

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2024 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

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

GALLERY **None**

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, Brent Patrick called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**

THAT: The agenda be accepted as presented with the addition of Item 8.4 Trivia Night at Curling Club on March 22, 2024. Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Tracey Sanderson**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on January 16, 2024 be accepted as presented. Carried

DELEGATIONS

Brent Dick, Manager - Algonquin College Community Employment Services Presentation

REPORTS

Water & Sewer Department

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

- a) Daryl Verch introduced the new Operator in Training, Dillan Holly to Committee. Dillan started work on January 29, 2024;
- b) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;
- c) The Yearly Water Compliance Report, Water Summary Report and the Water Taking Reports are Completed and will be brought forward to Council for the March Meeting;
- d) Staff had an electrician come into the Water Plant and Water Tower to tighten and torque on all the electrical connections because they were having irregular scada and valve operations;
- e) The Eganville Sewage System continues to operate in full compliance according to the Provincial Guidelines that are set out in the Certificate of Approval;
- f) The 2023 Sewage and Sludge Monitoring Reports are complete;
- g) The quarterly Flow and Effluent Reports have been completed and submitted to Environment Canada.

Water & Sewer Report Received.

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Pro-Caster Sander Spreader – Committee recommends that the Pro-Caster Sander Spreader be declared as surplus. A Council Resolution will be brought forward to the February 6 meeting of Council. Staff will advertise the equipment for sale in the coming months;

- b) 2024 Freightliner Truck Warranty - Staff have looked into the warranty for the clutch on the 2024 Freightliner. The Township currently has a Basic Vehicle Warranty of 12 months or 161,250 km. Staff recommend that the Township purchase a 7 year/241,500 km Engine Warranty for \$7,269.50. This extended warranty provides extended coverage for specific factory-installed components including the Starter and Alternator. It would also cover select components of the following systems (may not include the component itself. (Example: Transfer Case mounting is included while the Transfer Case itself is excluded.) Committee approved the purchase of the 7 year extended warranty;
- c) Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) - Jason Zohr, Annette Gilchrist and Dana Barkley attended a Zoom Meeting with Janet Robins from CIF. Janet was meeting with municipalities' that are scheduled to transition in 2025 to offer support with the blue box transition process;
- d) Blue Box Transition Meetings - Jason Zohr, Annette Gilchrist and Dana Barkley participated in meetings with both Miller Waste and Emterra Environmental to discuss the Blue Box Transition;
- e) Municipal Excess Soils Workshop - Dana Barkley attended the workshop related to excess soils management for construction and maintenance of municipal stormwater and wastewater infrastructure;
- f) Family Day - The Sand Road Waste Site will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024 in recognition of the Family Day holiday;
- g) 2023 Summary of Vehicle Counts – Committee was provided with the stats for 2023 for all our waste sites and the tallies are based on vehicle counts from the waste site attendants;

Waste Site	# of Vehicles	# of H.H Bags	Glass/Cans	Paper/Card board	Metal	Organics	WEE	Appliances
Sand Road	10,117	11,157	7,557	7,763	730	463	444	114
Lake Clear	3,066	4,018	3,116	3,158	66	283	8	1
McGrath Road	4,045	2,362	1,868	1,809	38	198	0	0
Ruby Road	3,146	2,123	2,003	1,963	743	801	0	6
Hwy 41	2,559	3,085	2,219	2,079	0	97	4	0
Totals	22,933	22,745	16,763	16,772	1,577	1,842	546	121

Waste Site	# of Vehicles	Const/De mo	WEE	Bulky	Tires	Metal	Free Pass	Weight KG's
Sno Drifters	1,113	2,346	2	268	681	106	483	415,810

- h) Committee recommends that staff look into an "exchange of goods" place at the waste site.

Works Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

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

- a) The Department had eight calls for service in January 2024. The Department will continue to monitor medical calls;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
- c) Lithium-ion battery training is scheduled for March 2, 2024 at 10:00am, fifty-one have registered;
- d) Applications for the Junior Firefighter Program are available for pickup at the Municipal Office and at Opeongo High School. Staff are advertising the program through various social media outlets. Committee recommends that we accept individuals from neighboring Townships as well;
- e) Two building permits have been issued in January 2024;

Fire Department & Building Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfiles Jan 18 to Feb 1
2. 2024 Funding Announcement Eganville Seniors
3. 2024 CSPA Letter for s.10 Municipalities

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Eganville Minor Hockey Request Letter to BV - 2024
2. Enterprise Renfrew County Sponsorship Proposal
3. Enbridge Information and draft letter of support
4. Follow up to Request to regarding purchase of Township property
5. Request for support for Kraft Hockeyville Nomination
6. Tweed request for support for license plate renewal reinstatement
7. Request to close and purchase a portion of unopened road allowance
8. Request to extend services along Elgin Street
9. OV Boss Babes Proposal
10. Request from Women's Sexual Assault Centre
11. Mississauga Resolution on Residential Tenancies Act and Landlord Tenant Board
12. Town of Mono Declares Road Safety Emergency
13. AMO Social Economic Prosperity Review Support Resolutions

(C) Correspondence "C"

- A.2 Committee recommends that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Eganville Seniors regarding their funding.
- B.1 Committee recommends the same support as last year for Eganville Minor Hockey's Lisa Sharpe Memorial 4 on 4 Event.
- B.3 Committee agreed to a letter of support for Enbridge.
- B.4 Committee recommends not accepting the request of the Jack Roesner, property owner, to use the appraisal value of the land and use the \$5.00 per linear foot as per our policy.
- B.5 Committee recommends support of Kraft Hockeyville Nomination for Bonnechere Valley.
- B.7 Committee approved the request of Morley Hass to close one-half of Concession 7 next to lot 34 in Sebastopol.
- B.8 Committee recommends support, in principle, and provided staff direction to extend water and sewer services at the end of Elgin Street by Triunfo Holding Corp. The developer would be expected to pay for all the costs.
- B.10 Committee approves the request from the Women's Sexual Assault Centre to hang their banner over the Bridge, for the 6th annual We Stand With Survivors Campaign for the month of May 2024.
- B.13 Committee recommends support of the resolution from AMO; that the Province of Ontario commit to undertake along with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Emergency Management Funding Application – Committee recommends that CAO Annette Gilchrist is hereby authorized to sign the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) 2023-24 grant application and bind the organization to the province;
- (2)** Police Services Board Report – Merv Buckwald updated Committee on the last Police Services Board meeting. The statistics from 2022 compared to 2023, just the domestic calls were up a bit. There is funding coming to assist the OPP with auto theft;

(3) Mayor's Report – Since the last Mayor's Report, the Mayor attended 36 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows:

ROMA Board and Conference - The 2024 ROMA Conference, Closer to Home, was an enormous success. With almost 1900 delegates and 88 participants in the trade show, it was the largest ROMA Conference to date. It was Jennifer Murphy's pleasure to attend along with CAO, Annette Gilchrist, and Councillor Tracey Sanderson.

On Sunday, January 21st, Jennifer Murphy presented the ROMA Board update to the members of Zone 6. With approximately 70 participants, Jennifer felt that our Zone was very well represented and engaged. Although there were no questions regarding the 2023 ROMA Board initiatives nor the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, I did receive feedback with regards to rising Water and Wastewater rates which will be discussed in depth at future ROMA meetings. This issue was brought to the Board by many Municipalities in late November 2023, so we did not have enough time to make this a meaningful discussion in January. I will send the Zone update through email to all members of Council.

On Monday, January 22nd, Jennifer moderated the Learning Lunch featuring Enbridge Gas. Although there were over 100 attendees, there were very few questions.

Warden Emon, Mayor Brose and Mayor Murphy had a delegation with Associate Minister of Housing, Rob Flack, to present a case for continuing the Modernization Funds. They were able to express the initiatives that the County used the three previous rounds for which include:

- A Service Delivery Review of our operations, which we continue to roll out efficiencies and modernization of our workforce.
- A reimagined and renovated workplace, bringing all services together under one common roof and administration building, creating a true integration of our services.
- A Planning Services Review, with an effort to determine the path forward to modernizing the approval process to improve our housing stock.
- An IT and Digital Modernization strategy, with a keen view of rolling out technological infrastructure that would better serve the ratepayer.
- An online portal for community engagement. (Zencity)
- Modernization of our meeting live-streaming equipment.
- Installation of online phone technology (VOIP).
- Engagement of a Human Resource Information System (HRIS).

They also presented further priorities that the County is ready to proceed with if the Modernization Funds continue:

- Bringing together the numerous independently operated programs to combat the housing, homelessness, and mental health crisis under a unified direction without an overlap or duplication of service through;
- A Warming Centre;
- A Housing and Homelessness Hub; and
- A Mobile Model of Care;
- A modular housing strategy and pilot project;
- Electronic land use permitting;
- Human Resource and Information Technology capacity sharing; and
- Automation of our meeting minutes and agenda software programs.

CAO Gilchrist, Councillor Sanderson, and Mayor Murphy, along with representatives from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and the Town of Renfrew had a delegation with Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy, Stephane Sarrazin, regarding the FIT programs for hydro electric dams and the need for extended years under this program for the three municipal dams represented. The suggestion made by our CAO is that the Ministry of Energy, the three Municipalities and IESO all meet at one table so that we all may come to a mutually agreeable decision. They were very thankful that MPP Yakabuski joined us and expressed his support for our needs. Thank you to Annette for leading this discussion as our subject matter expert.

In addition, all three of us attended plenary sessions, the trade show, the Ministers' Forum and the Provincial Reception where we were able to speak with several Cabinet Ministers including Minister Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; Minister Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Minister Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; and Minister Charmaine Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity.

It was also Jennifer's pleasure to speak with Attorney General, Doug Downey; Minister Todd Smith, Minister of Energy; Solicitor General Michael Kerzner; MPP Laurie Scott; NDP Member John Vanthof; Independent Member Michael Mantha; and Liberal Leader Bonnie Crombie.

The ROMA Board is still receiving feedback on the Conference, but, currently, all comments have been extremely positive.

County Council - At the December 12th County Council Inaugural meeting, Peter Emon was acclaimed as Warden for the 2024 year.

On January 24th and 25th, Jennifer Murphy, along with Warden Emon, chaired the 2024 Budget deliberations. It was a very difficult two days with a great deal of engagement and debate from Councillors. The end result was a 8.53 percent increase, which represents 5.47 percent in levy increase and 3.06 percent real growth. The total dollars for the 2024 fiscal year is \$57,403,120.00.

The County of Renfrew remains focused on today and the future. With the budget for 2024 approved, the County of Renfrew will continue to deliver existing programs and services and will also fund several key service enhancements:

- Investing \$2 million in a multi-department, multi-pronged approach to address the growing crisis in terms of housing, homelessness, mental health, and addictions in the community. This includes staffing two mobile crisis support units with paramedics and crisis workers, preparing a study for a shovel-ready housing development, additional maintenance staff and a full-time Community Housing Coordinator and a Homelessness Coordinator.
- \$54 million in capital asset renewal
- Adding to the Renfrew County Housing Corporation (RCHC) portfolio with the completion of the new build at Lea and Douglas Streets in the City of Pembroke (eight units featuring 12 bedrooms) and a new duplex on Cecil Street
- An increase in the Paramedic Service for improved coverage with an additional 24/7 Paramedic Unit. County Council voted unanimously in the latter half of 2023 to increase this coverage. Although this is \$1.6 million dollar investment in 2024 and represents approximately 3 percent of increases, it will be offset by 50 percent funding by the Province in 2025. This is the first time in over a decade that an increase in Paramedic coverage has occurred.

The County commended County staff for their hard work that went into formulating the budget documents and Council for navigating through the process to make difficult decisions in another challenging budget year. The County's Acting Treasurer, Daniel Burke, did an exemplary job of walking us through the details of this budget.

The County levy of 5.47 percent corresponds to a \$20.76 rise in residential property taxes for every \$100,000 in assessed value. Given that Renfrew County's median residential property value is currently \$205,000, the average homeowner would spend \$845 in 2024 for the County portion of their taxes. The County of Renfrew will be able to maintain its provision of high-quality services, including two long-term care facilities, paramedic services, and community services, with a 5.47 percent tax rate increase.

Other meetings - Jennifer will have updates from the Renfrew County and District Board of Health and the Eastern Ontario Regional Network next month. All agenda items at both of these Boards are waiting on further information before reporting.

Jennifer received a concern from a resident regarding a Rogers cell tower being erected near their home. This concern was forwarded to the Director of Communications for EORN to action with Rogers. Rogers did provide information packages to abutting property owners in September 2021, however with many property turnovers during this time, there are some residents that were not aware of towers in their vicinity. I will remind Council that these towers are Federally regulated and on private properties. They do not require building permits nor approval from Municipal Councils. Any information provided to Council is for information purposes only.

In anticipation of reviewing and revising our Animal By-Law, Annette and Jennifer had a meeting with a representative of the World Animal Protection organization. Animal welfare falls under the Ministry of the Solicitor General, Michael Kerzner, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister Graydon Smith. During the ROMA Conference, I was able to have hallway chats with both gentlemen to put this on their radar and request a meeting with the Solicitor General.

Highlights - On December 1st, Mayor Jennifer Murphy, along with Warden Emon, Mayor James Brose and MPP John Yakabuski attended Heideman & Sons for an announcement from the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, regarding funds for biomass innovation in the forestry sector. Lavern Heideman & Sons, in partnership with Harvest Bioindustrial Group from Burlington, will receive \$120,000 to study and increase the use of underutilized hardwoods to produce biochemicals and other products. Roseburg Forest Products Inc. will receive \$100,000 to improve supply chain resiliency, support forest sector diversification and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by exploring energy production using forest biomass.

On December 2nd, Jennifer Murphy attended the 5th Anniversary of the Rusty Lantern and presented owner Sherry Ann with a congratulatory certificate.

On December 2nd, Jennifer Murphy, along with Councillor Sanderson, participated in our Eganville Shop Local Day which was a huge success. I sincerely hope that this tradition of cross-marketing of our local businesses continues in a meaningful way for the good of all.

On December 20th, it was Jennifer Murphy pleasure to attend our Eganville Curling Club with MPP John Yakabuski, CAO Gilchrist, Community Development Officer, Sarah Richer, Former CDO, Dana Barkley and Curling Club President, Gerald Priestly to unveil the new ice shaving machine which was purchased through a Trillium Grant.

Thank you to Deputy Mayor, Brent Patrick, for attending, in my absence, the raising of the Bell Let's Talk flag at the Professional Office on Wednesday, January 24th.

On December 4th, it was my pleasure to represent Bonnechere Valley at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2024 Bonnechere Cup Snowmobile Races. Also representing and celebrating on the Oval were MP Cheryl Gallant and Mayor James Brose along with representatives from multiple sponsors. Congratulations to the Bonnechere Cup committee;

- (4) Trivia Night at Curling Club on March 22, 2024 – Members of Committee will be going to Trivia Night on March 22, 2024.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday February 20, 2024.

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **John Epps**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 3:30 p.m.

Carried

Brent Patrick, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO