

m) Legion Field - Staff had a request from the Pickleball players to put up the tennis nets, which we did on April 9.

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

Sandra Barr, Deputy CAO, was present and gave her report.

- a) The March Income Statement was provided to Committee, the first two columns compare March 2024 to March 2023, column three is 2024 year to date, column four shows 2023 year to date, and the last two columns are the 2023 and 2022 Budgets;
- b) On March 8, 2024 Sandra attended a virtual MFOA webinar on Women in Municipal Finance;
- c) On March 12 and April 9, 2024 Connie Brown and Sandra Barr attended two free virtual MFOA webinars on HST for municipalities. This was the first two sessions of eight that will be ran over the course of the year;
- d) On March 22, 2024 Sandra attended the virtual Municipal Finance Officer Association discussion forum for populations under 10,000;
- e) Taxes Receivable at end of March 2023 was at \$1,968,135.26 and at the end of March 2024 they are \$2,161,455.97 up \$193,320.71 from 2023 to 2024. March 31st tax payments are still trickling in.

Financial Report Received.

Administration

Annette Gilchrist, CAO, was present and gave her report.

- a) The proposed budget is being reviewed and Deputy CAO Sandra Barr is working on a PowerPoint presentation for Council prior to adoption. The Township must adopt policy decisions on unfunded amounts prior to the passing of the budget once our financial statements are completed. Staff hope to have these for the May 7th meeting and a budget presentation for May 21st;
- b) The Notice for the AGM of Eganville Generation Corporation will be sent out in accordance with the requirements, the meeting is scheduled for May 21st;
- c) On April 3 Annette chaired the Renfrew County Clerks and Treasurers Association CAO meeting. Asset Management was a large part of the discussion and we are working with Whitewater Region, Greater Madawaska and Admaston/Bromley on a shared services model. They have also had some preliminary discussions with the Operations Department of the County of Renfrew. Staff have also set up a policy sharing platform;
- d) On April 4 Annette Gilchrist attended the County of Renfrew Housing Summit. There is a media release under correspondence. It was very well attended and some of the developers in attendance did take the expression of interest with them;
- e) On April 9 Annette Gilchrist attended the Eastern Ontario Treasurers Association meeting in Kingston. Asset Management and the Provincial and Federal Budgets were major topics of discussion along with Administrative Penalties for By-Laws Enforcement and the new Vacancy Tax. Annette is currently researching this further as the City of Ottawa implemented their policy last year;
- f) On April 11 Annette moderated the AMCTO Leaders Forum. The topics included Organizational Values, Communication Platforms, Attraction and Retention of various Generations in the Workforce, Managing the impact of the mountain of legislation from the province and Incivility in Local Government. The incidents of harassment of staff and council continue to rise. 204 municipalities have now supported resolutions asking the province for more sanctions and more and more municipalities are passing policies and procedures to protect staff and council. A safe and respectful workplace is the goal. Annette provided Committee information on the WOSN campaign and she stated that while stats show that women are predominately the victims of harassment in the workplace it can happen to anyone no matter your position or how you identify as we have seen with the resignation of local mayors and council members across the province;
- g) Councillor Buckwald is recovering from surgery and has been unable to attend any meetings since the month of March. His intention is to be back for the second meeting in May however Annette recommended an extension be granted in case he needs more time. Under Section 259(1) of the Municipal Act

“The office of a member of council of a municipality becomes vacant if the member, is absent from the meetings of council for three successive months without being authorized to do so by a resolution of council. Committee agreed to extend the absence of Councillor Buckwald until September 2024, should he need this time to ensure a full recovery before he resumes his duties as a Member of this Council;

- h) Sarah Richer participated in the Rural Economic Summit on February 29. Over the next two years, Sarah would like to focus on our geographical strengths as a main stopping point between the Nation’s Capital and Algonquin Park. She would also like to investigate the possibility of a career expo or workshops. This would incorporate hands on demonstrations, as well as provide youth (and those looking to venture into a different path) career and education advice;
- i) The Beer and Wine Festival will take place on June 1st. There are five vendors confirmed and staff have received the special occasions permit;
- j) EACDGM will continue using the #DiscoverEganville branding, as the group is created of members from Bonnechere Valley and North Algona Wilberforce;
- k) Branding - In compliance with the Bonnechere Valley strategic plan, Sarah Richer started to work on a Bonnechere Valley branding guide a copy of which was provided to Committee. The purpose of the brand guide is to provide consistency throughout public documents, notices, social media posts, websites, advertisements, etc. For the purpose of the branding guide sample, a tag line will need to be determined.

Administrative Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence “A”

1. County Council Summary March 2024
2. Earth Day Birthday Party
3. AMO Watchfile April 4, 2024
4. AMO Policy Update – New Federal Infrastructure & Housing Items in Upcoming 2024 Budget
5. Media Release - County of Renfrew hosts Affordable Housing Summit
6. AMO Policy Update April 10 2024
7. AMO Watchfile April 11 2024

(B) Correspondence “B”

1. Home Heating Sustainability
2. 2024 GLPOA Sponsorship
3. Fair Operational Budget Funding
4. Fifth Annual Provincial Day of Action on Litter
5. Standardized Regulatory Framework for Ridesharing Services Across the Province
6. Phase-Out of Free Well Water Testing
7. Improve Municipal Code of Conduct
8. Request to Province for Mental Health and Additions Facility for Renfrew County

(C) Correspondence “C”

- B.2 Committee recommends supporting the GLPOA Sponsorship;
- B.6 Committee recommends support of the resolution that the Province not Phase-Out of Free Well Water Testing, and recommend that staff bring back a resolution at the May 7 meeting of Council;
- B.8 Committee recommends support of resolution Province for Mental Health and Additions Facility for Renfrew County a recommend that staff bring back a resolution of support to the May 7 meeting of Council;

