteen water and sewer service contracts were taken out for services on previously developed streets within Town. As these streets are already serviced, complete with water and sewer services installed to the customer's property line, none of them required our installation work. Water and Sewer crews installed services to four new lots on Charles Street between Townshend Avenue and East Pleasant Street. Works crews responded to 5 plugged sewers that required service replacement. Typically, each replacement takes about 6 to 8 hours to repair.

Over 3200 water meters were read during a nine day period starting on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. About forty service locates were completed for Heritage Gas in preparation for gas installation. Each locate requires about 30 minutes to complete. Operational services personnel responded to a total of 61 "Call Outs" for after hour service and main related problems.

**Mains and Structures**

Four manholes and four catch basins required a complete rebuild including foundation, benching, tub, cone section build, backfill and patching. Each rebuild takes a minimum one day construction. There were 13 catch basins that needed major repairs that were completed over the summer. Each of these rebuilds took about a day to complete. Town sewer crews completed 40 sanitary manhole inspections which were added to our existing database for analysis. Each inspection requires 15-20 minutes to complete. Currently there are over 900 manholes in the Town system. Our goal is to inspect 300 every year.

Three water main breaks occurred over the summer. A main break typically takes anywhere from 4 hours to 12 hours to repair. Two of these breaks occurred on the South Albion Street reconstruction project during the installation of the new Sanitary Sewer. Town Water crews assisted Bowers Construction in repairing the water line in both cases. Two hydrants were installed replacing obsolete or broken hydrants. Currently there are 362 public and 57 private hydrants on our system. Ten water main valves were replaced with each replacement taking about four hours. There are currently 790 main line valves in the system and we inspect and exercise about a third of them each year.

Assistance is provided to contractors and developers with the chlorination of large water services and main lines. Over the summer we assisted K.L. Carter in the installation of the water service for the New Toyota Garage on Lord Amherst Drive. Each chlorination project usually takes about 8 hours overall and requires a minimum of two bacterial samples taken twenty four hours apart.

The Nappan Chlorine Booster Station was shut down on August 25, 2008. With the new piping arrangement located at the Reservoir on Willow Street it was believed that the booster station was no longer required. As a test we have shut the Booster Station off and after three weeks the chlorine residual remains well within the normal operating requirements. It is apparent that there may no longer be a need for this booster station to be in operation.

**Personnel**

Two students were hired and completed an orientation program to keep the downtown areas free of debris and weeds. One seasonal employee is currently on extended sick leave after separating his shoulder in May.

**Training**

A First Aid/CPR course was organized for Operational Services and Community & Economic Development employees. A Flagging Course was conducted for Operational Services Employees.

**Patching Program**

Our contractor has completed the initial service cut repairs and some street patching. The contractor has yet to complete 250 tonnes of street patching and asphalt curb repairs.

**Concrete Curb Replacement**

Each year the Town repairs a number of curbs with new concrete curbs, this year we replaced the following locations: East Victoria Street at the Town Boundary, Willow Street at Spring Street, Franklyn Street at Milford Street, Agnew Street at Acadia Street, Abbey Road at East Victoria Street, Regent Street at Elmwood Drive and Townshend Avenue at Charles Street.

**Storm Sewer Replacement**

The storm sewer on Charles Street between Townshend Avenue and East Pleasant Street was completely replaced.

**Unidirectional Flushing Program**

The main line from the Wellfield to Town was cleaned then the Unidirectional Flushing program was conducted to eliminate any remaining dirt between the main line and the Amherst Industrial Park. Lastly a complete flushing of the Amherst mains took place including dead ends. This program took three weeks to complete in June.

6.5 **Planning & Development Department Monthly Report**

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council accept the following monthly report from the Planning & Development Department:**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Organizational Change**

This is the first report produced for the newly re-configured Department of Planning and Engineering Services. Staff are excited about the changes, and are confident that Council will be happy with their decision. Staff are appreciative of the confidence Council has shown in them. Finally, we would like to wish Ron Patterson a long and happy retirement with his wife Carlene and thank him for his dedication and guidance throughout the years.

**Staffing Issues**

In August of this year Tim Peters was hired to fill the vacant Building Inspector position. While originally from the Annapolis Valley, Tim most recently worked as a Building Inspector with the City of Calgary. On September 22 Jeremy Fenton will commence work as a Senior Planner with the Town. Jeremy will be filling the position left vacant with the passing of Tim LeFurgey in August of this year.

**New Development**

Due to our recent staffing issues we do not have up to date detailed statistics on development within the Town. This year to date numbers will be available for the October meeting of Council. However, it is safe to say that residential development remains strong within the Town this year. A number of new homes have been constructed in the Abby Road and Webster Street areas, as well as the former hospital site, along with a number of new mini homes being placed in Southgate Village and Cumberland Ridge. A number of multi-family townhouses have been constructed in the Paradise Avenue and Matthews Terrace areas. In addition a new Toyota automobile dealership is under construction on Lord Amherst Drive as well as the new Bridge Adult Workshop on Station Street.

**Unightly Premises**

This has been a very busy year for the Dangerous and Unightly Premises Administrator. So far to date we have had 36 complaints; 20 of which have been brought into compliance. Eight complaints have resulted in Orders being placed. Furthermore, the Administrator has resolved 16 cases carried over from 2007.

**South Albion Street Reconstruction**

South Albion Street reconstruction is nearing completion. The base coat of asphalt was placed on September 16, 17 and 18th. Bowers' Construction still have some concrete sidewalk, landscaping and other remedial work to complete as well as placement of the finish coat of asphalt by Costin Paving which should be complete by October 1, 2008.

**Gould Street Parking Lot**

The Gould Street parking lot has been constructed by Melanson Trucking and Excavating using gravel and asphalt millings reclaimed from the South Albion Street reconstruction project. Three new street lights have been mounted on surrounding poles and directed towards the parking area for night time visibility. Landscaping will be undertaken shortly. We are hoping for a few more hot days which will harden the surface and make it similar to asphalt. Once this happens lines will be painted showing parking areas and direction arrows into and out of parking lots.

**Amherst Stadium Renovations – Phase III**

This project is now complete. The official re-opening of the Stadium was held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. There are still a number of minor deficiencies to be looked after. These will not affect the operations of the building.

**Eddy Street Lift Station**

During the original set-up and testing of this pumping station, a problem with the connection to the station and the forcemain was discovered. This section has been removed and taken to Moncton for repairs by the contractor, Bastech Construction Ltd. Once this section is repaired and re-installed, the lift station will be tested and become operational.

6.6 Police Department Monthly Report

**Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Deputy Mayor Rhindress that the following monthly report from the Amherst Police Department be accepted:**

**MOTION CARRIED****Training**

Cst. Hunter, Northumberland Street Crime Unit, attended FLIR training in Halifax from July 15 - 17 where he was instructed in the use of Thermal Imaging devices. Thermal imaging systems detect the infrared energy (heat) that is emitted by all people, objects and materials. Infrared cameras allow the operator to see in total darkness, adverse weather and through such air pollutants as smoke and haze. A number of members and staff have enrolled in CPKN (Canadian Police Knowledge Network) on-line training courses. Courses include CPIC query - all new dispatchers, Firearms Identification - all members, Lost Innocence - Cst. Fudge, Missing Child 1<sup>st</sup> Responder - Cst. Lemire, Search & Seizure - Cst. Haggerty.

**Summer Events**

Cadets - Atlantic Police Academy cadets Pierre Collette, Ryan O'Toole and Elward McMackin completed the OJT portion of their Police Science program at our department this summer, under the direction of several experienced members. As noted above, Cst's Collette and O'Toole recently were hired here on a full time basis. Relay For Life - This year's event which was again well-organized and attended, saw regular patrols by Amherst Police officers. The event was peaceful and no serious problems were noted by officers.

**Community Officer**

In August, Cst. Smith attended the Crime Prevention Conference in Charlottetown, PEI., hosted by the ASI (Atlantic Summer Institute). This year's theme was "Reading Between the Lines: Health, Safety and Literacy". The ASI is supported by Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy, and is a learning institute with a curriculum that offers a certificate of participation. Last year Cst. Smith took the first certificate course on Leadership "The Foundation". This year he took the second step "Application".

All Amherst schools were visited prior to the school year, to ensure that proper signage is in place. In order to address parking concerns at the Spring Street Academy, drop off and pick up zones have been established on Charles and Academy Streets. The Handicapped Bus Zone has been improved for better access. All crosswalks have been repainted for better visibility. "No Parking" zones have been erected on Academy Street between Queen and Dickey on the west side. "No parking" signs have also been erected on Clinton Street on the north side.

**Northumberland Street Crime Unit**

This Unit had a very active summer. Hours of surveillance were conducted, sources identified and secured and search warrants executed. Investigations resulted in the seizure of a quantity of drugs, illegal tobacco products and stolen goods. Cooperation with other local police agencies, along with Revenue Canada Excise resulted in approximately 13 persons being charged with offences.

**Major Crime Unit**

A lengthy investigation into computer related fraud has resulted in two persons being charged with one count of fraud over \$5,000, along with 96 charges of "Personation". A court hearing is pending for October.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjournment, Mayor Hallee addressed Council, advising that this would be his last Council meeting. In reflecting to the first time he was elected, wondering what the expectations of the public were, having never been in politics before. He said he was naïve and inexperienced, and that the CAO at the time, Ed Childs gave him guidance. He came to realize that the best way to have this Town grow was to attract business to start up here. By changing the image of the Town, Weston Foods, Gordon Food Services, Maritime Pride Eggs, Steneck, Staples Fulfillment Centre, C-vision, Vidabode, Atlantic Windows. Poly Cello and IMP increased their facilities and number of employees; expansion in the retail sector as well, and Tele Tech; Walmart, Superstore, Kent;

NS Transportation and Public Works built a new facility in the Industrial park; Condominium approval; Cooperation Agreement with the County will promote our community and move us forward. Council has worked hard together to advance this Town. A lot of credit goes to the high caliber staff. Ron Patterson's retirement; Greg Herrett is a very good CAO – well organized, good communicator, does things well. Thanks to Rebecca for 11 years. Thank the citizens of Amherst for the opportunity and privilege to work for this Town. It's not enough to have good staff, it's up to the voters to elect six councilors. He suggested diversity on council, including women.

Councillor Chitty thanked the mayor and congratulated him for leadership over the last 11 years; he had been a supporter of this Town from the beginning, and that the Council has supported him. It is not a one-man band, Council is a team and makes decisions based on what each Councillor believes is the best for the Town.

Councillor Baker also expressed appreciation for having worked with the mayor and for having moved the town forward.

Councillor March thanked the Mayor for his inspiration for the Town of Amherst.

Councillor Fawthrop, looking back over the history of Amherst pointed out that he is the longest serving mayor

Deputy Mayor Rhindress thanked the mayor, stating that he will be missed, but that the Town has moved forward very well over the past 11 years.

Councillor Angel thanked the mayor for his leadership as well and wished him all the best in the future.

The CAO thanked the mayor on behalf of staff past and present.

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

**APPROVED BY:**

**Gregory D. Herrett, CA**  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Mayor**

**Amherst Town Council**  
**Monday, September 29, 2008**  
**AGENDA**

1.	<b>O'CANADA</b>
2.	<b>HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS</b>
3.	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
4.	<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>
4.1	Additions to Agenda
4.2	Approval of Agenda
4.3	Approval of Minutes – May26, 2008 Regular Meeting
4.4	By-Laws / Development Agreements
	a) Heritage By-Law, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
	b) By-Law to Repeal Election Deposit By-Law – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
	c) By-Law to Amend Emergency Measures By-Law – 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
	d) By-Law to Amend Land Use By-Law (11 Elmwood Dr) – 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
4.5	Policy: Violence in the Workplace, #04500-02
4.6	Request from Mothers of Angels – Memorial Park
4.7	Request from Amherst Aerials Gymnastics – Financial Assistance
4.8	Request from Cumberland Early Intervention – Grants to Organizations
4.9	Town-YMCA Operating Agreement re Summer Swim Program
4.10	Summer Council Meetings
4.11	Tenders
	a) Downtown Waste Receptacles
	b) Painting Stadium Beams
4.12	Special Resolution – CJSMA - Monitoring Wells
4.13	Ottawa Avenue – Petition to Remove Blockade – Follow Up
5.	<b>ADDITIONAL ITEMS</b>
5.1	Chamber of Commerce
6.	<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>
6.1	Community & Economic Development
6.2	Corporate Services
6.3	Fire
6.4	Operational Services
6.5	Planning & Development
6.6	Police
7.	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>