

- l) The second weekend of the Madawaska Studio Tour was held on October 5th and 6th. That banner will be taken down. The Veteran banners will be going up the week after Thanksgiving;
- m) The Splash Pad was winterized and shut down before Thanksgiving weekend;
- n) The last Farmers' Market of the season was held on Friday, October 11th; and
- o) The Veteran's Banners were hung up in the Village on October 15.

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

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

- a) The October 11, 2024 Provisional Budget Report along with the Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2024 was provided to Committee;
- b) Calculated and billed out a property tax Supplemental tax billing batches, totaling \$437.32;
- c) Calculated and billed out property tax Write Off's in the amount of \$4256.09 due to changes made by the Minister of Finance. On July 5, 2024 the Minister of Finance filed two regulations creating a new subclass the applied to the industrial class portion of aggregate producing properties. O.Reg. 295/24 establishes this new industrial subclass under the Assessment Act with amendments to O.Reg. 282/98;

O.Reg. 296/24, which amends O.Reg. 400/98 made under the Education Act, sets a discount factor of 95% to be applied to the education rate for the new subclass. The prescribed discount does not apply to any municipal tax rate.

A Ministry of Finance letter circulated to municipal treasurers on July 9th, 2024, notes that this subclass is a temporary measure intended to address the significant increases in assessment/taxation that materialized this year resulting from recent changes in assessment methodology. The letter also indicates efforts are underway to create a completely new property class for these properties, which will ultimately replace the temporary subclass treatment;

- d) Township received notice that it's OCIF funding will decrease by 15% - it is down \$86,543 from 2024. In 2025 Bonnechere Valley will receive \$490,411;
- e) Township also received notice that our OPP Billing Costs for 2025 are increasing. Total for 2025 is \$901,253, which represents a 22.875% increase from 2024 costs. The 2024 cost was \$733,473. Most municipalities in Ontario have received a similar increase. In Renfrew County the average increase for 2025 is 20%;
- f) Sandra attended an Employment Standards Act - What Employers Need To Know Webinar on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm; and
- g) Sandra attended the Renfrew County Clerks & Treasurer's meeting on Wednesday October 9, 2024.

Financial Report Received.

Administration

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

- a) On September 19th and 20th Annette Gilchrist attended the MFOA conference and attended sessions on asset management, contractual risk transfer, software, automated processes and the discussion forum for municipalities with populations under 10,000. Annette also presented a session on everyday ethics;
- b) October 1st Annette attended the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Clerks Forum in Napanee which highlighted municipal conflict of interest, appointment of vacant council positions and Annette made a presentation on social media;
- c) On October 9th Treasurer/Deputy CAO Sandra Barr and Annette attended the Renfrew County Clerks and Treasurers Meeting and discussed mentoring opportunities within the county, changes to employment policies, recent

- impacts on the forestry industry and the butterfly model of care at Bonnechere Manor;
- d) Annette will be attending the career fair at Algonquin College on October 16th and working with them for summer student positions across the county and training in municipal government;
 - d) The official renaming of Centennial Park resolution will be coming to Council this evening;
 - e) The agreement for the Rural Transit Solution Fund is on the council agenda for October 15 to be passed by by-law;
 - f) The Sno-drifters Club made some changes to the proposed agreement. Committee approved in principle and Annette will bring it back to the Nov 5th Council meeting to be formally approved by by-law;
 - g) The Crossing Agreement with Cavanagh that was agreed to in principle was provided to Committee to review. Committee agreed to the draft agreement, and it will be brought back to the Nov 5th Council meeting to be formally approved by by-law;
 - h) Public Works Super Jason Zohr received a proposal for Snow clearing in the Village. This is an increase of 11% or 5.5% over the last 2 years as the price remained the same since 2022. Others were contacted however they did not have the time to take on the contract. Committee approved in principle, and Annette will bring back a resolution to approve the sole source on November 5th meeting;
 - i) Following the Lake Clear Planning and Environmental Report, staff were looking for directions on how to proceed. The first step in the process would be an Official Plan Amendment Application to the County of Renfrew. The Official Plan is a policy document and would need to be amended first. This would include public meetings and consultation as required under the Planning Act and would be facilitated by the County. If approved and passed without appeal, the Township would then begin working on the zoning and licensing by-laws. These will also require public consultation, and these are the documents that will enforce the recommendations in the report. Committee provided staff direction for Annette to proceed with an application to amend the official plan with the County of Renfrew in January 2025;
 - j) Christmas Holiday Hours - Similar to prior years and other local municipalities, Annette recommended that the Township office be closed December 23rd and 24th, and 27th to observe the holiday season. The Office will be open December 30th and 31st and closed on January 1st 2025. The Waste Site closures will follow in the Public Works Supers report November 5th and all closures will be posted in our upcoming November/December Newsletter and posted online and in the paper closer to the holiday season;
 - k) Youth Summit – There were 12 youth registered to attend, and four organizations bringing booths. ConnectWell Community Health, Bernadette McCann House, Eganville Seniors, and the Bonnechere Union Public Library will be joining us. Staff have a fun day planned with speakers, activities, and prizes. Five youth attended the event;
 - l) Interactive Career Expo - Staff are looking into a tiered sponsorship system to propose to potential sponsors to help us fund this event. We have requested the Ontario Skills Trade Truck, but have not heard back yet;
 - m) Taste of the Valley - Our Taste of the Valley application has been submitted;
 - n) Canada Day 2025 - Fireworks are booking up for Canada Day 2025. To book we need the budget approved in principle. In 2024 the fireworks were \$10,848 from Capital Pyrotechnics. Committee discussed a Drone Show as opposed to fireworks. Drone Show price point from NorthStar Fireworks Entertainment Inc: 50 drones: \$15,000; 100 drones: \$25,000; 200 drones: \$40,000. Committee recommends proceeding with fireworks for 2025 and look into partnering with neighboring Townships for a potential drone show for 2026;
 - o) CIP - We have not received any additional CIP applications;

- p) Eganville & Area Community Development Group - The EACDG was finally able to meet on October 2nd. They are looking forward to another Beer and Wine Festival event, as well as looking into some fundraising opportunities;
- q) Emergency Management - Our annual exercise will be held at 9:30am, Tuesday November 19, 2024. The location is the Eagle's Nest. Lunch will be provided.

Administrative Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile Sept 27
2. AMO Watchfile Oct 3
3. AMO Watchfile Oct 10
4. County of Renfrew October Construction Report
5. County Council Summary September 2024
6. Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus News

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Resolution - Public Sector Salary Disclosure
2. Request to Increase the Tile Drain Loan Limit
3. Recommendations for Government Regulation of Nicotine Pouches
4. Resolution Re Alcohol Sales and Provincial Alcohol Strategy
5. Ontario Deposit Return Program
6. Support of SolvethetheCrisis.ca Campaign
7. Bonnetrae Sponsorship Request
8. Rideshare Services
9. Request for Remembrance Day
10. Proposal for changes to water and sewer works near transit
11. Regulations for the Importation of Sale of Use Lithium-ion Batteries
12. Support of Involuntary Care for Individuals with Severe Mental Health and Addictions
13. Resolution regarding The Canada Community-Building Fund
14. Admaston Bromley request for a letter of support

(C) Correspondence "C"

- B.3 Committee recommends support for Government Regulation of Nicotine Pouches;
- B.6 Committee recommends support of SolvethetheCrisis.ca Campaign;
- B.7 Committee recommends support of the Bonnetrae Sponsorship Request for sponsorship on the six signboards on their trails;
- B.8 Committee recommends support of Rideshare Services;
- B.9 Committee approves the request from the Eganville Legion for Remembrance Day and supports a marching contingent of the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa Parade from the parking lot of St. James Catholic Church to the Royal Canadian Legion;

- B.10 Committee recommends support of the proposal for changes to water and sewer works near transit;
- B.11 Committee recommends support of Regulations for the Importation of Sale of Use Lithium-ion Batteries;
- B.12 Committee recommends support of Support of Involuntary Care for Individuals with Severe Mental Health and Addictions;
- B.13 Committee recommends support of the resolution regarding The Canada Community-Building Fund;
- B.14 Committee recommends support of Admaston Bromley's request for a letter of support and provided Annette with staff direction.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Crossing Agreement with Cavanagh – Committee agreed to the draft agreement, and it will be brought back to the Nov 5th Council meeting to be formally approved by by-law;
- (2)** Memorandum of Understanding SnoDrifters Club – The Sno-drifters Club made some changes to the proposed agreement. Committee approved in principle and Annette will bring it back to the Nov 5th Council meeting to be formally approved by by-law;
- (3)** Mayor's Update – Since her last report, the Mayor has attended 32 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows.

County Council – There were three delegations at County Council on September 25th.

- Allison Miller, Project Officer with the Labour Market Group of Renfrew and Lanark, provided an overview of the organization, a labour market update for Renfrew County and she highlighted the Labour Market Planning Session with guest speaker David Colletto on October 10 and encouraged elected officials and economic development partners to attend to be part of the discussion.
- Ayden Townsend of Roth IAMS presented the Building Conditions Assessment report following an assessment of the assets within the Renfrew County Housing Corporation portfolio. The report set out capital renewal costs required within the housing portfolio and encouraged a longer-term strategic plan to guide how to invest in or divest assets over the next 20 to 30 years be developed.
- Aimee Bailey of Circle of Turtle Lodge and others were on hand for a Truth and Reconciliation recognition event at the Noojimokamig [new-JIH-mah GAH-mig] Garden, which included a tobacco ceremony for members of County Council and County staff. Participants were asked to offer prayers to the Creator and show their respect for the children who did not make it home from Residential Schools ahead of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. An orange flag was raised outside the County Administration Building as part of the ceremony and it will be lowered on September 30 to honour the lives lost.

Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) opened a new Clinical Assessment Centre on September 9, 2024, at the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre. It will be open every Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and patients can make an appointment by calling RC VTAC. The Paramedic-Led clinic will offer respiratory/ear/nose/throat assessments, specialized injections, minor procedures such as structure removal, tick removal/Lyme disease management and a Paramedic Health Review for unattached patients.

With the opening of the new Eganville Paramedic Base, the team is also working on plans to open another Clinical Assessment Centre in Eganville in the coming months. RC VTAC services remain in demand as four more physicians have recently retired.

On August 20, 2024, the Province of Ontario released the final version of the Provincial Planning Statement 2024, which is set to take effect on October 20, 2024. The new PPS 2024 replaces the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for Greater Golden Horseshoe, integrating them into a single planning document which applies to the entire province. Based on County staff's review, the amended planning statement will have minimal policy impacts to the County of Renfrew and our local municipalities, however it may affect our Official Plan and our Zoning By-Law.

ROMA - The ROMA Board of Directors met on September 19th and 20th for the first time since five AMO Board Rural Caucus members joined the ROMA board. They were elected at the AMO Board election at its conference in August.

Christa Lowry, Mayor of Mississippi Mills, has moved into the role of ROMA Chair, in place of Robin Jones, who has moved on to be AMO President. Christa was previously First Vice Chair.

The Board was pleased to welcome Rural Affairs Minister Lisa Thompson to their Board meeting. Formerly the Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, the Premier announced that Rural Affairs would become a separate ministry. Minister Thompson shared her priorities and goals with the Board, which include cellular and broadband in rural areas, hosting a Rural Summit to ensure our perspective is heard at every table and modernizing the RED Fund.

In their round table discussion, the following items were discussed:

- Municipalities are removing barriers for cell towers and fibre to be installed.
- Utilizing Nurse Practitioners in areas where it is not feasible to recruit a primary care physician.
- That we were not eligible for the Housing Accelerator Fund due to the lack of public transportation
- Separating the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions from the Ministry of Health
- Supplementing our Health Care, which is in crisis, with our Paramedic Service

AMO Policy advisor, Spencer Sandor, gave an update on energy projects across the Province. My main concern is that the Ontario Fire Marshall's office does not have a solid plan for lithium-ion battery storage plants for response or prevention of fires in these facilities. At this time, there is no formal hands-on training for Firefighters.

We endorsed three key policy priorities going into the fall and winter. These are key to quality of life and include:

- enabling housing infrastructure in rural communities
- the impacts of the healthcare crisis on rural municipalities
- addressing rural homelessness.

The ROMA Conference will take place in Toronto from January 19th to 22nd, 2025 and the theme is Rural Routes.

EORN - The EORN Board met in Pembroke on September 26th and September 27th.

They are redefining the work "Network" to include any projects that could utilize the EORN model of regional solutions. This includes the Eastern Ontario Wardens'

Caucus housing plan and now may include a regional approach to agricultural needs such as abattoirs and inspectors.

Keanan Stone and Angela Field were delegates speaking about the needs in agriculture. The Board is going to discuss how to move forward after a follow-up meeting with our Staff.

Their new Strategic Plan will be rolled out in the next month.

On Friday, they announced that a Roger's cell tower on Perrault Road is now in service.

OEMC Conference - The Ontario East Municipal Conference took place in Ottawa from September 10th – 13th.

Jennifer attended the following sessions:

- Navigating the Workforce Transition to Electric Vehicles in Eastern Ontario's Automotive Sector: The Future of Canadian Automotive Labourforce (FOCAL) has recently released its economic forecast of the impact of the transition from internal combustion engine vehicle to electric vehicle manufacturing in Canada's automotive manufacturing sector. The forecast, which covers the whole automotive manufacturing supply chain, and extends all the way back to material processing and mining, details the economic and labour market impacts of this transition, and highlights potential job gains and losses across different industries and sectors through 2040. Jenn had many questions for the presenter including training mechanics, the fact that the batteries are not recyclable/re-coreable and the concern of weather in our region.
- Strategies for a Vibrant Recovery and Planning for the Unpredictable: Climate-Ready Strategies: Colliers Project Leaders spoke on how municipalities across Canada are strategizing and preparing for extreme weather events. Essentially this session focused on municipal climate adaptation, emergency planning and how municipalities can adeptly respond to disasters, curbing economic losses, and mitigating destructive impacts. Overall, it was a very interesting session, however Jenn noted that every emergency is different and difficult to predict. The strengths of summer storms were also discussed.
- Activating Public Spaces that Foster Business Development: The City of Belleville is utilizing spaces where projects the private sector have been engaged in to enhance outdoor areas and foster business development. Belleville's Economic Development Team launched two "Pop-up" projects that are being replicated across the Quinte region and other areas of the province with similar goals and objectives. One is a modular seasonal small business pop up on their waterfront and the other is an enhancement of their patio areas. Bonnechere Valley has already allowed extended patios at our restaurants, but the idea of a group of modular pop-up businesses was very interesting and could be placed in any of our parks or through forming a partnership with a private landowner.
- Building a Foundation for Prosperity and Resiliency in Rural Communities: This session focused on why it is vital to have strong community economic development and the role of communication, education, and empowerment for staff and volunteers.
- Municipal Law Update: We learned about some of the latest changes to municipal legislation and the newest cases in areas of interest to municipal council and staff. Dave Mundy presented at the conference.
- The Power of a Regional Voice: Positioning your community as a "Hub City": The focus was utilizing regional strengths and challenges and working with surrounding neighbours on common goals. Since Bonnechere Valley and North

Algona Wilberforce are so entwined, we need to work more closely to ensure that we are cross-marketing each other's assets and ensure that Eganville is seen as a "Hub City".

County of Renfrew / City of Pembroke Liaison Committee - The County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke meet bi-monthly to discuss projects that both Governments share in. On October 7th, we had a special meeting of this Committee to discuss details surrounding the opening of the Warming Centre in Pembroke for the 2024/2025 winter season. The Warming Centre Committee has now been organized and more information will be communicated in the next two weeks.

EACDG - On October 2nd, 2024, the committee met and agreed to host the Beer and Wine Festival in the Museum parking lot on June 7th, 2025.

We are also looking for a further partnership with the Township and Rotary to fund a play structure for Legion Field.

Youth Summit - On October 11th, 2024, the Township held its first Youth Summit geared towards 8- to 14-year-olds. Although there were 12 youth registered, due to illness and other outside factors, we ended up with 5 kids. The program that Sarah and Annette organized was nothing short of amazing. The kids were completely engaged and had lots of ideas that would be cost-effective and fun, including a dog show.

Events - On September 15th, it was the Mayor's honour to bring greetings at the opening ceremony of Legion Week. There are several new banners that will be installed very soon.

On September 26th, Councillor Epps and Mayor Murphy attended Renfrew County Day.

On September 28th, Councillor Buckwald, Councillor Epps and Mayor Jennifer Murphy attended a private home to welcome the new Austrian Ambassador. It was a lovely afternoon and a huge thanks to Joe and Frieda Hirschall for hosting us.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 5, 2024 at 1:30 pm.

MEDIA SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

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 employees
- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality
- (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations

Carried

MOVED BY **John Epps**

THAT: Council moves out of Closed Session at 3:45 p.m. to rise and report that Council met to receive information and give staff direction regarding the nomination for the Warden's Community Service Award and the Ontario Volunteer Award, the museum sublease, property adjacent to lake clear road and approved minutes from September 3 2024.

Carried

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 3:45 p.m.

Carried

Jennifer Murphy, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk