

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 07, 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 **3**

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 with the addition of Item #8.4 Dog Pound.
Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on February 21, 2023 be accepted as presented.
Carried

DELEGATIONS

Affordable Housing Alliance Presentation – Ish Theilheimer & Cameron Montgomery provided information to Committee on North Algona Wilberforce’s partnership with Sparrow, which is a home-sharing program that match individuals in need of housing with people who have a spare room in their house and want someone to share expenses, do chores and provide companionship. They also informed Committee that they are interested in applying for a grant to hire a Program Co-Ordinator to assist with attainable housing in our respective communities.

Committee recommends support of the grant that North Algona Wilberforce is submitting for a Program Co-Ordinator to support affordable housing in the surrounding area to assist residents through the process of property development.

Tim Schison & Son Trucking – Tim Schison, Owner

Request to Committee to reject the proposed By-Law Restricting heavy trucks and a request to change the load restriction signs to be consistent with the rest of the County of Renfrew. Committee recommends that the load restriction signs be consistent with the County of Renfrew.

REPORTS

Water & Sewer Department

Daryl Verch, Water & Sewer Manager was present and gave his report.

- a) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;
- b) Two of the three silent backflow valves have been installed on the high lift pumps;
- c) Received a quote from Harrington Mechanical for \$17,238 plus HST for stainless steel piping for the water treatment plant. Committee recommends approval of this single source purchase;

- d) Completed the 2022 year end reports for the water system;
- e) The MOE Water Inspector was at the Water Plant to conduct the physical part of the Annual Compliance Inspections. Committee recommends that the Eganville Drinking Water System 2022 Annual Summary Report be accepted as presented;
- 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) The year end reporting for the Wastewater System and Sludge Disposal have been completed and submitted. Committee recommends that the Eganville Sewage System 2022 Performance Report be accepted as presented.

Water & Sewer Report Received.

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Spring Creek Construction - An estimated contractor reconstruction price for Spring Creek Road is \$1,256,413 + \$42,000 for guard rails. If the Township gets a contractor to do the road construction, we will need an engineered road design. If township staff does the road construction in house, the cost is approximately \$760,000 + \$42,000 for guard rails. On our 10 year Capital Maintenance Plan, Spring Creek Road is due to be reconstructed in 2031;
- b) Jason Zohr has contacted the MTO to enquire about the signage for destinations at the intersection of 41 and 60. He asked if they would post a sign showing "Pembroke" with the arrow to the left. They will look into this. Committee recommends that a warning steep hill sign be installed at Bruce Street and Highway #60 instead of pursuing a no truck by-law at this time;
- c) Staff have had some enquiries from waste hauling contractors that haul garbage for our residents to add the larger bin size to our fee by-law. Construction and demolition materials go to Snodrifters waste site and household garbage goes to Ruby landfill site. This will put extra strain on our Department as we will have to open the site on Friday's before we cover to accept this large of a load. Committee asked Jason Zohr to bring back an updated cost for the opening of the waste sites that accurately reflect the actual costs.

Works Department Report Received.

Fire Department

Dave Murphy, Fire Chief, was present and gave his report.

- a) The department had two calls for service in February 2023;
- b) The recruiting process is ongoing;
- c) All apparatus and equipment remain service ready. Yearly equipment servicing and certification are underway;
- d) Training Committee continues to maintain an active schedule. Training plans are being aligned with the requirements of the OFMEM and certification;
- e) In person inspections and public assistance requests continue;
- f) Naloxone Kits - Committee recommends that staff proceed with the entering into the memorandum of understanding with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit to provide us with Naloxone kits for the fire trucks;
- g) OFMEM All Chief's Town Hall Meeting – Dave Murphy and Darryl Wagner attended a virtual OFMEM All Chief's Town Hall Meeting.

Fire Department Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

- 1. AMO – Watchfile February 23, 2023

(B) Correspondence "B"

- 1. Town of Plympton-Wyoming - School Board Elections
- 2. Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh - Future Accuracy of the Permanent Register of Electors
- 3. Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh - Ontario School Board Elections
- 4. Township of Dawn-Euphemia - School Board Election Compensation

5. Niagara Region - Declarations of Emergency for Homelessness, Mental Health and Opioid Addiction
6. Robert Osborne - Maple Leaf Tax
7. Town of Deep River - Ontario School Board Elections
8. Genevieve O'Grady - Lighting request for National Medical Laboratory Week
9. McIntyre request regarding crossing agreement re: Brudenell Lyndoch Raglan Severance
10. Crossing Agreement agreed to in Principle in 2022 - Right of Way Application B213
11. Crossing Agreement agreed to in Principle in 2022 Right of Way Application B214

(C) Correspondence "C"

- B.7 Committee recommends support of Town of Deep River - Ontario School Board Elections. Staff will bring back to the next meeting of Council.
- B.8 Committee recommends support of Genevieve O'Grady request for National Medical Laboratory Week, by placing it on our electronic sign.
- B.9 Committee supports the McIntyre request regarding crossing agreement re: Brudenell Lyndoch Raglan Severance.
- B.10 Committee recommends approval of Crossing Agreement agreed to in Principle in 2022 - Right of Way Application B213.
- B.11 Committee recommends approval of Crossing Agreement agreed to in Principle in 2022 Right of Way Application B214.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Public Meeting at 5:25pm
- (2)** Mayor's Report – The Mayor attended 24 meetings and several events in the month of February. Some of the highlights are as follows:

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network had a large turnover of members after the election and due to term periods of public members. The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus will appoint the elected members and the Mayor is part of our nomination committee for public members. These interviews begin March 8. The EORN Board has also requested from the Province a 13 month extension to the cell gap project due to several challenges including supply chain issues. We are requesting this extension out of an abundance of caution to ensure that we are fully funded to the end of this phase of the project.

As we were in a County wide Significant Weather Event on February 9th, the second Ontario Winter Games Opening Ceremonies were cancelled and switched to an online ceremony to ensure that the athletes were greeted.

On February 13th, the Mayor attended orientation as a new member of the ROMA Board and on February 17th, attended my first official ROMA Board meeting. Executive-Treasurer, Afshin Majidi, gave an overview of the initial financials coming out of the 2023 ROMA Conference. Once these results are final, she will bring a further report.

Also provided was an update from Victoria Van Veen, Team Lead, Events and Training, with the report card from attendees at the conference. Almost all comments were favourable.

Of interest was the report on the ROMA Communications Update from Farah Tayabali and Megan Abraham from Redbrick Consulting.

There was excellent media interest:

- Less overall media registered, but greater province- and Canada-wide coverage
- Seven pre-registered, another dozen organizations, some with multiple reporters, registered on-site
- Coverage continued for more than a week after the event was over ∪ Lots of interest on both Sunday and Monday

Increased Twitter interest

- 124 Tweets sent from January 19-25
- 164,396 impressions (up by 25,000+ from 2022)
- 3,733 engagements
- 2.3% engagement rate
- 416 @ mentions and/or post retweets/replies (Lots of action with the ROMA backdrop/selfie opportunity)
- 223 followers gained (6.6% increase!)

Growing Facebook & LinkedIn

- Facebook was tagged 75 times in 2022, and more than 450 times in 2023
- Facebook's following grew by 76 followers, bringing it to more than 500
- Lots of use of the #ROMA2023 hashtag, and many municipalities highlighting councillor/mayor participation
- Significant growth on LinkedIn, with 209 new followers for a total of 798 (35% increase)

They had a briefing and some discussion on the opportunities for the Rural Ontario and Attainable Housing Task Force from Chair Robin Jones and a presentation from Ellen Sinclair from the Rural Ontario Institute.

On February 22nd and 23rd the Mayor attended budget deliberations at the County of Renfrew. It was a very challenging budget. To achieve the target of 2.5% levy increase which was set last September, staff made necessary cuts to their departmental budgets. Some of these cuts were not palatable to County Council, including the elimination of an overnight 12 hour shift of Paramedic service at the Eganville base. In fact, we agreed that there should be another 24 hour shift and an additional ambulance. Where this service will be based will be a discussion for another day. In the end, we did achieve the 2.5% increase but this required that any surpluses from 2022 be used for operational budget items in 2023. Normally these surpluses would be added to our Capital Reserves. The Warden and Mayor Murphy, as Chair of Finance, congratulated staff and Council for their efforts in achieving this budget.

The mayor joined Councillor Tracey Sanderson at a special meeting of the Museum Board on February 27th to review some of the artwork and heritage sites considered as part of the grant application and our Tourism Strategy.

On February 28th, the Mayor attended a round table discussion with MP Cheryl Gallant and Mayors from around the County so that she has a clear understanding of the challenges we are experiencing at the Municipal level. As in previous meetings, it is clear that most of our local level Councils and staff are having similar difficulties. MP Gallant was very engaged and we thanked her for her valuable time.

On March 1st, the Mayor attended County Council. Of note, in September 2022, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission issued a report that changed the electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke removing the Township of Greater Madawaska from Renfrew County. County Council supported a resolution from the Township of Greater Madawaska opposing the proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario. Former County of Renfrew, Warden, Debbie Robinson sent a letter to the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission outlining the County's concerns. The letter indicated that the removal of the Township of Greater Madawaska, in the southern region of our County, would mean that residents would have to travel well outside of their region to obtain services, meet with their Member of Parliament, and get access to the MPs staff. We also indicated that fractioning of the district would only serve to be detrimental to the effectiveness of coherent communication by our Federally elected leaders, and the service that they provide to all of the constituents. The revised 2023 report indicates that the district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke has been renamed to Algonquin-Renfrew-Pembroke recognizing the importance of the Algonquin people's history and presence in this region and the Township of Greater Madawaska has been returned back to the existing boundary.

The County Council update will be provided in your March 21st correspondence. Last, but certainly not least, the Mayor hoped everyone will come out this coming weekend for all of the amazing events planned for March Break Madness. She

congratulated Councillor Tracey Sanderson and the committee for the hard work to make this event happen. It is a jam packed weekend and the Mayor encouraged everyone to get out and support the committee and have some fun. The Mayor is personally looking forward to the Ice Bumper Cars and the Video Game Party Bus, there is something for everyone;

- (3) Bonnechere Authors Festival Request For In Kind Use of Eagles Nest Hall – Committee recommends waiving the hall rental fee for the event;
- (4) Dog Pound – Committee recommends closure of the Dog Pound due to the level of service being provided by the Pound and without more staff, running water, outside runs, additional lighting and heating has been determined to be unsatisfactory and the OSPCA can provide a better level of service at a lower cost and lower risk to the Township.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 21, 2023

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**

THAT: the meeting adjourn at 3:38 p.m.

Carried

Brent Patrick, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO