

**Amherst Town Council
Special Meeting
Minutes**

Date: June 7, 2021
Time: 5:00 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, Interim CAO
Michael Hunter, Chief Financial Officer
Dwayne Pike, Police Chief
Greg Jones, Fire Chief
Andrew Fisher, Manager of Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Sarah Wilson, Senior Accountant
Cheryl Laliberte, Community Well-Being Manager
Aaron Bourgeois, Operations Manager
Tom McCoag, Corporate Communications Officer
Kim Jones, Municipal Clerk
Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

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.

1.1 Interim CAO's Comments

The Interim CAO gave his budget comments.

1.2 Mayor's Comments

The Mayor gave his budget comments.

2. BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

2.1 Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures

Moved By Councillor Baker

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

THAT Council accepts the following estimates of the sums required by the Town of Amherst for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2022, prepared in accordance with Section 72 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Revenues	
Taxes	\$ 13,789,966
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	290,610
Services Provided to Other Local Gov't	197,891
Sale of Services	1,469,374
Other Revenue from Own Sources	699,147
Unconditional Transfer	1,260,382
Conditional Transfers	338,200
Other Transfers	547,340
Total Revenues	\$ 18,592,910

Expenditures	
Corporate Services	\$ 2,643,339
Police	4,554,907
Fire	1,829,540
Economic Development	234,303
Recreation Facilities	1,457,339
Community Well Being	463,726
Operations	2,455,701
Planning	118,734
Strategic	200,000
Environmental Stewardship	46,987
Sewage	1,247,429
Solid Waste	591,795
Mandatory Provincial Support Area Rate	2,167,470
Community Support Area Rate	581,640
Total Expenditures	\$ 18,592,910

Motion Carried

2.2 General Tax Rate

Moved By Councillor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Landry

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT for the Town of Amherst for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022:

1. The general tax rates are as follows:

Residential / Resource	\$1.197 per \$100 of assessment
Commercial	\$3.997 per \$100 of assessment

AND THAT these taxes are due and payable on September 30, 2021 with interest to be charged on all final tax accounts outstanding on or after October 1, 2021 at the rate of 1% per month, 12% per annum.

Motion Carried

2.3 Area Rate - Community Support

Moved By Councillor Emery

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Davidson

WHEREAS the estimated expenditures for the community support for the 2021-22 fiscal period are \$382,160, net of own source funding in the amount of \$199,480.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT for the Town of Amherst for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, the Community Support Area Rate on all property assessments within the boundary of the Town of Amherst are as follows:

Residential / Resource	\$0.071 per \$100 of assessment
Commercial	\$0.071 per \$100 of assessment

AND THAT these area rates are due and payable on September 30, 2021 with interest to be charged on all final tax accounts outstanding on or after October 1, 2021 at the rate of 1% per month, 12% per annum.

Motion Carried

2.4 Community Support Grants - Grants to Organizations

Councillor Emery declared a conflict of interest due to her involvement with a number of the organizations.

Moved By Councillor Fawthrop

Seconded By Councillor Baker

That Council approves funding in the amount of \$103,325 under the Community Support Grants Policy as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Amherst Little League Baseball Assoc.	\$ 1,500
Amherst Little League T-Ball Baseball	500
Autumn House	10,000
Cumberland County Museum	4,000
Cumberland Early Intervention Program	500
Seniors Safety Program	6,500
Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland	4,000
Multicultural Association of Cumberland	1,600
Fire Fit	5,000
Amherst Terry Fox Run	475
Amherst Little League Baseball Assoc. - field upgrades	5,000
Fundy Winds Marsh	4,000
Food Assistance Network	2,000
Eat Local Cumberland	1,000
After the School Bell Food Program	3,500
Maggie's Place - Youth Centre	33,750
NSSC	20,000
	\$ 103,325

* All grants are issued in accordance with the Community Support Grants Policy.

Motion Carried

2.5 Sanitary Sewer Rates

Moved By Councillor Landry

Seconded By Councillor Baker

WHEREAS Council is authorized by the Town of Amherst Sanitary Sewer Rates By-law to set rates for sewer services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT owners shall be billed for sewer services using one of the following methods effective April 1, 2021:

- **Metered Customers**

Those owners whose water service is metered shall pay a usage charge:

- **Residential: \$0.99 per cu. meter of metered water consumption as determined by the Amherst Water Utility;**
- **Commercial/Industrial/Institutional: \$0.49 per cu. meter of metered water consumption as determined by the Amherst Water Utility.**

- **Base Charges**

Those owners whose water service is metered shall pay a base charge quarterly. The quarterly base charge by meter size is:

5/8"	\$18.00
3/4"	\$27.00
1"	\$43.75
1 ½"	\$86.00
2"	\$136.25
3"	\$271.25
4"	\$500.00

- **Non-Metered Customers**

For non-metered customers in unmetered mobile home parks, the park owner shall pay \$178.53 per dwelling unit per annum.

Motion Carried

2.6 Wastewater Treatment Facility Uniform Charge

Moved By Deputy Mayor Davidson

Seconded By Councillor Landry

WHEREAS Council has included in its estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, an amount to be raised for a portion of the debenture principal and interest payments for the wastewater treatment facility, a purpose for which the Town may expend funds; and

WHEREAS there are approximately 486 unmetered mobile homes within a land leased community within the boundaries of the Town of Amherst; and

WHEREAS the Council may, under paragraph 75(4)(b) of the *Municipal Government Act*, in lieu of levying an area rate, levy a uniform charge on each unmetered mobile home within a land leased community in the area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a uniform charge of \$72.00 be levied for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 on each unmetered mobile home within a land leased community within the boundaries of the Town of Amherst, and that these uniform charges are due and payable on September 30, 2021 with interest to be charged on all final tax accounts outstanding on or after October 1, 2021 at the rate of 1% per month, 12% per annum.

Motion Carried

2.7 Solid Waste Management Uniform Charge

Moved By Councillor Baker

Seconded By Councillor Fawthrop

WHEREAS Council has included in its estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, the amount of \$591,795 to be expended for the purpose of solid waste management, a purpose for which the Town may expend funds; and

WHEREAS \$591,495 is funded from the Solid Waste Management Uniform Charge; and

WHEREAS the Town collects solid waste from the approximately 3,197 residential premises with less than four dwelling units within the town; and

WHEREAS the Council may, under paragraph 75(4)(b) of the *Municipal Government Act*, in lieu of levying an area rate, levy a uniform charge on each property assessment in the area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a uniform charge of \$185.00 be levied for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 on each residential property within the boundaries of the Town of Amherst with less than four such dwelling units, and that these uniform charges are due and payable on September 30, 2021 with interest to be charged on all final tax accounts outstanding on or after October 1, 2021 at the rate of 1% per month, 12% per annum.

Motion Carried

- 2.8 **Operating Budget - Water Utility**
 Moved By Councillor Christie
 Seconded By Councillor Emery
 That Council approves the 2021-2022 Amherst Water Utility Operating Budget of \$2,276,099 as presented.

Motion Carried

3. **REQUEST FOR DECISION**

- 3.1 **General Borrowing Resolution**
 Moved By Councillor Emery
 Seconded By Councillor Landry
 That Council approves a general borrowing resolution in authorizing a line of credit in the amount of \$7.7 million with the Royal Bank of Canada to meet the current expenditures of the Town of Amherst for the year ending March 31, 2022.

Motion Carried

- 3.2 **Salary Administration Policy**
 Moved By Councillor Fawthrop
 Seconded By Deputy Mayor Davidson
 That the Salary Administration Policy #4530-01 be amended as recommended, namely to add the position of Dangerous and Unsanitary Premises Administrator and the position of Crime Prevention Coordinator (which is to be a 2-year term/pilot project).

Motion Carried

- 3.3 **Capital Budget Amendment**
 Moved By Councillor Landry
 Seconded By Councillor Christie
 That Council approve of the addition of \$580,000 to the Capital Budget for the year ended March 31, 2022 for the following projects:

• North Adelaide Pulverize and Pave	\$200,000
• Victor Avenue Overlay	\$ 50,000
• Pender Street Overlay	\$ 40,000
• Industrial Park Drive CNR to Southgate	\$100,000
• Fire Station Parking Lot	\$ 80,000
• Central Avenue Overlay	\$ 75,000
• Robbs Basketball Court (Multi-purpose)	<u>\$ 35,000</u>
Total	<u>\$580,000</u>

Motion Carried

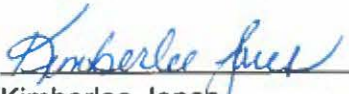
4. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 4.1 **2021-22 Operating and Capital Budget Reports**
 Information item; no direction given or action required.

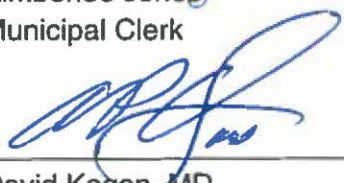
5. **ADJOURNMENT**

- Moved By Councillor Emery
 Seconded By Councillor Landry
 To adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried



Kimberlee Jones
Municipal Clerk



David Kogen, MD
Mayor

