

**THE CORPORATION OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY  
MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2024 5:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ZOOM CONFERENCING**

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

**REGRETS**

**GALLERY** None

**INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA:** None

**24.169 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**THAT:** the agenda be accepted as amended. With the addition of Correspondence Items B.8 Legion Crosswalk and Item A.9 Enbridge Gas Eganville Community Expansion Project Customer Outreach.

Carried

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**24.170 MOVED BY** John Epps  
**SECONDED BY** Brent Patrick

**THAT:** The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 15, 2024 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**(A) Correspondence "A"**

1. AMO Watchfile Oct 17
2. AMO Watchfile Oct 24
3. AMO Watchfile Oct 31
4. AMO Policy Update
5. AMO Policy Fall Economic Statement
6. EOWC New Release
7. Ministry of Health Report to Board of Health October-29-2024
8. ROMA Update
9. Enbridge Gas Eganville Community Expansion Project Customer Outreach

**(B) Correspondence "B"**

1. Updates to the Municipal Elections Act
2. Family Doctors Resolutions
3. Green Roads Pilot Project
4. Support Ontario's Forest Sector
5. Rural Road Safety
6. Town of Aurora Motion Fair Share
7. Request Wentland Road 2. Request to Increase the Tile Drain Loan Limit
8. Legion Crosswalk

**(C) Correspondence "C"**

**24.171 MOVED BY** Merv Buckwald  
**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**WHEREAS** direction has been given to staff;

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** the correspondence be filed.

Carried

**NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9.1 Cheque Register and Board Report

9.2 Resolution to endorse Quality Management System Operational Plan for Eganville Water System

**24.172 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** John Epps

**THAT:** Council, as the Owner and Operating Authority, commit to and endorse the Quality Management System Operational Plan for the Eganville Drinking Water System.

Carried

9.3 Resolution to support Recommendations for Government Regulation of Nicotine Pouches

**24.173 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** John Epps

**WHEREAS** Health Canada approved nicotine pouches for sale under the Natural Health Product regulations providing no restrictions on advertising or sale to children and youth; and

**WHEREAS** the unrestricted sale, display, and promotion of nicotine pouches contribute to their accessibility, the normalization of nicotine use, and potential health hazards; and

**WHEREAS** nicotine is highly addictive and its use, in any form, is unsafe for children and youth; and

**WHEREAS** exposure to nicotine can have adverse effects on the developing brains of adolescents and young adults and increases the likelihood of initiation and long-term use of tobacco products; and

**WHEREAS** the emergence of nicotine pouch products occurred rapidly without requiring adherence to the restrictions of the federal Tobacco and Vaping Products Act, 1997, and the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Bonnechere Valley supports the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts resolution strongly encouraging Health Canada to take immediate action to close the regulatory gap that permits the sale of nicotine pouches to youth under 18 years of age; and

**FURTHER THAT** Health Canada strengthen regulations to restrict the sale of new and emerging tobacco and nicotine products, ensuring that nicotine availability to children and youth never occur again; and

**FURTHER THAT** the Government of Ontario exclusively sell nicotine pouches from behind pharmacy counters, limit their display in retail settings, and restrict their promotion, especially to youth; and

**FURTHER THAT** the Government of Ontario expands the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy to create a comprehensive, coherent public health-oriented framework for the regulation of vaping and all nicotine-containing products.

Carried

#### 9.4 Resolution in Support of SolvethCrisis.ca Campaign

**24.174 MOVED BY** Merv Buckwald  
**SECONDED BY** John Epps

**Whereas** there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on the streets in our cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. The time for words is over, we need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province of Ontario; and

**Whereas** the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023 and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023; and

**Whereas** the province has provided additional funding and supports, such as the recent investment of \$378 million for HART Hubs and approximately 375 beds with wraparound supports, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

**Whereas** municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

**Whereas** this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and

**Whereas** there is no provincial lead focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Township of Bonnechere Valley supports the SolvethetheCrisis.ca Campaign and requests that the Provincial and Federal Governments take Action to Address the Growing Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crisis in Ontario;

**And** calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

**And** that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

**And** appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

**And** that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a *Made in Ontario Action Plan*;

**And** that this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis.

**And** that the federal government is included in these conversations.

**And** that both levels of government provide adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

**And further that a copy of this motion be sent to:**

- The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Honourable Sean Fraser, Min. of Housing, Infrastructure & Communities Canada
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Local MPs
- Local MPPs
- AMO, ROMA and FCM

CARRIED

9.5 Resolution to support Rideshare Services

**24.175 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** Merv Buckwald

**Whereas** the Township of Bonnechere Valley faces challenges related to limited access to transportation, and there exists a pressing need for a ride-sharing service to address transportation gaps within our community; and

**Whereas** Rideshare services are increasingly relied upon by seniors, students, visitors and tourists, and residents looking for safe, affordable, convenient, and reliable ways to travel; and

**Whereas** the standardization and consistency of regulations across municipalities, particularly in Ontario, can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory framework; and

**Whereas** transferring the responsibility of ride-share regulations and licensing to the provincial level would contribute to a more streamlined and uniform governance structure, while eliminating associated red tape and unnecessary administrative costs;

**Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that** the Township of Bonnechere Valley hereby expresses its support for the migration of ride-share regulations and licensing from the municipal level to the provincial level;

**And Be It Further Resolved that** the Township of Bonnechere Valley Council formally requests the Government of Ontario to initiate the transfer of responsibilities in the interest of creating a more coherent and standardized regulatory framework for ride-sharing services across the province;

**And Be It Further Resolved that** copies of this motion be distributed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MPP John Yakabuski; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

Carried

#### 9.6 Resolution to support Sewage and Water Works near Transit

**24.176 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** Merv Buckwald

**WHEREAS** September 27 2024, the ministry posted a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario to consult on proposed amendments to O. Reg. 208/19, and O. Reg. 172/03 to allow transit authorities to make changes to municipal sewage and drinking water distribution works that are part of transit projects, helping deliver this critical infrastructure faster while maintaining environmental safeguards.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Bonnechere Valley supports the provinces proposal to designate transit authorities such as Metrolinx as "prescribed persons" under O. Reg. 208/19 and define water distribution works constructed as part of a municipal drinking water system under O.Reg. 172/03.

**AND FURTHER THAT** this motion be forwarded as a comment to the Ministry by the November 11<sup>th</sup> deadline date.

Carried

#### 9.7 Resolution - Regulations for the Importation of Sale of Use Lithium-ion Batteries

**24.177 MOVED BY** Tracey Sanderson  
**SECONDED BY** Brent Patrick

**THAT** Council for the Township of Bonnechere Valley supports the letter received from the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan regarding calling upon all levels of government to enact regulations for the importation, sale, storage, and use of non-OEM or ULC certified lithium-ion batteries;

**AND THAT** a copy of this resolution and the letter from Otonabee-South Monaghan be shared with the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association, the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan and MP Cheryl Gallant.

Carried

9.8 Resolution - Support of Involuntary Care for Individuals with Severe Mental Health and Addictions

**24.178 MOVED BY** John Epps  
**SECONDED BY** Brent Patrick

**WHEREAS** the Province of British Columbia has announced the creation of highly secure facilities to provide involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues under the Mental Health Act, including dedicated mental health units in correctional centres and regional secure care facilities; and

**WHEREAS** the Township of Bonnechere Valley, along with municipalities across Ontario, are facing growing challenges in addressing the complex needs of individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues, which place a significant strain on local emergency services, healthcare systems, community resources, and public safety; and

**WHEREAS** individuals experiencing severe mental health and addictions issues often cannot voluntarily seek the care they need, and involuntary care, provided with compassion and appropriate safeguards, can ensure they receive the necessary treatment to help stabilize their condition and improve community safety.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Bonnechere Valley supports the BC government's approach to providing secure, involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions challenges, as a compassionate and necessary intervention for those unable to seek help on their own; and

**FURTHER THAT** the Township of Bonnechere Valley urges the Province of Ontario to implement similar measures to ensure that individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues in Ontario have access to secure, involuntary care when necessary; and

**FURTHER THAT** this motion be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Premier, the Honourable, David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills and MPP John Yakabuski

CARRIED

9.9 Resolution regarding The Canada Community-Building Fund

**24.179 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** Merv Buckwald

**Whereas** the Township of Bonnechere Valley has entered into an agreement to receive Canada Community-Building Funds, which is administered by the Association of Ontario Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on behalf of the Federal government;

**And whereas** the funding allocations are less than 2% year over year for the next 5 years;

**And whereas** the amounts allocated in the past 5 years were less than 2% year over year;

**And whereas** non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure projects without a corresponding growth in revenue;

**And whereas** there is a requirement for municipalities to complete an asset management plan and a housing needs analysis;

**And whereas** both of these plans show the large funding gap between infrastructure and housing needs and funds available from property taxation;

**And whereas** the Township of Bonnechere Valley has over 179 million in core infrastructure assets, and, like other municipalities, its infrastructure is aging and in need of upgrades and replacement;

**And whereas** the Township's Asset Management Plan requires \$3.3 million annually to maintain existing assets which, based on current available funding, is resulting in an annual infrastructure deficit of over \$1.9 million;

**And whereas** municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end;

**Now therefore be it resolved that** the Township of Bonnechere Valley calls on the Federal Government to provide a supplement to the allocations provided to municipalities under the AMO CCBF agreement for 2024 - 2028 for the same amount that was allocated, effectively doubling the allocation for those years; And further that this resolution be forwarded to MFOA, AMO, MP Cheryl Gallant, and Federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland.

Carried

#### 9.10 Resolution to approve Grant Application for Recreation

**24.180 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**Whereas** the Township of Bonnechere Valley manages and maintains Centennial Park and Legion Field; and

**Whereas** the proposed project would improve accessibility and the lifespan of both municipal parks; and

**Whereas** the play structure, lighting and outdoor rink are all in need of repair or replacement at Centennial Park; and

**Whereas** many requests have been received for a play structure at Legion Field;

**Now Therefore Be it Resolved That** staff be authorized to submit an application for funding to the Ontario Ministry of Sport Community Sport Recreation Infrastructure Fund to improve accessibility and lifespan of Legion Field and Centennial Park.

Carried

#### 9.11 Resolution to approve CIP for Bloom Wildly

**24.181 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**THAT:** the application for Community Improvement Funding be approved;

**AND FURTHER THAT** upon inspection by the CBO following the completion of the improvements an amount up to \$1,000 be paid to Bloom Wildly for Signage.

Carried

**CLOSED SESSION – NONE**

**BY-LAWS**

**24.182 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** John Epps

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-056 Being a By-Law to authorize an MOU with Sno-drifters Club

BE READ A FIRST TIME, BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME, BE DEEMED READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Carried

**24.183 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-057 Being a By-law to authorize a Crossing Agreement with Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited

BE READ A FIRST TIME, BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME, BE DEEMED READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Carried

**24.184 MOVED BY** John Epps  
**SECONDED BY** Merv Buckwald

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-058 Being a By-law to assume a portion of Silver Lake Road

BE READ A FIRST TIME, BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME, BE DEEMED READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Carried

**24.185 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-059 Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of council

BE READ A FIRST TIME, BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME, BE DEEMED READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

**24.186 MOVED BY** John Epps  
**SECONDED BY** Merv Buckwald

**THAT:** This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Carried

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Mayor Jennifer Murphy

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CAO/Clerk Annette Gilchrist