

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 5, 2024 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ZOOM CONFERENCING**

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

REGRETS Councillor Merv Buckwald

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

24.026 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

24.027 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 20, 2024 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile February 22
2. AMO Watch file February 29
3. BUPL Year in Review

Correspondence "B"

1. Eliminate Carbon Tax
2. Library Request
3. Ruby Road Allowance Request
4. Pembroke Request for Support for Pool Repairs and Operating
5. AORS SDF Application - Letter to Clerks and Members of Council
6. Resolution RE Need for Increased Funding for Libraries and Museums

- 7. Resolution - Town of Arnprior Support of Mental Health Services
- 8. Support - Rising Municipal Insurance Costs
- 9. Twp Perry - Amend Blue Box Regulation

Correspondence "C"

24.028 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

WHEREAS direction has been given to staff;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the correspondence be filed.

Carried

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Resolution to accept the Drinking Water Annual Report as presented at Committee

24.029 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: The Eganville Drinking Water System 2023 Annual Report be accepted as presented.

Carried

9.2 Resolution to accept the Sewage System Performance Report as presented at Committee

24.030 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: The Eganville Sewage System 2023 Performance Report be accepted as presented.

Carried

9.3 Resolution to support Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems

24.031 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (Section 1.6.6.2) states that municipal sewage services and municipal water services are the preferred form of servicing for settlement areas to support protection of the environment and minimize potential risks to human health and safety and that intensification and redevelopment within these settlement areas should be promoted; and

WHEREAS the PPS (Section 2.2.1 (f)) states that planning authorities shall protect, improve, or restore the quality and quantity of water by implementing the necessary restrictions on development and site alternation to protect all drinking supplies and designated vulnerable areas, and protect, improve, or restore vulnerable surface and ground water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive groundwater features, and their hydrologic functions; and

WHEREAS the PPS (Sections 2.2.1(h) and (i)) states that there is consideration of environmental lake capacity as well as stormwater management practices; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Protection and Conservation (MECP) Procedural Guideline B-1-5 Policy 2 provision states that water quality which presently does not meet the Provincial Water Quality Objectives shall not be further degraded and

all practical measures shall be undertaken to upgrade the water quality to the Objectives; and

WHEREAS in 2014 the Township of Whitewater Region authorized Jp2gConsultants Inc. to undertake a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of evaluating viable options to upgrade the 1979 Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant. This plant did not meet guidelines for effluent flow into Muskrat Lake and Cobden Wetland being highly sensitive, at-capacity, inland lake, and Provincial Significant Wetland (PSW) and acknowledged as one of the most eutrophic in the province. The plant had ongoing seasonal overflow events, and was operating at maximum capacity; and

WHEREAS in 2018 the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region approved the construction of a new parallel mechanical system that would meet all provincial environmental and regulatory requirements including accommodating future growth. Federal and provincial contributions only covered 50% of the final construction costs, as there was no ability to renegotiate with federal and provincial partners once real costs were known. As a result, the balance of costs (\$6M) was debentured over 30 years at interest rates that are slightly punitive to rural and small urban municipalities; and

WHEREAS rural and small urban municipalities experience very limited growth as federal and provincial policies heavily support growth in urban centers. As there are no other sources of available operational funding, rural and small urban municipalities are expected to fund the construction and operation of these state-of-the-art systems from existing property owners and nominal forecasted growth; and

WHEREAS water and wastewater rates are rapidly increasing and significant upgrades in short periods of time are making rates unaffordable even with an increased number of users.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley advocate to the provincial and federal levels of government to make them aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable; and urge the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to examine if the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational costs is systemic provincially and nationally.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure (Ontario); the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities (Canada); the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ontario), Cheryl Gallant, MP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; AMO; ROMA; and FCM;

Carried

9.4 Resolution to support Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus

24.032 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

WHEREAS By-Law 2013-017 is a by-law to establish and regulate a Fire Department for the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley;

AND WHEREAS apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services, authorized by Council in By-Law 2013-017, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

AND WHEREAS fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupation Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS);

AND WHEREAS Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire-protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatuses replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices;

AND WHEREAS no provincial funding is available for new trucks, small and rural municipalities must meet the same standard set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;

THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley direct the Mayor to draft a letter to FUS requesting an extension of the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements and the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities;

AND FURTHERMORE, THAT a copy of the letter and this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

AND FINALLY RESOLVE THAT this resolution be shared with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

Carried

CLOSED SESSION – NONE

BY-LAWS

24.033 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: By-Law 2024-010 Being a by-law to adopt an Asset Retirement Obligation Policy

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

Carried

24.034 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: By-Law 2024-011 Being a By-law to adopt a Vehicle Use and Safety Policy

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

Carried

24.035 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: By-Law 2024-012 Being a By-Law to authorize the execution of a Lease for Spring Creek Yard.

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

Carried

24.036 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: By-Law 2024-013 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

24.037 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Carried

Mayor Jennifer Murphy

CAO Annette Gilchrist