

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

Date: April 3, 2019
Time: 4:30 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present	Mayor David Kogon Deputy Mayor Sheila Christie Councillor Jason Blanch Councillor Vince Byrne Councillor Darrell Jones Councillor Terry Rhindress
Members Absent	Councillor Wayne MacKenzie
Staff Present	Greg Herrett, CAO Bill Schurman, Director Recreation Shelley Rector, Chief Financial Officer Sarah Wilson, Manager of Financial Services Dwayne Pike, Police Chief Kim Jones, Municipal Clerk Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

1. In Camera

**Moved By Councillor Byrne
Seconded By Councillor Blanch
That the Committee move to an In Camera session.**

MOTION CARRIED

Chief Pike left the meeting at this time following the In Camera session.

2. Community Support Area Rate

The Manager of Financial Services reviewed the Community Support Area Rates

Staff are proposing an area rate difference from \$0.065 to \$0.071.

3. Policies

The CFO reviewed the policies included as part of the agenda package.

3.1 Tax Exemption Policy

Provided for information purposes. CFO advised that there is a binder for reference if Council would like more details.

3.2 Tax Reduction Policy

CFO advised that staff will be bringing an amendment to this Policy forward for Council approval during the budget process to allow for those owners who meet the low-income threshold and have consistently paid their agreed amount as per their Payment Arrangement for at least twelve consecutive months to qualify for the tax reduction of \$450 annually.

3.3 Community Support Grants Policy

CFO advised that staff will be forwarding an amendment to this Policy to Council for approval during the budget process to change the maximum annual allocation from \$17,500 to \$35,000, as outlined in section 6A) of the Policy.

4. Community Support Grant Request Application Listing

There being nothing further from Council, documents were distributed to members to pre-allocate how they each would like the grants disbursed. While doing so the CFO reminded everyone to think about each organizations need, are there community benefits, does it reflect Councils' strategic priorities, and is it sustainable. She would like to have all sheets back by Monday.

Moved By Deputy Mayor Christie

Seconded By Councillor Byrne

To approve the Community Support Area Rate in principle.

MOTION CARRIED

5. Adjournment

Moved By Councillor Jones

Seconded By Councillor Byrne

To adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Kimberlee Jones
Municipal Clerk

David Kogon, MD
Mayor