

-No payment 21 days after NIC sent, Court Requested Conviction for plate refusal prepared, forwarded to POA Courts in Pembroke

After issuance of third parking ticket, vehicle will be towed

- e) Dog Pound – Staff Recommendation – That Council close the dog pound, inform our partners, and continue agreement with the OSPCA in Pembroke.

Background – At an estimated cost of \$50,000, the pound was started in 2007 due to the closing of a facility in Pembroke. Initially there were 8 partners including Bonnechere Valley. In 2008 one more partner come on board. There was an annual fee received from all partners. Three partners terminated their agreement, one in 2015 and two in 2022.

Discussion – In 2021 previous Council had instructed staff to explore options with regards to the future of the pound. After various options were tabled, an agreement was reached and signed with the OSPCA. The pound was slated to be closed. Due to public concerns the pound was given a six-month extension.

Reviews of financials show the pound either broke even or was in the black in the beginning. However, for quite some time now the pound has been operating in the red. Records found indicate the pound was more active then than it is now. It is difficult to ascertain exact numbers as reporting was inconsistent.

There was a total of five dogs in 2022, some from our partners and some from Bonnechere Valley. The majority were retrieved by owners. There were adoptions of dogs, but the majority were already in the pound from the previous year or years. The adoption of pets must be done responsibly. The Township must ensure, to the best of their knowledge, that the dog being adopted is healthy and provide all information pertinent to the dog. Dogs entering the pound are not seen by a vet prior to adoption. All reasonable efforts should be made to ensure the dog is matched to the right owner. Our adoption fee is quite minimal. In accordance with our Fee By-Law the adoption fee is the same as our retrieval fee which is \$50.00. Retrieval by Owner also includes a charge of \$20.00 per day during the stray hold which is 3 days currently.

Provincial Animal Welfare Standard or PAWS indicates holding period should be 5 to 7 days. In the last few years some dogs have well exceeded that mark. With prolonged stays the mental state of the animal comes into question. The Township Animal Control Officer does visit the pound daily but has no set schedule. According to animal behaviorists, dogs thrive on consistency. A more stringent routine would greatly benefit the dogs, especially ones that have been in the pound for prolonged periods. It helps reduce anxiety. It is recommended that there should be structured walks where the main objective is to have the dog walk calmly on a loose leash, no pulling, no tugging, no dragging around. Hand feeding sessions are encouraged as a reward. This helps curb unwanted behaviors.

The pound facility itself receives inspections in accordance with the Animals for Research Act. It is unclear as to the frequency of inspections as only two reports have been recovered. In November of 2018 the Bonnechere Valley Dog Pound was found not to be in accordance with the Animals for Research Act, specifically, reports were not completed properly. In June of 2020 the inspection of the pound was conducted by phone. The pound was found to be in accordance with the Animals for Research Act. Additionally, according to the act, the pound should be constructed in a manner that is capable of being maintained in a sanitary condition. There is no running water in the pound, water is trucked in. Kennels need to be kept clean almost constantly. This means that a daily cleaning is necessary where you sweep and clean out any dirt, check and remove any soiled bedding, spot clean accidents, wash and sanitize food and water dishes. You also need to do a deep clean weekly at the minimum, sanitizing the entire kennel, including toys and bedding. The busier your kennel is, the more often you need to do such a deep clean which translates into more staff hours. Lighting is dim but could be increased by replacing the burnt-out florescent bulbs. The lobby is heated by an electric baseboard with thermostat set quite low and a small wall mounted electric heat unit in the kennel area. There is an air conditioner along with an exhaust fan at the far end of the kennel area which provides some ventilation, but it is mostly vented through one operable sliding window or by opening doors leading into and exiting the kennel.

The OSPCA facility for housing dogs has better lighting, running water, 24-hour staff, access to veterinary care and a vast network to call upon to assist with adoptions or fostering. As per the agreement already in place with Bonnechere Valley, dogs received within the Township boundaries will be taken to the OSPCA in Pembroke soon after they come into our possession providing the dog does not require a vet.

Committee recommends this item be added to the March 7th meeting to be discussed further.

Building Report Received.

Recreation & Culture

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

- a) Staff are working on March Madness;
- b) Public skating has returned on Sunday's as the minor hockey tournaments are over;
- c) Staff are working on 2023 budget;
- d) Senior/ Mom & Tot skating continues with good turn out. Staff are still looking for Sponsorships. Committee recommends that the program be continued for the month of March;
- e) Minor hockey playoffs have begun;
- f) EHL playoffs are underway;
- g) We have a new wall advertisement from the Renfrew County Catholic School Board;
- h) There will be a 4on4 fundraiser hockey tournament to raise funds to support youth and mental health initiatives, in memory of Lisa Sharpe, who was murdered earlier this year in her home. The rental includes the ice for the day and hall rental on Sunday, March 19. Committee recommends waiving the tournament fee for the day;
- i) Eagles Nest - Was used for one minor hockey tournament. There are six hall bookings in February;
- j) Centennial Park - Outdoor rink is all melted, the ice is gone and bare concrete is showing. As of right now, the rink is closed and the lights are off. A notice was put up on Facebook. The Recreation Department had help from the fire department with the initial flood, and staff kept it clear from snow. If the weather permits it could be flooded again. Playground inspections have been completed at all locations;
- k) Tourist Booth - We now have an outside plug installed for Beaver Tails trailer or for other users as needed;
- l) Curling Club - Progress is being made, the flooring is down, drywall and paint is completed, kitchen cabinets and countertops are in, and the bathroom is complete, other than grab bars and change table;
- m) The advertisements for summer student job opportunities have been posted. We are looking for two students for the Tourist Booth, two for Horticulture, two for Grounds Maintenance, and two for the Swim Program;
- n) Committee would like the bench placed in front of the rock at the lights replaced the current bench is approximately five feet;
- o) Committee recommends that new flags be placed at the Eganville Museum.

Recreation Report Received.

Administration

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

- a) In January the Mayor and the CAO attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in Toronto which was reported on at the last meeting by the Mayor. They had delegations with the Solicitor General regarding Fire Certifications and the Minister of Transportation regarding Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations, Wayfinding Signage and On Demand Public Transportation. They also presented a session on Asset Management and the Mayor was elected to the Rural Ontario Municipal Board. They did also hand deliver the support letters regarding the stocking of fish in Golden Lake to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry;

- b) Staff is busy completing year end and the draft 2023 budget. The Financial Statements will be presented to Council in April by our auditors MacKillican and Associates and the final budget will be presented in May;
- c) The Township always supports the Horticulture Society with a grant of \$1,000 for plants and flower boxes. An approval from Council is coming forward for consideration at today's Council meeting;
- d) We have received a proposal from Eganville and Area Community Development and Eganville Rotary regarding the installation of a play structure at Legion Field. Direction was given to staff to go ahead and work with these groups on this proposed project. Budget implications are not known at this time;
- e) A letter requesting support for Stacey Lacombe to reopen Service Ontario in Eganville has been sent to North Algona Wilberforce, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, Whitewater Region and Admaston/Bromley;
- f) March Madness also known as Winterfest is in full swing. A full list of activities will be sent out this week and advertised in the paper and online next week. The total cost is approximately \$6,000. \$5,000 is going to be reimbursed through the museum and the funding they have received. Many of our volunteer groups are participating including the Curling Club, Rotary Club, Library, Seniors Echo Centre and the Legion. The Township is offering staff and facilities in kind and we are floating the cash flow for the event and submitting the invoice for reimbursement to the museum to submit to their funding partner. A request has been made for \$1,000 from the Township for food which is not an eligible expense. There will be food vendors and beavertails at some of the events however, for the events that have no food vendors available a request for \$1,000 for some food options has been requested and committee agreed. Committee also recommends that the flags at the Museum be changed prior to this event;
- g) Council Remuneration - Under Section 284 of the Municipal Act the treasurer of a municipality shall in each year on or before March 31 provide to the council of the municipality an itemized statement on remuneration and expenses paid in the previous year to,
 - (a) each member of council in respect of his or her services as a member of the council or any other body, including a local board, to which the member has been appointed by council or on which the member holds office by virtue of being a member of council;
 - (b) each member of council in respect of his or her services as an officer or employee of the municipality or other body described in clause (a); and
 - (c) each person, other than a member of council, appointed by the municipality to serve as a member of any body, including a local board, in respect of his or her services as a member of the body.

The statement shall identify the by-law under which the remuneration or expenses were authorized to be paid. For 2022 the total wages paid to the Mayor and Councillor was \$98,861 expenses of \$1652 for a total of \$100,513;
- h) Appointment of Auditors - Under Section 296 of the Municipal Act, a municipality shall appoint an auditor licensed under the *Public Accounting Act, 2004* who is responsible for,
 - (a) annually auditing the accounts and transactions of the municipality and its local boards and expressing an opinion on the financial statements of these bodies based on the audit; and
 - (b) performing duties required by the municipality or local board.

An auditor of a municipality shall not be appointed for a term exceeding five years and despite any Act, the auditor of a municipality shall not be an employee of the municipality or of a local board of the municipality. The auditor of a municipality shall report to the council of the municipality. Currently the municipality uses the firm of MacKillican & Associates. They were appointed by By-Law 2019-001 for a term from January 1st, 2019 to December 31st, 2022.

The Township needs to appoint auditors this year for our 2023 audit which begins in the Fall and is completed in the winter of 2024. Committee recommends that CAO get a quote from our current auditors for 2023 to 2027;
- i) Following the recruitment advertisement, the CAO met with Fire Chief Dave Murphy and CBO and former Fire Chief in Greater Madawaska

Darryl Wagner to review the applications received for the position. We received five applications, however, none of them were deemed a good fit for the Township. We discussed other options such as a joint Chief position with a neighbouring township to make the position full time and I met with some local CAO's to have this discussion.

In the week's following, CBO Darryl Wagner approached me regarding the position. He advised me that he was interested in being CBO and Fire Chief as was his position in Greater Madawaska. We did discuss that to include By-Law Enforcement duties in this role would be too much for one person. The CAO received direction from Council at the last meeting to be able to move forward with an offer which she was pleased to inform Committee that Darryl accepted. A By-Law appointing our New Fire Chief will be coming forward at the March 7th meeting. This means that Chief Murphy's last day as Chief will be Friday March 10th and Darryl Wagner's first day as Chief would be Saturday March 11th.

The CAO thanked Chief Murphy for his over 20 years in the Fire Service. Chief Murphy has agreed to assist through budget, for Canada Day and other areas if needed. Dave has shown incredible leadership and community spirit. Further recognition will be arranged in the future. On behalf of all the staff, council and the community please join me in thanking him for his years of service. Dave's last Council meeting will be Tuesday March 7th and we hope he will attend in person but as he stated in his retirement notice his business is booming and requires a lot of his time and energy at the moment.

We will welcome our new Fire Chief at the March 21st meeting and I can assure you he has the experience, skills and community spirit we were looking for to ensure continued dedication and service for the Township.

Admin and Financial Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. County Council Summary - January 2023
2. AMO Communications
3. AMO Watchfile - February 9, 2023
4. AMO Watchfile - February 16, 2023

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Lake Clear Conservancy Report to MNR - Camping on Crown Islands on Lake Clear 2022
2. Madawaska Studio Tour - Request for Sponsorship
3. County of Huron - Warden's Letter Regarding Cannabis Act
4. McGrath Road Request
5. Library Request for In kind use of the Eagles Nest

(C) Correspondence "C"

Committee recommends support of B.2 Madawaska Studio Tour Request for Sponsorship, of in-kind donations.

Committee recommends support of B.3 County of Huron - Warden's Letter Regarding Cannabis Act, with the language reworded for more clarity, and it will come back to the next meeting of Council.

Committee recommends support of B.4. McGrath Road Request – to clean up title on a portion of the McGrath Road.

Committee recommends support of B.5 Library Request for In kind use of the Eagles Nest

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Request from Eganville Horticultural Society – Committee recommends that \$1000.00 be donated to the Horticultural Society for their Spring Planting in the Village of Eganville
- (2)** Council Tourism Initiatives – Committee recommends that the Village and area be cleaned up, brushing by the Bonnechere River, access points brushed back,

improve access to waterfront, clean up around the Generation Station, replace rusty signage, paint municipal office door, remove weeds around municipal buildings, replacement of old garbage cans, and more on social media;

- (3) Delcan Site Plan Conditional Approval – Delcan’s community information session will be held via Zoom on March 23, 2023 at 6 pm. After this session the site plan agreement will come back to council;
- (4) Police Service Board Update & Robbie Dean Centre – Merv Buckwald updated the Committee on the Police Service Board meeting he attended on January 26, 2023. Merv also attended a presentation by the Robbie Dean Counseling Centre at the Senior’s Dining Club and the various programming that they provide to the community;
- (5) Renewable Energy – The Ottawa Renewal Energy Co-operative will provide at no costs to the tax payers, solar panels, that go on the roof of the municipal buildings and the electricity that is generated by the building will be sold back to the building at a fixed energy rate for a twelve year period, which is the life of the project. The group will attend a future meeting as a delegation to speak to Committee. Committee discussed the Net Zero Grant that the Township staff are currently working on for the arena and the curling club and agreed that staff should include solar panel installation as part of this grant project.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 7, 2023

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **John Epps**

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

Carried

Merv Buckwald, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO