

**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY  
MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 1:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM  
CONFERENCING**

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

**REGRETS**            **None**

**GALLERY**            **2**

**CALL TO ORDER    COMMITTEE MEETING**

Chair, Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**MOVED BY**            **Tracey Sanderson**

**THAT:** the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

**PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY**            **Merv Buckwald**

**That:** The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on September 3, 2024 be accepted as presented.

Carried

**DELEGATIONS**

**REPORTS**

**Recreation & Culture**

Kevin McGrath, Manager of Recreation and Culture, was present and gave his report.

- a) All of the summer students have finished for the season;
- b) The new compressor has been installed in the plant room;
- c) The plant was started on Monday September 9 and staff started making ice. The first day of ice will be Saturday September 21 with a full day of Minor Hockey scheduled;
- d) The first public skate will be Friday, October 11, 2024, a PA Day;
- e) The first senior skate will be Monday, October 21, 2024;
- f) September 30<sup>th</sup> the arena will be closed for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day;
- g) There have been a few Eagle's Nest Hall rentals in the last couple of weeks;
- h) Our municipal Christmas party is Saturday, December 14. Kevin will be getting tenders for caterers;
- i) Rotary Beach - The raft was taken out August 30, last day with our summer students;
- j) The Tourist Information Centre is closed for the season;

- k) On September 7, 2024, we had some damage to a light pole and fixture in Centennial Park. The light pole was pushed down and the fixture was shattered;
- l) Legion Field - The Splash Pad will be shut down by the end of September or earlier, depending on the weather. All pins have been removed from the ball fields;
- m) The Horticulture Society had their plant sale September 14, 2024;
- n) The Farmer's Markets continues into October;
- o) Village -The planter boxes have been removed from the bridge;
- p) Grass maintenance will be slowing down due to us working on getting the arena ready for the season;
- q) On Monday, September 9, Kevin received a letter from Emma giving her resignation. She is moving on to an apprenticeship with the Department of National Defense. Her final day will be Friday September 20; and
- r) Eganville Minor Hockey Association would like to lease the canteen again this season from October 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Committee approved in principle and staff will bring back a signed lease agreement October 2 for Council approval by by-law.

*Recreation Report Received.*

### **Finance**

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

- a) The September 11, 2024 Provisional Budget Report and the Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2024 were provided to Committee;
- b) Completed Statistic Canada Surveys: Business Payrolls Survey on September 5, 2024;
- c) On September 9<sup>th</sup> Sandra attended a 1 hour virtual meeting of the Treasurers of Renfrew County;
- d) On September 10<sup>th</sup> Sandra had an online introductory meeting with Peter Sizov and Alex Jones from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
- e) On September 11, 2024 Sandra attended a 1 hour virtual webinar with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation on "Property Insights and Meeting the Evolving Needs of Municipalities". The Ministry of Finance is currently reviewing the assessment system and a reassessment will not be done until that is completed;
- f) Calculated and billed out three property tax Supplemental tax billing batches, totaling \$1271.42;
- g) Calculated and billed out property tax Write Off's in the amount of \$1342.49;
- h) Background: Under Section 357 of the Municipal Act 2001, an application for an adjustment of taxes has been made for the following properties and an assessment report (attached hereto) has been received by MPAC. We require Council approval for the following adjustments.

O'Neill

Recommendation: That the application for an adjustment of taxes for 1182 Perrault Road be approved due to a fire. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$1868.55 be made to the property for 2024.

Agnew

Recommendation: That the application for an adjustment of taxes for 109 John Street be approved due to a fire. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$1044.58 be made to the property for 2024.

Ferguson

Recommendation: That the application for an adjustment of taxes for 176 Wellington Street be approved due to a demolition. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$669.95 be made to the property for 2024.

*Financial Report Received.*

## **Administration**

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

- a) Funding – The Township can finally announce the funding received through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund for the purchase of three zero-emission vehicles and six charging stations for an on-demand rideshare program with our neighbouring municipalities North Algona Wilberforce and Whitewater Region Townships. Please see Media release.  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/housing-infrastructure-communities/news/2024/09/zero-emission-rideshare-program-coming-to-renfrew-county.html> This supports the Townships Priority of “Shared Services” as it is related to the objective of “Shared services with neighbors”.

We are also working on Round 2 of the Housing Enabling Fund for Water and Wastewater projects and Round 2 of the Green and Inclusive Community Building Fund for energy efficiencies at our Arena and Curling Club.

These three funds are major projects funded at a level of 80% will improve local services for the community as they are implemented over the next three years. This supports the Townships Priority of “Advocacy and Grant Opportunities” as it is related to the objective of “Secure > \$1M per year in grants funding”;

- b) AMO - At the AMO conference Annette attended the Water and Wastewater Session with LAS and AMO Staff. This session looked to evaluate the potential for LAS to create joint municipal services board(s) or municipal service corporation(s) to provide water and wastewater services. Some of the concerns discussed included services based on geography or watersheds over multiple municipalities. The risks of losing development charges, lack of transparency due to scale. Some of the opportunities discussed were efficiencies due to scale, shared expertise and predictability of rates across municipalities. They discussed the effect on our employees and distribution costs when you deal with large urban, small urban, rural and remote rural communities.

The next session Annette attended was on Asset Management. This session was a very different take on asset management and while it talked about asset management tools and regulations it also talked about communication. This is the piece of asset management you don't hear a lot about. The psychological safety of staff to have difficult conversations so that we make the right decisions at the right time.

Other sessions Annette attended provided up to date information on regulations and policy that will impact staff and our requirements. These included:

- Provincial Policy Statement and Building Code Changes
- Enhancing Long-Term Financial Sustainability – looked at Funding vs Financing
- AI and Municipalities – very interesting but solutions were suited to large urban
- Ministers Forum – a lot was said about fiscal sustainability, infrastructure needs, health and mental health and code of conduct review and civility.
- Housing in Ontario – main take away was that all three levels of government need to make this a priority and work together  
<https://www.tvo.org/podcasts/the-agenda-with-steve-paikin-audio/can-ontario-mayors-align-to-solve-homelessness>

- Ministry of Energy delegation to request an extension of EGCs current contract under the Small Hydro Program due to it being a Redevelopment contract which will provide us time to pay back the debt owing. This delegation was a joint delegation with Renfrew and Mississippi Mills and a follow up meeting was committed to with MNR, Energy and the IESO. Staff hope to have this meeting in the next few weeks;
- c) Summer Pilot Project - From the end of June the Municipal Office hours have been reduced to 8:30am to 4:00pm. This has allowed staff 30 minutes a day to focus on tasks without interruption. With a small staff constantly asked to do more especially when it comes to funding applications and provincial reporting requirements this time has been greatly appreciated by staff. Staff is also very dedicated and if a resident called and scheduled to come in before or after-hours staff has always accommodated them during their set hours which could be 8am or until 6pm if we are here late for Council meetings anyway. This has reduced absenteeism as staff make appointments after hours where possible coming in at 8am and leaving at 4 for an appointment. Annette has not heard any concerns regarding these hours, and Annette would like to recommend to continue the program until January 31<sup>st</sup> and evaluate in the new year if we want to make this change permanent to improve employee productivity and morale;
  - d) Youth Summit – Sarah has booked speakers for the event and sent invitations out to organizations to set up booths. We have asked EDPS, St. James and Opeongo High School to send the flyer out to parents of/students ages 8-14. We have started advertising in the newsletter, on social media, and our website. Registration is due by October 4<sup>th</sup> to allow time to prepare for the amount of youth attending. Please see the attached poster.
  - e) Interactive Career Expo – Sarah has not heard back from any grants to assist with bussing. Two other options are to host on a Saturday or a PA Day. There is no PA Day in April, but there is one on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May. Committee agreed to have the Expo on May 16, 2025. Sarah would like to request bringing the Ontario Skills Trades & Tech Truck to the event. The fee is \$1,500 a day. Committee agreed in principle to approve the \$1,500 for the truck;
  - f) Taste of the Valley applications are open for 2025 and 2026. Committee agreed to the event and asked staff to apply for both 2025 and 2026 at the Eganville Arena;
  - g) BV Newsletter - The September/October 2024 Newsletter was mailed out at the end of August. This supports the Townships Priority to “Enhance the BVT Brand” as it is related to the objective of “Improve our marketing assets”;
  - h) The Swim Program is complete. Parents would love to see swim programming continue next year. This supports the Townships Priority of “Shared Services” as it is related to the objective of “Shared services with neighbors”;
  - i) Camp Smitty Day Camp is complete for another summer. Staff look forward to another partnership next year;
  - j) Fire Protection Grant submitted September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for particulate blocking nano hoods and turnout gear dryer.

*Administrative Report Received.*

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(A) Correspondence “A”**

1. County Council Summary August 2024
2. AMO Communications September 5, 2024
3. Renfrew County Project Update September 2024
4. AMO Policy Update
5. AMO Communications September 12, 2024

**(B) Correspondence "B"**

1. County Of Renfrew - Automated Speed Enforcement
2. Renfrew County Science Fair
3. Request for Support from Nigig Nibi Ki-Win Gamik Society
4. AMCTO Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act
5. Support for a Growth and Economic Viability Ad Hoc Committee
6. Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement Letter
7. Request to Close and Relocate a portion of Fiebig Road
8. Resolution - Province Removed Wetlands Protection for Eastern Ontario
9. Jurisdiction of Ontario's Ombudsman

**(C) Correspondence "C"**

- B.7 Committee agreed in principle to the request to close and relocate a portion of Fiebig Road, and the next step in the process is a Public Meeting.

**NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- (1)** Library Update – Brent Patrick updated Committee on the business of the Library. Circulation in June was average, slightly lower than May, with 1,720 checkouts. The library welcomed 14 new members this month and has 1,679 active cardholders. Library visits were the lowest they've been all year, with 1,236 people coming through the doors in June, including 55 between 6 and 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Our busiest days continue to be Wednesdays. Internet Usage (*databases, Overdrive, Wi-Fi, public computers*) & Online engagement (*social media, website*). Wi-Fi usage in June was typical, with 193 unique clients. The average number of clients per day was 27. The highest traffic days were the 4th, 13th, and 19th. The website had 771 unique visitors in June, with 3,192 page views, which was slightly lower than May, but typical for this time of year. The busiest days were the 5th, 10th, and 13th. There were 337 Public Access Computer sessions in June, which was slightly higher than in May. Usage was highest on Wednesdays, and on the 5th, 6th, and 26th (two Wednesdays and a Thursday). Overdrive usage (eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines) was good in June, with 633 checkouts, including 143 magazines.

Circulation in July was high, yet typical for this time of year, with 2,302 checkouts. This is the highest since last summer. We welcomed 21 new members this month and have 1,685 active cardholders. Library visits were good, with 1,450 people coming through the doors in July, including 75 between 6 and 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Our busiest days were the 2nd, 10th, and 17th (a Tuesday and two Wednesdays). We had a record day on July 10 with 208 items checked out. Since January 2017, this is only the 6th time we have had statistics of over 200 items in one day.

Circulation in August was good with 2,158 checkouts. We welcomed 11 new members this month, and currently have 1,680 active cardholders. Library visits were high, with 1,554 people coming through the doors in August, including 93 between 6 and 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Our busiest days continue to be Wednesdays and Thursdays. The summer party (August 22) was very busy, with 136 people here that day;

- (2)** Police Service Board Update – Jennifer Murphy was advised on September 9, 2024 that the Killaloe Detachment is now merged with the Upper Ottawa Valley Detachment. The Inspector is Steph Neufeld;

- (3) Museum – Tracey Sanderson had no update for Committee on the business of the Museum.

**ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday October 2, 2024 at 1:30 pm.

**MEDIA SESSION**

**CONCLUSION**

**MOVED BY**           **Brent Patrick**

**THAT:** the meeting adjourns at 2:48 p.m.

Carried

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Jennifer Murphy, Chair

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Annette Gilchrist, CAO