

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM
CONFERENCING**

PRESENT **Mayor Jennifer Murphy
Deputy Mayor Brent Patrick
Councillor Merv Buckwald
Councillor John Epps
Councillor Tracey Sanderson
CAO Annette Gilchrist
Deputy CAO Sandra Barr**

REGRETS **None**

GALLERY **None**

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, Brent Patrick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

THAT: The agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Tracey Sanderson**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on August 14, 2024 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS **None**

REPORTS

Water & Sewer Department

Daryl Verch, Water & Sewer Manager was present and gave his report.

- a) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;
- b) Staff washed and painted the exterior walls on the Water Treatment Plant;
- c) Locates for Telecom, Enbridge Gas, and other sub-contractors continues;
- d) Checking for blue green algae in the Bonnechere River daily;
- e) Flushed dead end fire hydrants;
- f) Performing maintenance and painting of fire hydrants;
- g) The Eganville Sewage System continues to operate in full compliance according to the Provincial Guidelines that are set out in the Certificate of Approval.

Water & Sewer Report Received.

Works & Waste Department

Jason Zohr, Works Superintendent was present and gave his report.

- a) Zadow Road - McCrea's Excavating is busy conducting the construction project on Zadow Road. This supports to Townships Priority of "Smart Infrastructure" as it is related to the objective of "Prioritize Road Upgrades";
- b) Sno Drifters Waste Site Hours - The Monday-Thursday Hours for the Sno Drifters ended on August 29, 2024. Beginning September 5th, the Waste Site will be open each Thursday from 12 pm (noon) to 2 pm until October 31st as

- a pilot project. This supports to Townships Priority of "Maintain Service Levels". Rationale: Even through this was not identified as one of the priority objectives, by implementing/offering this opportunity to our residents/contractors we are expanding service levels and adding an additional day that residents/contractors to dispose of material other than on the weekend;
- c) Stat Holidays Waste Site Closures - The Sand Road Waste Site was closed on Monday, September 2, 2024 in recognition of Labour Day. The Sand Road Waste Site will be closed on Monday, September 30, 2024 in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation;
 - d) Household Hazardous Waste Depot - The last day for the Household Hazardous Waste Depot to be open is on Saturday, September 28, 2024;
 - e) Winter Sand - The stockpiling for the winter sand was completed September 3rd, 2024.

Works Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

Darryl Wagner, CBO & Fire Chief was present and gave his report.

- a) The Department had fifty-three calls for service between January – August 27, 2024;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing.

Fire Department & Building Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile Aug 15
2. AMO Watchfile Aug 22
3. AMO Watchfile Aug 29
4. EOWC Newsletter

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Red Rock - Catch and Release
2. Letter of Support NOMA Resolution - Support for OINP
3. BV Inspired Letter
4. Cambridge Mental Health and Addictions Survey Results
5. Ineligible Sources Recycling
6. MTO E-Scooter Program
7. The Canada Community-Building Fund
8. Painted Landscape Tour

(C) Correspondence "C"

1. AMO-OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign

B.8 Painted Landscape Tour - Committee recommends providing the group with a letter of support.

C.1 AMO-OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign - Committee recommends support and requests that the resolution be brought to the September 17th meeting of Council.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Mayor's Report - Since the last Mayor's Report, the Mayor has attended 37 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows:

On August 28th, County Council had two delegations.

- The Warden presented \$5,000 in proceeds from the 17th annual Warden's Golf Tournament held in June to Autism Ontario East Region and the Renfrew County Housing and Homelessness Fund – Mesa. Tahseen Ali, Fund and Volunteer Coordinator for Autism Ontario East Region, made a presentation explaining what the organization does and how the funds will be used. Community Services Managers Jennifer Dombroskie, Margo Smith and April Muldoon and Mesa Coordinator Barb Tierney accepted the cheque for the Housing and Homelessness Fund – Mesa.
- Ottawa Valley Tourist Association (OVTA) Board Chair Stefi Van Wijk and Vice-Chair Meghan James provided an update on tourism promotion activities of the destination marketing organization for Renfrew County, the City of Pembroke and Upper Ottawa Valley. It is a not-for-profit membership-based organization with a mandate to promote and grow tourism in the Ottawa Valley.

The Opeongo Road reconstruction project was extended to the full 13.4 kilometers from Weiland Shore to Highway 41.

Several municipalities across Ontario have, or are in the process of, implementing Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE). County of Renfrew staff have investigated the possibility of Automated Speed Enforcement on County roads and found that it is feasible in school zones and designated Community Safety Zones. By partnering with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Local Authority Services, an ASE could be implemented in as little as 12 months. They offer a turnkey, not-for-profit, ASE program inclusive of cameras, data handling and ticket processing. Following the issuance of the ticket by the processing centre (printed and mailed), the defendant can then pay their fine at the Provincial Offences Court or proceed to dispute the charge. ASE benefits from a lower dispute rate than other Provincial Offence charges. Given the reduced Provincial Offences charges being laid, Courts Administration and Prosecution anticipate they have the capacity to administer this workload.

ROMA - The ROMA Board met virtually on July 19th.

Discussion items included LAS Water and Wastewater Expert Panel with Judy Dezell, Director Enterprise Centre, Business Partnerships & LAS. This workshop was oversubscribed at the AMO Conference which indicates that AMO, ROMA and LAS are targeting a very important challenge across Ontario.

In addition, the Board discussed the ROMA 2025 Conference Planning, the Revised 2024 Workplan, and a ROMA Communications Update. Of note, the Board added Municipal Fire Departments to our workplan due to the mounting legislation around apparatus and received support for Bonnechere Valley's Resolution to Exempt Emergency Vehicles from Emission Standards.

Karen Nesbitt, Senior Manager, Policy AMO gave an update on the following:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Infrastructure
- Health
- Child Care
- Indigenous Relations

The ROMA Board also met in person on August 18th at the AMO Conference. At that time, Chair Robin Jones resigned and left the meeting to First Vice-Chair Christa Lowry. The Board had the opportunity to have over an hour with Minister Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. They discussed the AMO paper regarding a Social and Economic Prosperity Review, concerns with the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund, and a continued partnership with MMAH. Minister Calandra committed to having more

conversations with the ROMA Board and was very interested in our Rural perspective.

The AMO Election resulted in former Chair Jones becoming the President of AMO. Congratulations to Robin!

However, due to a job change, one of our Board members/second Vice-Chair was not able to return. The Board sadly say goodbye to Sandra Datar Bere and wish her well in her role as City Manager of London.

The election also resulted in a lot of change in their AMO appointees on the ROMA Board. They thanked Rainey Weisler, Paul Latam and Peter Emon for their years of service to ROMA. New AMO Rural Caucus appointees, Dane Neilson, Natasha Salonen, Nathan Townend, Tanya Vrebosch and staff member, Nicole Martin will be onboarded at our September meeting.

EORN - The EORN Board did not meet this month, however, they had an executive meeting during the AMO Conference. The Mayor also reported that two new Rogers sites are now operational in Bonnechere Valley. One site is just off the Opeongo Road and another in the area of Corrigan Road.

AMO CONFERENCE - The 125th AMO Conference took place in Ottawa from August 18th – 21st. More than 3,000 municipal leaders, government officials, public servants, sponsors, exhibitors, and media took part. Of note, this was the largest number of conference participants ever at an AMO conference. Thank you to Councillor Sanderson, Councillor Epps and CAO Annette Gilchrist for attending this Conference with Mayor Murphy.

Plenary programming included the Premier of Ontario, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Women's Leadership Forum, Leaders of the provincial NDP, Liberal, and Green parties, the federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities, Canada.

Municipal officials also participated in over 700 delegation meetings to discuss local concerns. The County of Renfrew participated in delegations with Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Michael Tibollo; Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, Billy Pang; Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Trevor Jones; Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, Dave Smith; and Parliamentary Assistant to the Long-Term Care, Kevin Holland. Each of these delegations had an "ask" and a solution from the County except with the Ministry of Finance. Our "ask" was for MPAC to do reassessments as soon as possible. The last assessments were done in 2016 and waiting until after a Provincial election in 2026 or 2027 is not ideal.

Bonnechere Valley, Mississippi Mills and the Town of Renfrew also met with Associate Minister of Energy, Sam Oosterhoff, regarding our Hydro dams. We will have further information on this initiative after future meetings.

Other programming included a range of issues including infrastructure for housing, the need for a fundamental restructuring of the provincial-municipal fiscal relationship, health care challenges and homelessness. Mayor Murphy attended the Recreation Infrastructure session, which did not suit any of our needs.

On August 19th, Plenary Programming started with AMO Executive Director Brian Rosborough welcomed everyone and thanked the City of Ottawa for hosting and TVO for partnering with the conference.

Greg Sarazin, Chief of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, brought greetings and hopes municipalities will work to better understand Indigenous history & build relationships with Indigenous peoples.

City of Ottawa Mayor Sutcliffe spoke, saying AMO2024 is happening at a critically important time. "Municipalities in Ontario are facing unprecedented challenges" like housing, homelessness, mental health. Further stating this conference brings an opportunity to work together for solutions.

Political journalist Andrew Coyne was the keynote speaker. He implored politicians to end the political divisions seen nationwide, speaking to the need for a population that agrees on basic facts about the world. In the Mayor's opinion, this keynote did not speak to Municipal Council members or staff.

Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict addressed the crowd, saying it is so important for municipalities to work with the 133 First Nations communities in Ontario. "Our visions are the same - we want prosperity" asking that Indigenous voices be welcomed at the municipal table.

Outgoing AMO President Colin Best spoke to a Social and Economic Prosperity Review, to take a hard look at how public services and infrastructure are funded across the province.

Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Edith Dumont opened the late morning plenary programing stating, "There is no recipe for a successful leader." Being curious, listening, showing compassion for people, valuing diversity in ideas and expertise are ingredients to successful municipal leadership.

Premier Ford emphasized Ontario's economic growth and competitiveness including efforts to make it easier for companies to come to Ontario. He also spoke about infrastructure investments to support growth, while maintaining competitive taxation as well as housing issues and the Building Faster Fund. He outlined government's investments in water and wastewater expansion, public spaces and recreation facilities. The Invest Ontario program and the Community Sport Recreation Infrastructure fund were both announced.

During the Rural Caucus lunch, we heard from a Director of the Ontario Medical Association. It came as no surprise that a lack of primary Physicians presents a challenge across the Province. During question period, Mayor Murphy asked the question of how the proposed new Capital Gains Tax will affect recruiting Doctors, not only in Ontario but across Canada. This tax will certainly make us non-competitive in the sector. The Director assured the room that the OMA was lobbying to make Doctors exempt.

Federal MP Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing Infrastructure and Communities announced that more Federal lands are being released for housing development, including exploring redevelopment of empty federal buildings into housing. Mayor Murphy wonder if there has been a robust Duty to Consult with our Indigenous partners for new Federal lands in proposed development.

Minister Sylvia Jones, Ministry of Health, spoke about shortages in health staffing particularly Doctors and announced a ban on safe injection sites in Ontario near any schools or daycares and \$378 million for 19 treatment hubs.

Minister Surma, Ministry of Infrastructure, spoke about new funds and had a list of things that the government is currently doing for municipalities. She announced the launch of the application process for the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing stream of the \$1 billion Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program.

Under this process, municipalities can apply for \$400 million in funding to build, maintain, and repair core assets such as municipal roads, bridges and culverts that will support the construction of new homes. Of the \$400 million, the government is allocating another \$120 million to projects in small, rural and northern municipalities that do not have housing targets to better support the unique needs of these growing communities. The application process was also

launched for the \$200 million Community, Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund under the Ministry of Tourism and Sport.

Minister Calandra, Municipal Affairs and Housing, spoke at length about this government has reduced taxes on business by \$8 billion, while investing hundreds of billions in infrastructure. He announced that they have released the updated Provincial Planning Statement introducing fundamental changes in how growth planning is carried out in the province. The 2024 PPS comes into effect on October 20, 2024 and applies to all decisions in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter made on or after that date. The 2024 PPS continues the Ontario government's focus in recent years on building more homes and replaces the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019. The finalized statement streamlines previous provincial planning policies and responds to municipal feedback provided as part of the consultation process. On housing, he stated "We'll work with you to get shovels in the ground to get homes built. And we won't hesitate to remove obstacles to get it done."

The final session of the afternoon was the Ministers' Forum. There were 37 Ministers and Associate Ministers present, the largest minister's cabinet in Ontario history. Questions from the delegates included auto theft increases and revolving door of the court bail system, health care access issues, gender violence issues, childcare issues, and accountability of elected officials' legislation. Northern municipalities, their economic prosperity and related infrastructure issues were discussed as well as an inquiry from Burlington Mayor Maryanne Mead Ward saying the municipal funding model hasn't changed in 125 years while the problems local politicians deal with have (opioid addiction, mental health issues). Calls for municipal funding reform was a theme throughout the conference and is top of AMO's priorities.

The final day of the conference wrapped up with plenary programming including the incoming AMO President address, a taping of the TVO show The Agenda where the panel discussed housing in Ontario and thinking differently about infrastructure.

And finally, Bonnechere Valley, was one of three Municipalities featured in the AMO video presenting projects funded by the Canadian Community Building Fund (previously the Federal Gas Tax). Congratulations to our Township for this honour!!

EVENTS - On August 3rd, it was my honour to attend the opening ceremonies of the second annual Bonnechere Inspired tour. Thank you to the Museum, Kayla Desjardins and Laurel Cook for ensuring this was a fantastic weekend! Councillor Sanderson and Mayor Murphy attended most of the stops on the tour.

Thank you to Councillor Sanderson for attending the Swim Program wrap up on August 17th on my behalf.

On August 25th, Mayor Murphy presented the Zion Lutheran Church in Augsburg with a certificate in recognition of their 150th anniversary.

On August 29th, I attended the Summer Company Wrap-Up. Bonnechere Valley student business owner, Kyle Radford, who has a mobile barbeque cleaning business finished his first summer as an entrepreneur! Congratulations to Kyle.

(2) AMO Report – Tracey Sanderson and John Epps provided a verbal report on their time at the 2024 AMO Conference.

Tracey Sanderson attended the Opening Keynote by Andrew Coyne, Journalist at the AMO Conference. She also attended the following Plenary Sessions:

- Colin Best, AMO President
- The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- AMO Presidential Candidate Speeches
- Women's Leadership Forum
- The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, Canada
- Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition and NDP
- Message from Hydro One
- Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
- Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario
- Partnering for Impact: Public College - Municipal Innovations
- Geoff Stewart, President, FCM
- Message from IPE
- The Importance of Fiscally Sustainable Municipalities
- Partnering to Drive Local Workforce and Economic Development
- AMO Election Results
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
- The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Tracey also attended two luncheons -

- Rural Caucus Lunch, sponsored by the Ontario Medical Association
- Nuclear's Role in Powering Ontario's Growth, sponsored by Bruce Power

Concurrent Sessions-

- Community Safety and Well-Being Plans
- Municipalities and the Opioid Epidemic

And attended two Networking events -

- Dinners with execs from Cambium Engineering and Renfrew County council members
- Met with numerous vendors at the tradeshow and discussed many innovative solutions they offer municipalities.

On Monday August 19 John Epps Attended morning plenary sessions. Highlights: hearing Pikwikanagan councillor speak about working with first nations, journalist Andrew Coyne speak on post truth politics and the threat to democracy, Edith Dumont addressing women in leadership roles, and Premier Doug Ford speak of attracting new business to Ontario.

He had a lunch meeting of AMO Rural Caucus. Met with OMA CEO Kim Moran. Heard speeches from nine candidates for four seats on Rural Caucus.

John Epps attended afternoon plenary sessions. Highlights: Hearing from leaders of NDP, Liberal, and Green Parties, IESO President Bonnie Gardiner spoke on Ontario's growing need for power, Marketa Evans spoke on role of colleges in educating needed workers for growth.

Afternoon concurrent sessions: Panel on Rural Access to Health Services. RCVTAC was mentioned as a good model. Need to focus on retention as opposed to recruiting physicians.

On August 20 John attended sessions on First Nations and Land Use Planning. Kevin Restoule told of a bridge building project that got it right – Bluewater Bridge Project. Brandy George is the first indigenous archaeologist (Stony Point FN).

Lunch sponsored by Bruce Power. Very informative. Discussed siting of nuclear waste repository with a willing host, scheduled refurbishment, medical isotope production, and small modular reactors. Very pertinent to Renfrew County.

Attended session on the opioid crisis. Panel of four including the mayor of Timmins, an addict, and a former police chief. Consensus that safe injection sites

are good for preventing deaths and given those at risk a chance to survive and make the right choices later. Intervention and prevention must start with children as young as 3-4 years.

Federal Minister of Housing Infrastructure and Communities spoke next. For the past 30 years both the feds and the province washed their hands of affordable housing and now it is a crisis.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday September 17, 2024.

MEDIA SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY **John Epps**

THAT: Committee proceed in Closed Session in accordance with the Municipal Act 2001, section 239.2 to deal with the matters as indicated below:

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; Carried

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

THAT: Council moves out of Closed Session at 2:46 p.m. to rise and report that Council met to receive information and give staff direction regarding the nomination for Ontario Senior Achievement Award and approved minutes from August 14 2024. Carried

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 2:46 p.m. Carried

Brent Patrick, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO