

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY

## BY-LAW 2025-048

**BEING A BY-LAW TO REGULATE AND DISCOURAGE THE OCCURANCE OF FALSE ALARMS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY. TO ENSURE THE RESPONSIBLE USE AND MAINTENCE OF ALARM SYSTEMS TO REDUCE THE UNNECESSARY DEPLOYMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND TO IMPOSE POSSIBLE PENALTIES FOR REPEATED FALSE ALARMS.**

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**AND WHEREAS**, Section 11 (2) of the Municipal Act 2001, Chapter 25, as amended, provides that a municipality may pass by-laws respecting the health, safety and well-being of persons.

**AND WHEREAS** Section 391 of the Municipal Act, 2001, Chapter 25, as amended, authorizes a municipality and a local board to impose fees or charges on persons, or services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of it, and for costs payable by it for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of any other municipality or any local boards;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley acknowledges the significant contribution that the installation of residential and commercial security and fire alarm systems provides in reducing break-ins, thefts, crimes and fire loss within the Municipality.

**AND WHEREAS** documentation provided to the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley confirms that a significant number of security and fire alarm occurrences attended by the police and fire services are false alarms.

**AND WHEREAS** attendance at security and fire alarms which prove false, unnecessarily diverts police and fire resources from other important and potentially life-threatening situations and is costly.

**AND WHEREAS** the Council wishes to maintain policies and practices that contribute to the efficient and cost-effective use of limited resources in our community;

**AND WHEREAS** the onus should be placed on residential and business owners who install security and fire alarm systems to ensure that they function reliably.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley Township enacts as follows:

### **1.0 DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1 **"Alarm Occurrence"** means the activation of an alarm and the direct or indirect reporting of the activation to the police or fire service.
- 1.2 **"Designated By-law Enforcement Officer"** means the By-law Enforcement Officer(s) for the Township as appointed by the Council.
- 1.3 **"CAO"** means the Chief ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER of Township of Bonnechere Valley or their designate.
- 1.4 **"Council"** means the Council of Township of Bonnechere Valley
- 1.5 **"False Alarm"** means a security or fire alarm occurrence in respect of a building, structure, or premises where upon attendance there is no evidence of a fire occurrence or evidence that an unauthorized entry or unlawful act has been attempted or entered, and includes but is not limited to:
  - 1.5.1 An activation of an alarm during its testing without prior notification.
  - 1.5.2 An alarm activated by mechanical failure, malfunction of faulty equipment
  - 1.5.3 An alarm activated by atmospheric conditions, vibrations or power failure.
  - 1.5.4 An alarm activated by user error.

- 1.6 **"Fire Chief"** means the Fire Chief for the Township of Bonnechere Valley as appointed by Council.
- 1.7 **"Fire Service"** means the Township of Bonnechere Valley Fire Department.
- 1.8 **"Township"** means the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley.
- 1.9 **"Owner"** means any person or group of persons who is/are the owner(s) of the property as shown on the last revised assessment roll of the Township.
- 1.10 **"Police Service"** means the Ontario Provincial Police.
- 1.11 **"Unreasonable Number"** means in relation to false alarms more than one (1) received from a residential or business unit within a twelve (12) month period.

## **2.0 FALSE ALARMS**

- 2.1 Every owner of a building, structure or premises in which an alarm has been installed shall be responsible for maintaining such alarm in proper operating order.
- 2.2 No owner of a building, structure or premises in which an alarm has been installed shall allow such alarm to go unmaintained or improperly handled with the effect that it results in Police and Fire Services personnel being unnecessarily or falsely called upon to respond.

## **3.0 PENALTIES**

- 3.1 Any person who contravenes any provision of this by-law is guilty of an offence and may be subject to such fees or charges for the demand of Police and/or Fire Services which is the result of an unreasonable number of false alarms. Such fee shall be set out in Schedule "A" attached.
- 3.2 All Fees and charges payable under this by-law are due and owing to the Township within thirty (30) days of an invoice rendered to the person liable to pay them.
- 3.3 All overdue accounts shall accrue interest at the rate of 1.25% per month (15% per annum), calculated monthly, from the due date until paid in full.
- 3.4 All fees and charges payable under this by-law constitutes a debt of the person liable for payment of them to the Township and, in the case of owners of a property being responsible for payment of fees and charges, the Township may add the amount owing to the tax roll for the owner(s) real property and collect them in a like manner as municipal taxes.

## **4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

- 4.1 All alarm occurrences attended by the Police and/or Fire Service shall be recorded in an Occurrence Tracker
- 4.2 **Police Service** - Where a Police Service attends a premise in response to an alarm and the attendance of the Owner is requested and does not occur, with the consequence that the Police Officer(s) is/are not able to enter the premises, the Police service may deem that the alarm was a False Alarm and record it as such.  
**Fire Service** - Where a Fire Service attends a premise in response to an alarm and the attendance of the Owner is requested and does not occur, with the consequence that the Fire Service is not able to enter the premises, the Fire Service may deem that the alarm was a False Alarm and record it as such.
- 4.3 **Police Service** – The CAO or Designated Bylaw Officer may request the Police Service to provide monthly false security alarm occurrence reports.  
**Fire Service** -The Fire Chief or designate notify the CAO or the Designated Bylaw Officer of any false alarms that have occurred.
- 4.4 Upon receipt of notification of an unreasonable number of false alarms from the Police or Fire Service, the Designated Bylaw Officer or Fire Chief shall issue a False Alarm Caution Notice to the Owner advising a fee may be imposed for continued demand of service because of a false alarm.
- 4.5 Where there is a further False Alarm within the same twelve (12) month period of the issuance of a Caution Notice, the Designated By-law Officer or Fire Chief or designate shall issue a Final Warning Notice to the Owner advising a fee shall be imposed for continued demand of service because of a false alarm.
- 4.6 Where there are subsequent False Alarms within the same twelve (12) month period of the issuance of a Final Warning Notice, the Designated By-law Officer of

Fire Chief or designate shall issue a bylaw ticket to the Owner for each subsequent false alarm.

4.7 If cancellation of an alarm occurs prior to Police or Fire Services deployment the alarm shall not be recorded as a false alarm and no notice or fees shall be assessed.

## **5.0 NOTIFICATION**

Issuance of any notice or ticket by the Designated Bylaw Officer or Fire Chief or designate shall be deemed satisfied if distributed as follows:

5.1 By personal service to the Owner, in which case the date of notice or ticket shall be deemed to be the date of personal service.

5.2 By registered mail to the Owner at the mailing address shown in the last revised assessment roll of the Township, in which case the date of notice or ticket shall be deemed to be four (4) working days after the date the registered mail was issued by the Township.

## **6.0 PENALTY PROVISIONS**

Any person who contravenes this by-law or causes or permits a contravention of any provision of this by-law is guilty of an offence and upon conviction, is liable to a fine, *under the Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O 1990, c.P.33, as amended as laid out in Schedule "A" to this by-law.*

**7.0 That** all Council resolution or similar expressions, whether formal or informal, inconsistent with this By-Law shall be deemed to be rescinded.

**8.0 That** This By-Law shall come into force and effect on the date of passing.

Read a First and Second Time this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025

Read a Third Time and Finally Passed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025

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Mayor Jennifer Murphy

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CAO Annette Gilchrist

**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY**

**Part 1 Provincial Offences Act  
By-Law 2025-048: False Alarms**

Schedule "A"  
Schedule of Fines

Item	Column 1 Short Form Wording	Column 2 Provision creating or defining offence	Column 3 Set fine
1	False Alarm, third offence or subsequence, Police or Fire Services attend within twelve (12) month period	2.2	\$500

The General Penalty Provision for the Offence (s) listed above is section 6.0 of By-Law 2025-048, a certified copy of which has been filed.