

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY DECEMBER 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/Clerk Annette Gilchrist
Treasurer/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 **John Epps**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on November 19, 2024 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

REPORTS

Water & Sewer Department

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

- a) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;
- b) Locates for Telecon and Enbridge Gas & other Sub-Contractors;
- c) The 2024 Audit was carried out on November 13th, we have not received the final Audit Report;
- d) We had M.O.E. Inspector, David Trombley on site to carry out the on site portion of a Compliance Report, staff sent all the information to the inspector, and they have not received the final report;
- e) Franklin Empire was on site to certify the Milltronics level sensors;
- f) We received a coating specification from J.L. Richards and have asked for quotes from contractors;
- g) The 2025 Draft Budget was provided to Committee for their consideration and approval. Committee approved the 4% increase to the water and sewer rates. Staff will bring forward the By-law to approve the 2025 rates;
- h) The Eganville Sewage System continues to operate in full compliance according to the Provincial Guidelines that are set out in the Certificate of Approval;
- i) The Quarterly report for the Wastewater Plant was submitted;
- j) Franklin Empire was on site to calibrate & certify the flow meters in Plant#1 and Plant# 2.

Water & Sewer Report Received.

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Fall Leaf Pickup - 289 bags of leaves were picked up on the Fall Leaf pickup collection day for the village;
- b) Connecting Links Program – Staff submitted a funding application to the Connecting Links Program 2025 for the rehabilitation of Highway 60 (Bonnechere Street) from the easterly Township limits for approximately 1.50 km, up to and including the intersection at Bridge Street. If approved for the funding the fund would pay 90% of the costs, the amount requested from the fund is \$1,672,707. The scope of rehabilitation is anticipated to include partial-depth road reconstruction, improvements to road subgrade construction, cross-fall correction, curb and gutter replacement, select sidewalk rehabilitation, sewer frame and grate adjustments, catch-basin rebuild/replacement, localized drainage improvements, including new catch basins and culvert replacement, enhanced safety and accessibility improvements for pedestrians including upgraded pedestrian crossings and installation of Tactile Walking Surface Indicators (TWSIs) in accordance with AODA standards;
- c) Waste Site Attendant and Sanitation Assistant Positions - Currently recruiting for a Waste Site Attendant and a Sanitation Assistant. The application deadline was November 20, 2024;
- d) Emergency Management Exercise - Jason Zohr and Dana Barkley participated in the Emergency Management Exercise on November 19, 2024 at the Eagle's Nest;
- e) Santa Claus Parade - The department will provide assistance on December 8, 2024 for the Santa Claus Parade, to barricade the streets to ensure safety for parade participants. This is also weather dependent as the crews may be required elsewhere;
- f) Christmas Schedules - Christmas does not impact any of the waste sites so they are operating during normal winter hours. No Curbside Garage pickup on Thursday, December 26, 2024. Pickup will take place on Friday, December 27, 2024;
- g) The Public Works office will be closed from December 23, 2024 to December 27, 2024 and will reopen on Monday, December 30, 2024. The office will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025. The public works employees will be off but will be on call, ready to come in as needed and required;
- h) Note of Thanks - As the year comes to close and the holidays are upon us, we can't help but to reflect and acknowledge the efforts of our roads crew and waste site attendants for the betterment of our municipality. We would also like to thank all the Finance & Administration staff, the other BV departments and Council for their support. Thank you for all that you do, and we hope that you all have a great festive season.

Works Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

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

- a) The Department had sixty-four calls for service between January – November 20, 2024;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
- c) Staff are working on painting their training room upstairs.

Fire Department & Building Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile Nov 22
2. AMO Policy
3. Cyber Security Memo - Municipal Drinking Water Systems and Wastewater

Facilities

4. Postal Strike Memo
5. Ministry of Health Report to Board of Health

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Billy Bishop Airport
2. Ambulance Shortages and Healthcare System Issues
3. MECP email amendments RSC
4. Proposal on Enabling the Development of Commercial-Scale Geologic Carbon Storage in Ontario
5. Resolution to amend OBC to include affordable housing plans
6. ERO Posting 019-9196 Enabling greater beneficial reuse excess soil

(C) Correspondence "C"

1. OPP Costs and Sustainable Funding

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Mayor's Report – Since her last report, the Mayor has attended 24 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows.

County Council - Warden Emon presented the 2024 Warden's Community Service Awards to the following recipients in their respective categories:

- Individual: Dan Poole of Whitewater Region;
- Non-profit: Paddler Coop, Palmer Rapids with Ryan O'Connor accepting;
- For-profit: The Valley Gazette, Madawaska Valley, with publisher Michel Lavigne accepting.

Pascal Genevieve and Mark Brillon, from CCG - Ainsworth presented the County of Renfrew's Climate Change Action Plan, providing a summary of the greenhouse gas inventory, proposed targets for reducing emissions by 2050, and outlining priorities and objectives going forward. The next step is to form a CoR Climate Action Plan committee.

CAO Craig Kelley provided the annual report care on the County's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, highlighting achievements of the past year under the identified priorities of financial sustainability, workforce development, community wellness and health care, shared services and resources, attainable housing and infrastructure and environmental resiliency.

County Council recommended that staff submit delegation request(s) at the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference that are consistent with the 2023-2026 County of Renfrew Strategic Plan, the 2024-2026 Economic Development Strategy, other current initiatives that require further advocacy, and previous delegations that addressed funding shortfall(s); and that the Chair of the appropriate Standing Committee, along with the Warden, be designated to attend the delegation meetings. These included delegation requests to the following Ministries:

Ministry of Health, regarding rural health care funding;

- Ministry of Colleges and Universities, regarding labour shortages in every sector;
- Ministry of Long-Term Care;
- Ministry of Finance, for OCIF and OMPF, also potentially local share;
- Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the ongoing reductions to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF);
- Ministry of Transportation to address a commitment to complete the promised 22.5 kilometres of divided highway on Highway 17 and potential partnership(s) to expand and improve the Algonquin Trail;
- Ministry of Education to advocate for the County of Renfrew to be

- allocated additional spaces within the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system;
- Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to discuss the Ontario Works financial assistance rates, which have not been increased since 2018;
 - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to seek additional Homelessness Prevention Program.

County Council approved that the County of Renfrew section of the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail, the Algonquin Trail, become part of the Trans Canada Trail Network. The acceptance of the Algonquin Trail into the TCT network will provide a large number of funding opportunities as well as greater overall promotion for the County's recreational trail.

The County adopted a by-law to enter into a short-term lease agreement with the Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre in Pembroke for space to be used as a Mesa Warming Centre. This is a partnership with the City of Pembroke.

They also adopted our new governance model for the proceedings of Council and committees. The most significant change to the Procedural By-Law is to the committee structure, whereby County Council will move to Committee of the Whole in January 2025 with a realignment of the committees to Joint Services – Health, Joint Services – Community Services, Corporates Services, Development and Property and Operations.

On December 10th, County Council will meet for the inaugural meeting and vote on the 2025 Warden. The candidates are sitting Warden Peter Emon and Greater Madawaska member Rob Weir.

ROMA - On November 14th, Mayor Murphy was pleased to host a Zone 6 catch up. Although most of the attendees were from the County of Renfrew, it was a successful meeting to advise on ROMA's priorities and to remind everyone of the details of the ROMA Conference in January.

The ROMA Board of Directors met on November 15th virtually.

The Board had a very productive meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. We discussed several policy priorities with Minister Paul Calandra, including:

- New resources and funding tools for housing-enabling infrastructure to help address the rural funding gap – including how municipal services corporations and private communal water systems could help;
- The urgent need for a strategic approach to homelessness. The Minister acknowledged the need for wrap-around support and housing.
- Rural Ontario's struggle with the shortage in primary care providers, emergency room closures, and over-reliance on community paramedicine to fill these gaps. The Board hopes to engage with Dr. Jane Philpott who is chairing Ontario's primary care action team.

Minister Calandra committed to meeting with the Board quarterly to share ideas and seek feedback. The Board will also use the opportunity to seek the Minister's support with his Cabinet colleagues on key rural priorities.

The Board discussed concerns related to significant and unexpected municipal OPP rate and fee increases coming in 2025. On behalf of ROMA, AMO Policy engaged with the Ministry of the Solicitor General, to work through approvals for financial support for municipalities to manage the increase. As we now know, these increases have been mitigated.

As Internet Service Providers (ISPs) work to meet the government's 2025 broadband goals, AMO and ROMA are working to support the municipal sector.

The ROMA Board approved a request from AMO staff to seek backstop funding from the province if an ISP saddles a municipality with unfair and unreasonable infrastructure construction and management costs.

AMO will host a webinar by the end of the year to help municipal staff understand how to navigate the relationship with Internet Service Providers using a template Municipal Access Agreement. It outlines essential terms and conditions that are reasonable for municipalities to seek from ISPs installing broadband in their roadways. The Ministry of Infrastructure and the Eastern Ontario Regional Network created the template.

OPP Billing - On November 27th, the Province advised that they created a new fund to mitigate the effects of the increase in OPP costs to all municipalities who engage with this Police service.

The total billing statement that was initially provided to Bonnechere Valley for 2025, inclusive of the increases resulting from the new collective agreement, was \$901,253. Our share in this \$77 million fund is \$130,151 in financial relief, bringing the new total for OPP services to \$771,102.

In addition, a portion of the OMPF will offset the remaining increase for Bonnechere Valley.

Mayor Murphy thanked Peter Emon and the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus for their help in advocating and she extended a huge thank you to AMO Policy Staff for urging the Province to create this new fund so quickly.

RCDHU - The Health Unit Board met on November 26th. On the agenda, we discussed the increase for 2025 required from the obligated Municipalities, being the County of Renfrew, City of Pembroke and South Algonquin. This increase is approximately \$77,000. Although this is a nominal increase, some members asked if these monies could be taken from reserves. As some of RCDHU's reserves are dedicated, staff will be bringing a report back to the Board at a special meeting on December 19th.

Dr. Morganstern's report is in our Correspondence. Contained in this report is the concern regarding Radon. At a previous meeting, Jennifer was asked if the Health Unit still provided Radon test kits. At this time, they do not as funding was removed a few years ago. The test kits are approximately \$50 and must be placed in the home/building for a number of weeks and then sent in to receive results.

On November 11th, it was Mayor Murphy's honour to lay the wreath for the Federal Government and the County of Renfrew at Eganville Legion Branch 353. This was a very special Remembrance Day as the ceremony was held at the cenotaph outside of the building. Thank you to Colonel Guiney and members of Garrison Petawawa for attending and for the amazing fly over of the helicopter. This fly over could not have been timed more perfectly, as we were on the last note of Abide With Me.

On November 29th, it was Jennifer's pleasure to attend the Enbridge media announcement of the Eganville community expansion natural gas project. Thank you to MPP Yakabuski and the members of Enbridge and the Home Builders' Association for attending this event. Also, thank you to Rio Tap and Grill for hosting us!

Once again, as we are going into our third year of this term, Mayor Murphy asked that each member of this Council submit projects and items for consideration for next year at our December 17th meeting;

- (2)** Career Fair Date Change – The applications for the Ontario Skills Trade Truck are backed up but staff expect to hear back soon. When staff were planning the career expo, they thought it would benefit the students to host the event before summer job hiring starts. We are now proposing Friday, March 14th during

March break. Staff have booked Eagle's Nest and will host the event from 10am-2pm and they will also be contacting local employers to attend and will have career aptitude tests for attendees to take.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

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

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 2:22 p.m.

Carried

Brent Patrick, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk