# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY MINUTES SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING Monday September 12, 2022 3:00 P.M.

**PRESENT** Mayor Jennifer Murphy

Deputy Mayor Brent Patrick Councillor Merv Buckwald Councillor Jack Roesner Councillor Tim Schison CAO Annette Gilchrist Deputy CAO Sandra Barr

### **REGRETS**

GALLERY 1

**<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>** – Mayor Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

# **PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

Councillor Jack Roesner declared a conflict of interest for today's meeting regarding the Multistream property along Fourth Chute.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

CAO Annette Gilchrist reported that on August 12, 2020 there was a picture on the front page of the Eganville Leader promoting this location as "A local beauty spot". Upon reading this Multistream indicated that it has no issues with promoting a park, but if it is a park this requires that Bonnechere Valley's property has to be properly fenced to prevent people from using Multistream's property as part of the park.

September 1 2020 Norm Guy from Multistream reached out to the Township and Jason, Kevin and I discussed his request to fence the municipal property. I sent him the below email.

Further to our telephone conversation, please see the attached map. The township property is marked with a blue dot. And is bound by 2 roadways therefore it appears to be well marked for those visiting. As discussed the sign was installed to prevent overnight campers, fires, and in light of safety and controlling public use. The property was being used as a park historically and the signage was installed as a control mechanism not for park creation. That being said we would be happy to put up a sign "use at your own risk" and stating that we are not liable similar to Admaston/Bromley's Douglas Beach sign which may offer some protection should an incident happen.

May 31, 2021 Multistream asked if we had a policy where we had to fence our parks. I replied in an email that some other municipalities have a fencing policy which includes fencing parks. BVs only policy pertains to livestock. The only other relevant law I could find is the Line Fences Act which allows one owner to request a fence be built and share the cost with the adjacent property owner. Not sure if this is an avenue but could get you a fence if you want one at a shared cost. A form 1 Request under the Line Fences Act was never received.

July 7, 2021 we received notice that multistream was going to fence their property due to liability issues. They sent us an R-Plan (attached to this report) showing their property lines. I asked Jason and Kevin to investigate to determine what the meant for our property boundaries.

On Tuesday July 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 Council went into closed session. The decision made following that session was to keep things status quo.

Since that time the County has remediated the bridge and installed a guard rail which blocked access to the park. The Township is in the process of working with the County and Bonnechere Caves to try and solve the parking and access issue.

Staff did receive a call the morning that Multistream was installing the fence and we did reach out to ask if installation could be postponed until the access issue was resolved however the materials were already purchased and the contractors were on site so we were told it was too late.

On September 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 the Eganville Leader reported that Multistream offered to lease the property to the Township for \$1.00. I reached out to Multistream to see if this is a real offer however I have not received a response.

The below map shows the borders of the Multistream property. The municipal property is shown with the blue dots.

Council asked to meet on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to discuss a media release in response to the Leader's article of September 7<sup>th</sup>. A draft for your consideration is below.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Council met to discuss the possible offer to lease land adjacent to Fourth Chute Road from Multistream.

The Township has contacted Multistream to request a meeting to discuss the details of a lease.

The Township continues to work with all parties to resolve the parking and access issues at this location.

22.134 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald SECONDED BY Tim Schison

**THAT:** Council give staff direction to negotiate a lease agreement with Multistream;

And further that the Township release a media statement as presented.

Carried

### **BYLAWS**

22.135 MOVED BY Brent Patrick SECONDED BY Tim Schison

## THAT:

(1) By-Law 2022-063 Being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

BE READ A FIRST TIME, BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME, BE DEEMED READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Carried

# **ADJOURNMENT**

22.136 MOVED BY Tim Schison SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

**THAT:** This Council meeting be adjourned at 3:29 p.m. Carried

Mayor Jennifer Murphy

CAO Annette Gilchrist