

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY APRIL 21st, 2015 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

PRESENT Mayor Jennifer Murphy
Deputy Mayor Bob Peltzer
Councillor Jackie Agnew
Councillor Merv Buckwald
Councillor Meredith Jamieson
CAO Bryan Martin
Planning-Zoning Community Development Dana Jennings

ABSENT

GALLERY 1

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

PRAYER – Striking the prayer from the agenda as per the decision of the Supreme Court ruling

ADDITIONS/CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda be approved as presented with the addition of item #2 Township of Madawaska Valley – Hydro Rates

15.060 MOVED BY Bob Peltzer
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

That: The agenda be accepted as amended/presented. Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST – None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the April 7th, 2015 regular meeting for approval.

15.061 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY Bob Peltzer

THAT: The minutes of the regular council meeting held on April 7, 2015, as amended/presented be hereby adopted. Carried

DELEGATION - None

CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Correspondence "A"

- (i) Ministry of Energy – Canadian Nuclear Association Conference
- (ii) Ontario Energy Board – Expansion of Natural Gas Distribution

(2) Correspondence "B"

- (i) Lisa Thompson, MPP – Bill 66: Great Lakes Protection Act
- (ii) Ottawa Valley Tourist Association – AGM and Awards Ceremony
- (iii) Sylvia Jones, MPP – Bill 36 Respecting Private Property Act
- (iv) Township of Madawaska Valley – Hydro Rates
- (v) South Algona Trial - Inquiry

(3) Correspondence "C"

15.062 MOVED BY Meredith Jamieson
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: the Correspondence be filed. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE

(1) 2014 Financial Information Return

15.063 MOVED BY Meredith Jamieson
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: the 2014 Financial Information Return (FIF) for 2014 audited statement from MacKillican & Associates, Chartered Accountants be approved as presented. Carried

(2) Township of Madawaska Valley – Hydro Rates

15.064 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY Meredith Jamieson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

WHEREAS the cost of hydro has doubled and in some cases more than doubled in the past five years; and

WHEREAS the costs of electricity in the Province of Ontario is forcing businesses to consider leaving the area; and

WHEREAS many families are having difficulty keeping up with their monthly payments; and

WHEREAS the Province's Long Term Energy Plan anticipates that consumers will face hydro rates that will rise by 42% over the next five (5) years; and

WHEREAS it is essential that the residents and businesses of the Bonnechere Valley to have access to affordable hydro to thrive and prosper; and

WHEREAS Council urges Provincial relief to Ontario Hydro One Customers to reflect the means of rural residents to reasonably access hydro through a review of Provincial policies and their agencies that set Ontario rates for electricity, distribution charges, debt retirement, global adjustments costs and carbon taxes. Council requests, that this review would include consultation with rural and urban municipalities; and

WHEREAS Council reminds Rural municipalities to advocate the investigation by the Ontario Ombudsman regarding the major systemic issues identified by complaints involving overcharging of hydro, an explanation of line items on billing and, resolve of related matters; and

WHEREAS it is imperative that Province of Ontario review their energy policies and utilize The Rural and Northern Lens advocated by the Rural Ontario Municipal Association to evaluate and assess the needs of rural municipalities so that they can succeed and thrive. Many rural municipalities have a population of 50% or more seniors on fixed incomes who are struggling to keep warm in low population density communities with colder temperatures that do not benefit from the heat retention in condominium residences and whom are challenged by geography and climate scales.

Our core sectors of economic development in our region, lumber mills and farming , are often under-employment and are subject to rates that are higher than other provinces due to impact of high delivery charges and global adjustment fees (that can be up to

