

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

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

REGRETS **None**

GALLERY **None**

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, Brent Patrick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Brent Patrick declared a perceived conflict of interest at the Committee and Regular Council Meeting in relation to Correspondence B Item 6 Subdivision Request for Extension

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on August 8, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

REPORTS

Water & Sewer Department

Daryl Verch, Water & Sewer Manager was not present. Report Submitted.

- a) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;
- b) There was a water service repaired on Bridge and Bonnechere Streets near the street light control panel;
- c) The floors in the treatment room have been completely painted;
- d) New labels were installed throughout the treatment side of the Plant;
- e) Staff are working on preparation for the Quality Management System Audit in late September this year. The Management Review Report and meeting minutes were provided to Committee;
- f) The Eganville Sewage System continues to operate in full compliance according to the Provincial Guidelines that are set out in the Certificate of Approval;
- g) Sewage manholes were inspected and a vacuum truck was used to clean out eight manholes that had debris in them. If these had not been cleaned they would eventually back up sewage on the streets;
- h) Committee recommends support to commit to and endorse the Management Review Report for the Quality Management System for the Eganville Drinking Water System.

Water & Sewer Report Received.

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) The Speed Sign has been collecting speed and traffic volume data:
 - Lake Clear Road – Average speed was 34 km/h in the 40 km/h zone.
 - Spring Creek Road – Average speed was 75km/h in the 80 km/h zone.
- b) Storm Sewer Pumping by Crawl Consulting took place in the Village;
- c) EverLine Painting has completed all the line painting in the parking lots and at the stop blocks;
- d) The summer student employees have been busy completing projects such as: cutting the trees at the Municipal Office, painting the gates at the snow dump, painting the door frames at the John Street garage and at the Old Fire Hall and painting of the ramp at the library;
- e) The Sand Road Waste Site was closed on Monday, September 4th for Labour Day;
- f) The Monday to Thursday morning summer hours for the Sno Drifters Waste Site ended on Thursday, August 31st. Since May 23rd there has been traffic of 426 vehicles at this site and 189 free vouchers used during this period which is 44% of the users;
- g) We have received all the winter sand as per the winter sand tender;
- h) Gravel tender is complete;
- i) The crew has been busy brushing and grading as well as hot box patching on various municipal roads;
- j) The crew completed culvert replacement on Merchand Kearns Road;
- k) The Roads Department will be reaching out to a property owner on Berger Road to see if they would agree for a cross culvert to be installed to redirect the flow of surface water;
- l) Verch Road Name Change - Barry and Donna Verch are finalizing their severances and the new location of their driveway would no longer be off Verch Road. When speaking with the Verch's they would like to submit 3 name choices for the new branch of road for Council's consideration. Committee agreed;
- m) Harry Dick Road Name Change - Would like to change the name of Harry Dick Road as the road sign name is continuously being taken and costing the municipality each time the road sign is removed. Jason Zohr has been in discussion with Mr. Dick's daughter-in-law and the family concur that a name change is now required. Committee recommendation that we offer them the same option as Verch Road and collect 3 names for Council consideration;
- n) The Roads department was asked by a local contractor if consideration could be given to have the Sno Drifters Waste Site open 1 day during the week in conjunction with the Saturdays in the winter months for a few hours. We have called a few of the local contractors and so far in speaking with five local contractors they have indicated that having the site open 1 day during the week as well would be a huge benefit to them. Most indicate the day of the week does not particularly matter, however a couple have indicated Thursdays would be a good day. Committee agreed to open the site for three hours on Thursdays, but staff are to monitor that it is being used as frequently as intended and if not, staff it could be open on Thursdays every two weeks instead.

Works Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

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

- a) The Department had sixty-three calls for service in 2023;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
- c) The Fire Department is developing a junior firefighter program;
- d) The fireworks are still scheduled for Saturday September 23, 2023 at 9pm. The EACDG Beer and Wine Tasting Event that was to take place at the Bonnechere Museum has been postponed. Staff are working on music and food for the evening;
- e) CNL has opened a fire fighter training facility, and we hope to be able to send our fire fighters there for training;

f) Building numbers are down slightly compared to last year.
Fire Department & Building Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. Letter from MNRF
2. AMO Watchfile Aug 24, 2023
3. Queen's Park Today
4. AMO Watchfile Aug 31, 2023

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. The Corporation of the Township of Emo - Black Ash Tree Classified as Endangered
2. Municipality of Shuniah - Changes to MFIPPA
3. City of Hamilton - Provincial Amendments to the Greenbelt Plan
4. BUPL Thank you and Request Letter
5. Township of Severn Climate Emergency Just Transition Transfer
6. Subdivision Request for Extension

(C) Correspondence "C"

- B.4 Committee recommends that the old firehall be made available again next year in August for the BUPL's annual book sale.
- B.6 Committee recommends support of the request from River Run Ridge Inc., to the County of Renfrew regarding extending the decision of consent for plan of subdivision file #47-T-14003 for a period of one year.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) Report on Rural Transit – CAO/ Clerk/ Treasurer, Annette Gilchrist

The Renfrew County population is approximately 110,000 with an average of 4 to 5% of the population earning below an income of \$25,571.00 to support a household of four (2021 Stat) 9.1% are unemployed (2020 Stat) and 24% are over 65 with the median age being 45 years (2021 Stat).

The rural transit fund capital stream is accepting applications to support rural transit activities related to the delivery of rural transit solutions. Proposed solutions could include a range of modes of eligible transport, including traditional solutions such as fixed-route buses and non-traditional solutions such as ride-share or on-demand services requiring the purchase of minivans, small craft, zero-emission fleets, shared fleets, the construction of intermodal hubs, the installation of charging stations or the purchase of software.

Through this stream, eligible applicants will be able to submit applications for up to \$3 million to help cover the capital costs of a new or expanded transit solution (e.g., purchase of a vehicle or digital platforms), and up to \$5 million to support zero-emission transit solutions (e.g., for the purchase of a zero-emission vehicle(s)).

The pilot project proposal is for 6 charging stations and 3 Electric Vehicles to be used for public sharing and maintained with a software purchased by the grant.

This pilot will achieve 2 things:

1. Charging stations which put us on tourist maps and charging sites and will increase Economic Development. We would install 2 at each site (one for the public car and an extra one)
2. Provides an option for the public who do not have access to a vehicle or cannot afford one or have a need for a second vehicle once in a while.

Costing and revenue calculations were provided to Committee.

This program would give low-income families access to a vehicle at a relatively low cost. It also could serve as a second vehicle if there is a day when there is a need for two vehicles, so they don't have to own two as one is accessible on an as needed basis, saving them insurance and maintenance costs.

The Township could also look at supports for low income using membership fees in addition to an hourly charge. There are other municipalities using this model. It's a \$1 per month for membership and if you qualify for a low-income discount the hourly fee is reduced. The lower fee could be extended for volunteer drivers registered at various Seniors Organizations for those who want to volunteer their time but cannot afford the gas, insurance, or maintenance on a vehicle.

Connect Well provided a letter of support and staff are to be receiving one from the Eganville and District Seniors Needs Association, Training and Learning Centre and the County of Renfrew.

The County passed the attached resolution at their meeting last week:

Whereas the local tier municipalities of Bonnechere Valley, Whitewater Region and North Algona Wilberforce have expressed support to apply for funding for a pilot program including public charging stations and electronic ride share vehicles in September 2023;

And whereas this initiative and its model will benefit all of the residents in Renfrew County;

And whereas a timely application for the funding is critical to this project;

Now therefore be it resolved that this is a notice of motion being brought forward from County Councillor Jennifer Murphy to ask for County's support for this project with more details to be presented at the meeting.

Committee provided staff direction to apply for the pilot program and budget for any resources needed to be included in the 2024 Budget proposal;

(2) Mayor's Report –

Since her last report, the Mayor attended 29 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows.

AMO Conference - From August 19th to August 23rd, the Mayor, along with Annette Gilchrist, our CAO/ Clerk/ Treasurer, attended the 2023 AMO Conference in London. This conference was a huge success with over 2000 delegates. Although the venue was not ideal, the Conference was well organized and allowed for lots of networking.

During AMO, the Mayor attended a ROMA Board meeting which included a delegation on making roads and intersections safer. We will be revisiting this at our September meeting in Waterloo.

On behalf of the County of Renfrew, the Mayor attended a delegation with Attorney General, Doug Downey, with three concerns:

The decrease in highway traffic act enforcement has raised several pressing concerns for our local municipalities including Revenue Loss, Compromised Road Safety, Legal Compliance and Public Perception.

The Ontario Courts of Justice for Provincial Offences were closed across the Province beginning March 17, 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although our County POA office was closed to public walk-in traffic, our staff attended our offices every day responding to phone inquiries or emails advising the public of new adjournment dates and next steps in the court process. The County maintained "window wickets" in order to file tickets and/or pay fines.

In addition, the County of Renfrew was an early adopter of electronic virtual courts using the Zoom platform for our first virtual court in May 2021. We returned to "in person" courts in September 2021.

In spite of efforts to continue regular POA court operations, the East Regional Senior Justice of the Peace has cancelled approximately 40% of the scheduled court dates on our court calendar since 2021 due to the lack of judicial resources.

Even more concerning is the fact that between March and July 2023, the East Region has cancelled 60% of the scheduled court dates due to the lack of judicial resources.

Under the direction of the local Crown Attorney's Office, in early 2023, and following an East Region initiative, the Provincial Offences Prosecutors began reviewing cases for implications under Section 11(b) of the Charter where a defendant has a right to be tried within a reasonable time. The presumptive ceiling, in normal circumstances, for Provincial Court is 18 months. With COVID-19 creating a discrete and unique event, the Crown's ability to proceed to trial was delayed.

The result of this direction is the disposal of approximately 500 Part I and Part III charges within the County of Renfrew between January to May 2023. The majority of these charges fall under the Highway Traffic Act and the Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act.

There has been a significant revenue loss to the County of Renfrew coming from the disposal of these charges, in addition to the cancellation of scheduled court dates and the significant reduction in Highway Traffic Act charges.

CAO/ Clerk/ Treasurer Annette Gilchrist and the Mayor also had three delegations on behalf of Bonnechere Valley.

Once again, Annette Gilchrist and Jennifer Murphy met with Solicitor General, Michael Kerzner, and Ontario Fire Marshall, Jon Pegg, regarding Firefighter Certification and the Community Risk Assessment report. Again, we were told that we are misunderstanding the certification requirements, legacy funding and grandfathering tools. It was noted that we received \$944 for legacy funding. The Solicitor General seemed surprised at this. Fire Marshall Pegg also indicated that he did not care if the Community Risk Assessment report was written "on the back of a napkin". These concerns were spoken about in the hallways and the frustration was evident.

Our delegation with Parliamentary Assistant, Sam Oosterhoff, regarding Red Tape reduction was very fruitful. Not only were we given an addition 10 minutes, PA Oosterhoff's policy advisor posed many questions to us. The Mayor and the CAO indicated that reporting costs our Municipality approximately \$150,000 per year which is about 4 per cent on our levy. When asked if reduced reporting would increase our exposure to liability, Annette very astutely answered that we could use those monies for initiatives that would reduce our risk (for example, making our roads safer). We also cited our delegation with the Sol Gen and discussion regarding certification of our firefighters. We noted would that money not be better used in outfitting our firefighters.

We also had a delegation with Minister of Energy, Todd Smith, regarding the FIT program for our dam. At the time of the FITs we were given 25 years but new FITs are now 40 years. We are trying to find a solution considering our dam is always in need of repair or upgrading. Mississippi Mills and Renfrew Hydro provided us with support letter as they are in similar situations. Citing that these dams provide clean energy, but they are also vital in flood mitigation and maintaining water levels for sustaining fisheries.

The Mayor also had the opportunity to meet with OPP Deputy Commissioner, Chris Harkins, about our policing needs in Bonnechere Valley, the future of the Killaloe Detachment, Staffing requirements and Community Policing. Killaloe detachment covers a very large area, including Algonquin Park to the West gate. At this time, we have a small office in our fire department for Officers to use for paper work, et cetera. If feasible, it would benefit our area to have a satellite office, possibly in the new Paramedic Base. Unfortunately to have this level of service, there would

be an increase in our OPP costing. The Mayor will be meeting with DC Harkins and his staff at a later date.

At the Ministers' Forum, the Mayor was fortunate enough to follow a question from Burlington Mayor, Maryanne Meed Ward, who asked Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, about granting Municipalities an ability to have other revenue tools. The Mayor's question to the Minister was "The City of Toronto recently proposed a one percent sales tax to help with their deficit. If approved, would you consider the previous request to add one percent to the HST known as the local share to put money back into our local economies for much needed infrastructure requirements?". The answer was no.

County Council - Byron Tan, Municipal Finance Manager, Watson & Associates, Economists Ltd., overviewed the background on Development Charges in Ontario and provided findings from the County of Renfrew Development Charges preliminary study.

County Council marked the retirement of Deputy Clerk/Executive Assistant Rose Gruntz, who has retired after 25 years with the County of Renfrew. Former CAO Paul Moreau and former Warden Debbie Robinson attended to wish her well in retirement, while former CAOs Norm Lemke and Jim Hutton sent video messages in their absence. The Mayor spoke about how Rose supported her as Warden and Warden Peter Emon shared the same sentiment about how Rose kept him on track over the years. Current CAO/Craig Kelley also thanked Rose for her dedication over the years and presented her with an Employee Recognition Award.

County Council supported my Notice of Motion which sought County of Renfrew support as the local tier municipalities of Bonnechere Valley, Whitewater Region and North Algona Wilberforce seek to apply for funding for a pilot program that would include public charging stations and electronic ride share vehicles.

County Council supported a Notice of Motion from Councillor Neil Nicholson directing staff to study and bring back options in early 2024 to create an organization (like Prince Edward County Affordable Housing Corporation) that can provide leadership and facilitation across upper and local tiers, partners and developers to increase attainable housing in Renfrew County and Pembroke.

The County of Renfrew has hired Gwen Dombroski, previously Deputy Clerk/Communications Coordinator at the Township of Madawaska Valley, as the new Deputy-Clerk/Executive Assistant.

County Council adopted a By-law to Authorize the Submission of an Application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation ("OILC") for Financing of Capital Work (County Road 512/Foymount Road Reconstruction); to Authorize Temporary Borrowing from OILC to Meet Expenditures in Connection with such Capital Work; and to Authorize Long-Term Borrowing for such Capital Work Through the Issue of Debentures to OILC. The project is now projected to cost \$8,850,000 over two years and anticipated to be completed by October 2024.

County Council approved the cost of the Fire Radio Dispatch System be split amongst the 17 participating user agencies with the Weighted Value Assessment share being used for the calculation as opposed to equally sharing. For Bonnechere Valley, this means that we will be contributing \$14,459.07 instead of \$21,184.84.

The EACDG group had to postpone the Beer and Wine event, however CAO/ Clerk/ Treasurer, Annette Gilchrist came up with an excellent idea for a community barbeque on September 23rd to coincide with the fireworks. The event will run at the Eganville Arena from 4 pm to 8pm and there will be free public skating, music in the Eagle's Nest, the bar will be open and food will be served.

On July 15th, the Mayor attended the Lake Clear Property Owners' event at Rio Tap and Grill.

On July 21st, the Mayor greeted the golfers at our Bonnechere Valley Golf Tournament. Thanks to Kevin McGrath and the team and thanks to all who came out to golf.

On August 3rd, the Mayor presented the owners' of the Shell station with a congratulatory certificate for the opening of their breakfast area. The breakfast was wonderful!

On Augusts 5th, the Mayor attended the Bonnechere Valley Inspired Tour including a smudging and drumming ceremony at the Museum. Congratulations to all who organized this wonderful tour. The Mayor also presented the owner of Our Space with a congratulatory certificate on the opening of this unique business model.

That evening, the Mayor attended the Farm to Fork supper at the home of Kathleen and Marshall Buchanan. It was a wonderful supper and was very well attended.

On August 8th, the Mayor greeted Yasir Naqvi at McRae Park. Yasir is running for the Liberal Leadership seat.

On August 11th, the Mayor greeted Bonnie Crombie at a private home event. Bonnie is also running for the Liberal Leadership seat.

On August 12th, the Mayor attended Taste of the Valley at the Arena. It was a very successful event, despite the thunderstorms that rolled through. Thank you to the OVTA and the County for hosting Taste in our village.

On August 15th the Mayor attended the retirement party for Christine Schreder. Thanks to Christine for all of her years of dedicated service.

On August 16th, the Mayor attended the wonderful BUPL event at Legion Field and spoke with the contractor building the shade structure.

On August 17th, the Mayor attended the Museum for a rock painting event for our ONYX rock snake.

On August 19th, the Mayor attended the County Summer Company Wrap up event in Petawawa. Chair of Development and Property, James Brose, and I presented Eganville resident Logan Stuart of Viking Metal Works with a certificate of completion. This program encourages youth to become entrepreneurs.

On August 25th, the Mayor attended Music in the Park to dedicate the bandshell as the Guy Jamieson Ceilidh Amphitheatre. The park was filled with people paying tribute to Guy. Thanks to the Jamieson family, Annette Gilchrist, Kevin McGrath, Dana, Emma and all who made this dedication so memorable.

On August 28th, the Mayor, along with local farmers, had the opportunity to meet with Marit Stiles, NDP Leader and Leader of the official opposition. It was a very lively conversation and I have no doubt that Bonnechere Valley left a lasting impression on her.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday September 19, 2023

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 3:07 p.m.

Carried