

**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY  
MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 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 1:40 p.m.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

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

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

**PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY**            **John Epps**

**That:** The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on October 15, 2024 be accepted as presented. Carried

**DELEGATIONS**

**REPORTS**

**Water & Sewer Department**

Daryl Verch, Water & Sewer Manager was not present.

- a) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;
- b) Continental Carbon came on site to remove the GAC filter media from the four filter compartments;
- c) Pritchard Power Systems were on site to do the Bi – Annual Maintenance and testing;
- d) The Bi-annual lead testing was completed on October 8, 2024;
- e) Carrying out maintenance and painting fire hydrants;
- f) Electrical Safety Inspector was on site to carry out inspections;
- g) J.L. Richards is preparing a coating and paint specifications for the painting of the GAC compartments;
- h) Water Inspector on site to carry out the on-site portion of an Inspection;
- i) The Eganville Sewage System continues to operate in full compliance according to the Provincial Guidelines that are set out in the Certificate of Approval;
- j) Replaced the main electrical switch in the waste water plant;
- k) The Geo-tube flow meters were calibrated;
- l) Collected digested sludge samples from 2B and 3B geo tubes and sent off to the lab; and

- m) Staff removed the sludge from the two geo-tubes and transported it to the Sno-drifters waste site;
- n) Committee reviewed and accepted the QMS Management Review Report from October 2024 as well as the minutes of the October 21, 2024 meeting.  
*Water & Sewer Report Received.*

**Works & Waste Department**

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

- a) Sno Drifters Waste Site Hours - The Thursday hours at the Sno Drifters Waste Site ended on October 31, 2024. The usage on Thursdays were as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Vehicle Count</b>	<b>C&amp;D/ Shingles</b>	<b>Bulky Items</b>	<b>Tires</b>	<b>Metal</b>	<b>Free Passes</b>
Sept 5/24	9	9	0	0	0	3
Sept 12/24	11	11	1	5	0	5
Sept 19/24	14	14	0	6	0	3
Sept 26/24	12	11	1	0	0	0
Oct 3/24	8	8	3	92	0	3
Oct 10/24	7	7	0	0	1	3
Oct 17/24	7	6	0	4	2	1
Oct 24/24	6	6	1	0	0	3
Oct 31/24	N/A					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>

- b) Winter Hours Waste Sites - Winter hours at all the sites have been in effect since October 15, 2024;
- c) Fall Leaf Pickup for the Village of Eganville residents will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Leaves must be placed in biodegradable compostable bags;
- d) Employee Training - Alex VanMassenhoven has completed grader training and Arthur Neitzel and Chris Contant have completed chainsaw training;
- e) Mulcher Head Purchase Request - Our grass/brush mower has had some repair issues because of the hardwood brush along the roadways. A used rotary Mulcher Head designed for brush/tree cutting has become available at a price of \$22,500 (new \$48,000). This style of cutter would increase productivity with fewer break downs, and it would improve visibility issues at intersections and along curves along the roadways. It would assist in improving road maintenance for our crews as throughout the seasons it mulches the wood into smaller pieces. As a result, with small pieces our roads would give the appearance of cleanliness as you would not have big chips of debris left over. In the 2024 budget under the line item of "consulting" there are un-used funds. Staff request is to allocate \$11,250 from the unused portion of the consulting line items towards this purchase. The remaining payment of \$11,250 would come out of the 2025 budget and the Township would enter into a lease to own agreement with the vendor;
- f) Waste to Resource Ontario (W2RO) - The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has released proposed amendments to Ontario's producer responsibility regulations under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA). The following regulations are affected by the proposed amendments: Tires Regulations, Batteries Regulation, Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulation and Hazardous and Special Products Regulations. The key changes in Ontario's proposed amendments to the producer responsibility regulations focus on increasing flexibility in collection networks, simplifying compliance, and reducing administrative burdens. These include allowing geographic offsetting, enabling producercountlace permanent collection sites with collection events, and counting all municipal collection sites as permanent, even those with limited or seasonal operations. The amendments also remove the Recycling Efficiency Rate (RER) requirements for certain materials, adjust small producer exemptions based on supply tonnage, and streamline reporting obligations.

*Works Department Report Received.*

## **Building & Fire Department**

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

- a) The Department had sixty-one calls for service between January – October 20, 2024;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
- c) Darryl Wagner attended an Effective Command Course. He is now able to teach the course to our department. The goal is to enhance the incident command skills of officers and firefighters. This program comes with an assessment tool for bench marking and tracking progress. Additionally, it will be utilized during the promotion process;
- d) Mandatory certification training is scheduled for January and February of 2025 in Eganville. The Regional Training Center (RTC) slated to open at AECL has stalled and Darryl is not sure why but will keep Council updated;
- e) Darryl Wagner was in Kingston at his Provincial Advisory Committee 6 (PAC 6) soon to be renamed Zone 6. Senior fire officers from various Fire Departments attend the meetings. The meetings typically have presenters and the focus at the meeting was on turnout gear, more specifically cleaning. They have an extractor to clean our gear, but it still needs to be sent out to a reputable company as extractors clean only so well. This is in line with cancer prevention for firefighters, full time and part time;
- f) Historically there were two agreements between Bonnechere Valley and North Algona Wilberforce; one for first response and one for extrication. NAW is now providing extrication services themselves. After conversations with Chief Champ, we amalgamated both agreements into one. We will continue to provide first response for each other with regards to fire and extrication in specified areas of the townships;
- g) At the beginning of this year, the Township passed a by law with regards to building without a permit. To date Darryl Wagner has been educating so people are aware. In the new year he will be enforcing the by law;
- h) Our Ontario Builders Officials Association (OBOA) conference was held in London. There are various technical sessions to choose from. There was a focus was on the merger of the Ontario Building Code (OBC) and the National Building Code (NBC). To assist with the merger, the OBOA came up with a traveling workshop at various places across Ontario. Darryl attended the one-day workshop in Ottawa with over 100 other building officials.

*Fire Department & Building Report Received.*

## **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
8. Legion Crosswalk Request

**(C) Correspondence "C"**

B.1 Committee tabled the resolution for Updates to the Municipal Elections Act;

B.4 Committee supports the resolution for Ontario's Forest Sector;

B.5 Committee tabled Rural Road Safety until the County of Renfrew passes it;

B.6 Committee tabled the resolution for Fair Share;

B.7 Committee agreed to the request to lease the unopened road allowance at the end of Wentland Road. The road allowance will need to be surveyed, and an agreement registered on title. The lease will be brought forward to a future meeting of Council;

B.8 Committee discussed the Legion Crosswalk idea that was brought forward and decided to look at it again next year once we see how the Town of Petawawa's stands up in the winter months. Committee also agreed to look into ideas of enhancing the archway into Legion Field to honour our Veterans;

**NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- (1)** Bloom Wildly CIP Application – Committee recommends that the application for funding from Bloom Wildly for Community Improvement Funding be approved, and 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;
- (2)** 2025 OPP Billing – Committee agreed to combine this with the Mayor's Report;
- (3)** Mayor's Report – Since her last report, the Mayor has attended 21 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows.

County Council - On Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, there was a special meeting of County Council which focused on changes to our Procedural By-Law, the Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan.

The changes in the County Procedural By-Law included a Committee of the Whole structure for their Committee meetings and two County Council meetings per month, as opposed to one. These significant changes will mean more work for County Councillors. However their meetings should be more efficient and result in faster decision making for time-sensitive matters. The proposed changes such as the Warden term being a two-year endeavour as opposed to one year, and the amalgamation of two committee into one, did not pass.

While reviewing the Long Term Financial Plan, the County also pre-approved some infrastructure and equipment request for proposals ahead of the 2025 Budget. The reasoning for this change is with the hope that we will receive favourable pricing and a longer season to rehabilitate or make repairs to our infrastructure. Also, the lead time on procuring Ambulances is very long, so this change should ensure that we receive rigs in the same year we budget for them.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, County Council had two delegations:

- Jason Hagan, Program Manager, and Keith Taylor Chief Investment Officer, from One Investments, overviewed the not-for-profit organization which has been dedicated to serving the investment needs of the Ontario municipal sector for more than 30 years.
- Jennifer White, Executive Director, Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County, gave an update on the services provided by the child welfare agency, and highlighted the funding challenges the organization is currently facing.

Since March 2024, Mesa Paramedic outreach teams, with the County of Renfrew's Emergency Services Department, have had approximately 1,480 encounters with individuals. Of these encounters, approximately 1,257 occurred in the City of Pembroke; 1,229 were with an individual who identified as experiencing homelessness, addictions, and mental health challenges; 96 were follow-ups post 911 activation and 282 resulted in 911 and emergency department diversions.

Mesa continues to be a collaborative approach between the Paramedic Service, Caseworkers from Community Mental Health (Pembroke Regional Hospital), Addictions (Mackay Manor, and Renfrew Victoria Hospital), and the Community Services Department with referrals flowing through the partners.

County Council passed a resolution in relation to Child Welfare Funding, directing the County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke to formally request the Province of Ontario to consult with and collaborate with Child Welfare agencies to develop an updated and equitable Child Welfare funding formula. The resolution further asks that the newly developed funding formula be structured to ensure an equitable and proportionate distribution that meets the diverse, unique, individual, and complex needs of the communities and populations served.

They discussed staff direction from the Operations Committee to explore the options of a Dual-Purpose Transit Solution, including convening a meeting amongst all local and regional suppliers of transit options. This includes contacting the appropriate Ministries to determine funding that may be available and developing terms of reference for a Transit Solution Ad-Hoc Committee in order to address a critical gap in rural regional transit.

County Council adopted a By-law to authorize speed limits on County Roads in order to reinstate the speed limit of 80 km/h on a section of County Road 512 (Foymount Road) following the completion of reconstruction.

ROMA - The ROMA Board of Directors met on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The ROMA Conference will take place in Toronto from January 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and the theme is Rural Routes. ROMA is encouraging those attending the Conference to participate in zone meetings that are to be held on Sunday, January 19 in the morning prior to the start of conference proceedings.

The Rural Ontario Institute was a delegation and presented the following:

- ROI has been involved in creating two important new tools to help municipalities and other stakeholders make better, more informed decisions.
- ROMA is working with ROI to host a webinar on the tools on November 13, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Stay tuned for more information.
- The Rural Housing Information System provides current local demographic, economic and workforce data for 366 rural and northern municipalities.
- It is an important tool to help developers and municipalities plan and build new, affordable housing. The system demonstrates the strength of broad partnership across multiple municipal groups and funding partners at all orders of government.
- The Community Wellbeing Dashboard is based on a standardized approach to measuring rural community wellbeing that can be applied across Canada (CSA Standard).
- Consistent indicators help us take meaningful action to improve our communities and help us measure progress.

Mayor Jennifer Murphy brought forward the concerns with the new OPP billing which led to the Board having a lengthy discussion:

- ROMA Board members were among many rural municipal leaders who were surprised at the sizeable increases on their bills from the Ontario Provincial Police.
- Communities who rely on the OPP for local policing are billed based on a combination of per capita base funding and usage.
- AMO's policy advisors are pursuing more information on the matter and will report back to the ROMA Board in November.

Warden Emon and Mayor Murphy met with Bridget Cherry, AMO Policy advisor, on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. They agreed to speak again after the OPP Billing Webinar that was supposed to take place on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. For some unforeseen reason, the webinar was cancelled on Friday morning.

The ROMA Board is looking forward to meeting with Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Paul Calandra at its November meeting to share rural priorities and foster a collaborative relationship.

OPP Billing - The 2025 OPP Billing statements were released in October. In July we did receive notice that the OPPA had arrived at negotiated percentages for 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026. The increases were as follows: 4.75% in 2023, 4.50% in 2024 and 2.50% in the two subsequent years. There were no dollar amounts given at that time.

Knowing that the increase of \$167,780, or 4.1 percent on our levy, in Bonnechere Valley was unacceptable and that other Municipalities were also receiving increases, advocacy across the County needed to start immediately. The Mayor requested that each Municipality provide her with their dollar increase and increase on their levy for 2025. She also reached out to the City of Pembroke, to have a larger centre included in her data. Of note, Deep River has their own Police service.

As stated above, Jennifer Murphy added this to the ROMA agenda on October 18<sup>th</sup>. It was tough to get on the agenda at first because everyone wanted statistics. Thankfully, Jennifer had the numbers required for a fulsome discussion.

At the same time, the Warden took this issue to the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, who also endorsed work to be done by AMO Policy staff.

Again, as stated above, both OPP Billing Webinars were cancelled for "unforeseen reasons". We are sure that they were aware of momentum of frustration from all 329 Municipalities who use OPP services.

On Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Provincial Fall Economic Statement was released and included the increase in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund of \$100,000,000 over two years. On Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, the allocation list to all Municipalities of the first \$50,000,000 for the 2025 year was released.

Although the OMPF was first established when OPP services were downloaded to Municipalities, it is also utilized by our tier of Government for other items. As you can see from the table, except for two Municipalities, the increase in this fund did not mitigate the entirety of the increases of the new OPP billing across the County or in the City of Pembroke.

It should be noted that after the article in the Eganville Leader ran on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, other media outlets across Ontario were reporting on outrageous increases including one Municipality that incurred a 37 percent increase.

It is Mayor Murphy's opinion that the Province must find a way to fund these increases outside of the OMPF. AMO, ROMA, EOWC and EOMC, as well as some of the associations in the North, will be advocating for these measures.

Events and Other Items - On November 1<sup>st</sup>, it was Mayor Jennifer Murphy's honour to attend and help cut the ribbon on the new Eganville Paramedic Base. This new facility includes room for Paramedic equipment other than Ambulances, such as the Sierra Team and the rescue watercraft. It also hosts two RC VTAC rooms for onsite diagnostics. We are so thankful and proud to have this facility in our Municipality.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the County of Renfrew's western end Mayors and the Mayor of South Algonquin met to discuss some of the issues facing more rural municipalities including OPP.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Jennifer will be hosting a virtual ROMA Zone 6 meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This will include a presentation of ROMA initiatives and allow for some time for questions.

As we are going into our third year of this term, Mayor Murphy would ask that each member of this Council submit projects and items for consideration for next year at our December meeting.

### **ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 19, 2024.

### **MEDIA SESSION**

### **CONCLUSION**

**MOVED BY**            **John Epps**

**THAT:** the meeting adjourns at 3:23 p.m.

Carried

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Brent Patrick, Chair

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Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk