

**THE CORPORATION OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY  
MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY December 3, 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** None

**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

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

**THAT:** the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

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

**THAT:** The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 19, 2024 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

**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

**24.198 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick

**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 support Fair Share of LTT and HST

**24.199 MOVED BY** John Epps

**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**WHEREAS** municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development;

**AND WHEREAS** the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment;

**AND WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities;

**AND WHEREAS** the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs;

**AND WHEREAS** redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on resident or homebuyers;

**AND WHEREAS** a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT** Council for the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Council for the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Carried

### 9.3 Resolution to support review of the Municipal Elections Act

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

**WHEREAS** election rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election in running elections;

**AND WHEREAS** the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

**AND WHEREAS** the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

**AND WHEREAS** while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Bonnechere Valley calls for the Province to update The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA ahead of the 2030 elections;

**AND THAT** this resolution will be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

### **CLOSED SESSION – NONE**

#### **BY-LAWS**

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

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-063 Being a By-Law to approve a Shoreline Lease Agreement – Kauffeldt.

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

Carried

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

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-064 Being a By-law to adopt a Revised Accessibility Plan and Policy

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

Carried

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

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-065 Being a By-law to to adopt a Revised Energy Management Plan

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

Carried

**24.204 MOVED BY** John Epps  
**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-066 Being a By-Law to enter into a development agreement with St Johns Lutheran Church

Carried

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

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-067 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**

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

**THAT:** This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Carried

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Mayor Jennifer Murphy

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CAO/Clerk Annette Gilchrist