

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2024 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA 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 **2**

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY **Brent Patrick**

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented, with the addition Correspondence B.5 Karen Bochert request to plant a memorial tree in Centennial Park; the addition of Correspondence B.6 request to proclaim the week of April 14-20, 2024, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW); and the addition of Item B.4 Press Release from Renfrew County District Health Unit. Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Tracey Sanderson**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on March 5, 2024 be accepted as presented. Carried

DELEGATIONS

REPORTS

Recreation & Culture

Kevin McGrath, Manager of Recreation and Culture, was present and gave his report.

- a) The last day of ice is Thursday March 28th;
- b) The arena will be closed for Easter weekend;
- c) There is one Minor Hockey tournament left;
- d) The Lisa Sharpe Memorial Tournament was held March 16th & 17th;
- e) Figure skating is holding their Year End show on March 28th.
- f) There was Public Skating throughout the March Break;
- g) Summer student jobs have been posted and interviews will after March 22;
- h) With the power outage on March 3rd, we lost a full day of ice rentals, the U9 Tournament and a figure skating practice;
- i) Bonnechere Cup Inc., through Zach Plotz, has requested to continue to be able to use power at the back of the arena for flooding the racetrack on an annual basis;
- j) The EHL is down to the finals, with Pembroke playing off against Calabogie;
- k) Eagles Nest - There are lots of hall bookings for different events: The Rotary Club pancake breakfast March 9th, 9am to 11am, A Barn Quilt workshop March 12th & 14th, Meetings, Budget, EHL;
- l) Tourist Information Centre - Beaver Tails will be set up March 16; and
- m) McRae Park - There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 16th.

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

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

- a) The February Income Statement was provided to Committee, comparing February 2023 to February 2024;
- b) On February 16, 2024 Sandra Barr attended the virtual Municipal Finance Officer Association discussion forum;
- c) The 2024 interim tax billing were calculated and printed on March 1st, 2024 and the bills were taken down to the Post Office on Monday March 4, 2024. The total bill was in the amount of \$3,414,853.40 with 3288 tax bills;
- d) On Monday March 4th, 2024 CAO Annette Gilchrist and Sandra Barr attended the Tax Policy Working Group meeting at the County of Renfrew; and
- e) On March 6, 2024 Sandra attended a virtual Conquer Leadership Seminar. The session covered building relationships, communication skills and setting clear expectations for staff.

Financial Report Received.

Administration

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

- a) The Auditors have completed the annual audit for the Township and Eganville Generation Corporation. The financial statements will come forward for approval at EGCs Annual General Meeting for the Shareholders which involves all of Council. Notice of this meeting will come forward next month;
- b) Jim McBain from MLES presented at the March 5th meeting and will return April 2nd with a presentation that will focus will be on "The Investigative Processes" for "General" Bylaw Complaints such as noise, animal control etc. and for "Property Complaints" such as Zoning, Property Standards and Clean Yards. The Animal Control By-Law has been sent to the Ministry of the Attorney General for review of the POA short form wording and once approved will be brought back to Council. The Proposed Property Standards By-Law, Yard By-Law and Building By-Law will come back in draft form following April 2nd presentation for final comment and direction to staff on amendments before bring them to Council for consideration;
- c) On March 7th Dana, Jason and Annette met with Circular Materials to discuss our Blue Box Transition. As previously directed by Council staff has chosen to opt-in for 2025. This means that the Township will be negotiating a contract for our recycling services but that there will likely be no change for our residents. In 2026 the program is set to change once again, and we do not have details on that at this time. We have also been in contact with the larger waste and recycling collection companies in the area as they have to submit RFPs by March 20th for the catchment area (all of Renfrew County). We are also open to negotiating with them as a subcontractor should that be the direction the province takes in the future. This again would hopefully sustain services at their current levels for our residents;
- d) Daryl Verch and Annette Gilchrist continue to work with the Township's engineers to pursue options for the Housing Enabling Fund for enhancements and rehabilitation of our water, sewer and storm water infrastructure;
- e) Bonnechere Valley hopes to hire qualified students for our swim program which will be in partnership with North Algona Wilberforce. We still need to hire staff for the program but hopefully together we can bring back this program. Possibly Laurentian Valley will join as well by reserving 12 spaces. Staff training begins late June 2024, Swim Program begins early July 2024 and runs until late August 2024 (approximately 8 weeks). Classes will take place 4 weekdays and one weekend day per week at Point Church Beach, 513 Point Church Drive, Eganville in North Algona Wilberforce. Swimming lessons in Pembroke cost \$63.00, so staff recommend matching that cost. Due to the rising cost of living and the high cost of extracurricular activities, as well as the need for opportunities for children to learn how to swim regardless of their financial situation, staff is investigating the Jumpstart program to cover fees for families in need, and Rotary for swim program scholarships;
- f) The Strategic Plan is ready to be posted to the website. Sarah has created a poster for our municipal buildings, a draft was provided to Committee. Staff will

- frame these to display in the Township buildings and post the plan on our website. Annette thanked everyone for their efforts, this will help guide staff recommendations to council;
- g) Youth Dance - We had to cancel the youth dance due to lack of volunteers. After the call to cancel the Youth Dance was made, we had some individuals step up. However, it was not enough to continue in time for proper youth dance preparations. We asked those who would be interested in volunteering at the upcoming youth dances to send us an email to be added to the list. We are hoping the May 24th dance will have enough volunteers to have a safe adult to youth ratio;
 - h) The Easter Egg Hunt took place on March 16th at 1:30pm. Our Space also offered a photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny after our Easter Egg Hunt;
 - i) March Break Day Camp - We have had 8 youth sign up for March Break Day Camp;
 - j) Eganville & Area Community Development Group Meeting met on March 6. At this point, Jennifer Murphy is acting President and Brian Weckwerth is acting Treasurer. The group is still in a transition period. However, they are planning an event for this summer;
 - k) Music In The Park - All Wednesday and Friday evenings booked. Moving forward if the evening is cancelled due rain the evening is cancelled and it will not be moved to the Eagle's Nest;
 - l) Community Emergency Preparedness Grant – The Township was successful in receiving a Community Emergency Preparedness Grant for the installation of a generator at the Foymount Fire Hall, five sixteen-inch bar chainsaws, five chainsaw helmets, and a Tulmar Air Shelter System.
- Administrative Report Received.*

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. County Council Summary February 2024
2. AMO Watchfile March 7 2024

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Bonnechere Cup Inc - Request to use power every January
2. Unnecessary Noise Engine Brakes
3. Request and Thank you from Community Resource Centre
4. Request Access via Unopened Allowance Off Corrigan Road
5. Karen Bochert request to plant a memorial tree in Centennial Park
6. Request to proclaim the week of April 14-20, 2024, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW)

(C) Correspondence "C"

1. Amend Blue Box Regulation
- B.1 Committee recommends a letter be sent back to the Bonnechere Cup Inc requesting them to pay for upgrades to the hydro infrastructure and the Township will allow them to use our hydro for the next five years free of charge. 2025 to 2029;
 - B.3 Committee supports the request from Community Resource Centre and agrees to waive the hall rental fee for the week July 29 to August 2;
 - B.4 Committee recommends support of the request for access via the unopened road allowance off Corrigan Road. The property owner will need to survey the land and speak to Jason Zohr ;
 - B.5 Committee approves Karen Bochert's request to plant a memorial tree in Centennial Park. Kevin McGrath will coordinate with Karen.

- B.6 Committee recommends support of the request to proclaim the week of April 14-20, 2024, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) and will post on the Township sign;
- C.1 Committee recommends support of the resolution to Amend Blue Box Regulations and will bring the resolution to the April 2 Council meeting.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1) Library Update – There is no update at this time;
- (2) Museum Update – Tracey Sanderson updated Committee on the Museum Board. The AGM is scheduled for May 6, 2024. There are two vacant positions on the Museum board that they hope to fill at the AGM;
- (3) Discuss June Meeting Dates – Committee agreed to move the two meeting dates in June to from the Tuesday to the Wednesday. The meetings will move from Tuesday June 4 to Wednesday June 5 and Tuesday June 18 to Wednesday June 19;
- (4) Press Release from Renfrew County District Health Unit - The Boards of Health for Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) and the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit announced they will not seek provincial approval and funding to voluntarily merge between the two health units. On March 18th, the Board of Health for RCDHU met and turned down a resolution for a voluntary merger with North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 2, 2024

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **John Epps**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 2:34 p.m.

Carried

Jennifer Murphy, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO