

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY MAY 7, 2024 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

PRESENT **Mayor Jennifer Murphy
Deputy Brent Patrick
Councillor Merv Buckwald
Councillor John Epps
Councillor Tracey Sanderson
CAO Annette Gilchrist
Deputy CAO Sandra Barr**

REGRETS **None**

GALLERY **1**

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, Brent Patrick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY **John Epps**

THAT: The agenda be accepted as presented with the addition of Item 8.2 Reach for the Top and Item 8.3 Museum Update. Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Tracey Sanderson**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on April 16, 2024 be accepted as presented. Carried

DELEGATIONS

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) There were four electrical actuated butterfly valves installed on the Mono Plant Filtering System;
- c) The granular activated carbon filters effluent and backwash piping has been replaced, the existing pipes were rusting and have been in place since 1991;
- d) Performed maintenance on all the chemical feed lines;
- e) Flushed twenty fire hydrants including the thirteen dead end hydrants;
- 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 enclosure walls around the #1 clarifier have been completed;
- h) Dave Loader did approximately twenty-five locates for the bore holes that Marathon Drilling will be doing. This is about half of what is required.

Water & Sewer Report Received.

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Ditch & Community Clean-up Days 2024 - Residents took advantage of the opportunity to in assist in the clean-up of our ditches in the community and took their bags of garbage for free to the Sand Road Waste Site on Saturday, April 20, 2024 and Saturday, April 27, 2024. Note: This supports to Townships Priority of "Staffing and Shared Services" as it is related to the objective of "shared services";

- b) Reduced Load Limits - The half load restrictions were lifted on April 22, 2024;
- c) Household Hazardous Waste Depot - The Household Hazardous Waste Depot will be open on Saturdays only beginning May 18, 2024 until September 28, 2024;
- d) As of May 21, 2024 the Waste Site will be on summer hours;
- e) The Sand Road Waste Site will be closed on Monday, May 20, 2024 in recognition of the Victoria Day Stat Holiday;
- f) March 2024 Summary of Vehicle Counts - In the table below you will find stats for the month of March 2024 for all our waste sites and the tallies are based on vehicle counts from the waste site attendants.

Waste Site	# of Vehicles	# of H.H Bags	Glass/Cans	Paper/C cardboard	Metal	Organics	WEE	Appliances
Sand Road	996	1242	528	637	53	27	60	14
Lake Clear	175	270	184	184	0	26	0	0
McGrath Road	162	214	152	149	0	10	0	0
Ruby Road	247	184	135	111	49	52	0	0
Hwy 41	211	270	195	197	0	12	2	0
Totals	1791	2180	1194	1278	102	127	62	14
Waste Site	# of Vehicles	Const/Demo	WEE	Bulky	Tires	Metal	Free Pass	Weight KG's
Sno Drifters	146	140	0	30	106	24	89	51,250

- g) Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) – Dana Barkley participated in the Transition & Communications Meeting on April 4th and the CIF Depot Meeting on April 5th. These meetings discuss the transition for the Blue Box program and provide updates on communities that have transitioned, communities yet to transition and how the process is adapting. On April 5th, Annette and Dana participated in a call with Janet Robins from CIF to discuss and review our transition with Circular Materials. Note: This supports to Townships Priority of “Smart Infrastructure” as it is related to the objective of “Waste management using Circular economy”;
- h) File Hold Training - Jason Zohr and Dana Barkley participated in training for the new “File Hold” document management software that our municipality is going to be using going forward. This support the Townships Priority of “Maintain and Modernize Services” as it is related to the objective of “Digital strategy implementation: implement e-filing system”;
- i) Public Works Crew - The crew has been busy grading, bushing and tree cutting in the rural areas of the Township. In town street sweeping has been conducted.

Works Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

Darryl Wagner, CBO & Fire Chief. Report submitted.

- a) The Department had twenty-eight calls for service between January – April 2024;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
- c) Level 1 Fire Ban, campfires only, was lifted on Monday April 15;
- d) Junior Fire Fighter Program going well, there are 10 kids enrolled and the Department has capped the program at 10;
- e) The 1993 pumper truck has failed its pump test. Committee recommends that Darryl Wagner get a quote on cost to repair the truck;
- f) On April 24 five local CBOs spoke with Opeongo High School students regarding the requirements and the path most of the CBO’s went down to become a Chief Building Official. They plan to go to all the schools in Renfrew County and Algonquin College;
- g) Mostly small building permits have been issued new decks etc.

Fire Department & Building Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile April 18
2. AMO Watchfile April 25
3. County Council Summary April 2024

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Resolution RE Support for the OEB Decision to End the Subsidization of Fossil Gas
2. Letter from Signature Team Realty Inc. Brokerage
3. Funding Social Services
4. Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Small Rural Municipalities
5. Jurisdiction of the Ombudsman Letter
6. Motion Letter regarding Public Health Laboratories
7. Request for Eagles Nest
8. Urging the Government to Promptly Resume Assessment Cycle
9. Resolution Basic Income Guarantee

(C) Correspondence "C"

- B.4 Committee recommends supporting the resolution for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Small Rural Municipalities and direct staff to bring the resolution to the next meeting of Council.
- B.7 Committee recommends notifying the group of all rental options in the Village.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Mayor's Report - Since the last Mayor's Report, the Mayor attended 24 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows:

County Council - Discussed the release of the federal budget on April 16. While the recently announced provincial budget had more direct implications to municipal operations, there were several items within the federal budget that focus on solving the housing and homelessness crises, including funding investments in infrastructure. We are hopeful that the County of Renfrew will be an eligible partner in the funding allocations and applications when the programs get rolled out, including the \$6-billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.

County Council had two delegations:

Ann Pohl, Judy Sauve, and Carol Sulpher of the Kitchissippi-Ottawa Valley (KOV) Chapter – Council of Canadians attended to discuss the Climate Action Petition in recognition of International Earth Day. They stressed the need for immediate action on climate change and the group requested the County of Renfrew take the lead on a Valley-wide Climate Action Committee.

Jason St-Pierre, Chief Executive Officer, and Lisa Severson, Director of Communications, for the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) provided an update on the cell gap project for eastern Ontario, specifically on Renfrew County current and planned projects. Approximately \$50 million is being invested in infrastructure in the County of Renfrew to increase broadband service. They also touched upon Communal Servicing Systems projects within Eastern Ontario. Communal services, also known as shared drinking water and sewage systems, provide water and wastewater treatment to clusters of residences and businesses.

The first ever Renfrew County Housing Summit was held on April 4 at the myFM Centre in Renfrew. The Warden noted it was a very successful event with more than 110 attendees representing various segments of the housing spectrum. During

the meeting, council had a chance to watch a summit wrap-up video. A fulsome report will be forthcoming in the months to follow, including action items and a discussion about tangible targets. CAO Annette Gilchrist was able to attend this forum.

The Ottawa Valley Tourism Conference was held on April 16th at the myFM Centre in Renfrew. The theme was Tourism Tomorrow: Cultivating Growth and Navigating Change. Presented by the Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, and coinciding with National Tourism Week, this event included a keynote address by Sara Norton of Reply All, a welcome to the land and a flash history lesson with Christine Luckasavitch of Waaseyaa Consulting, panel discussions about community partnerships, travel trade and succession planning.

The event wrapped up with the presentation of the Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards. The winners of each category are listed below. A special congratulations to Kathleen and Marshall Buchanan from Farm to Fork!

- Tourism Champion: Ron Moss, Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation --- Alliance (Laurentian Valley)
- Business/Organization of the Year: Somewhere Inn Calabogie (Greater Madawaska)
- Event of the Year: Pembroke Regional Silver Stick Tournament
- Sustainability Champion: Anupaya Cabin Co. (Deep River)
- New Tourism Product: Ottawa Valley Farm to Fork (Bonnechere Valley)
- Tourism Marketing: Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (Whitewater Region)

ROMA - The ROMA Board met on April 18th and 19th in Toronto.

We had lengthy discussions on items that came out of our Strategic Plan. Item #4 is Zone Communications/Meetups which I have now taken on with two other Board members to ensure that all Zones are receiving consistent information and have regular virtual meetings to discuss rural needs.

Ontario Good Roads Association made a presentation about infrastructure changes that could make our roads safer. These changes have been implemented in some European countries and have proven to improve highway safety. The ROMA Board passed a resolution to support OGRA in their efforts to secure Federal and Provincial funding.

ROMA had a presentation with the results from the Rural Economic Development Consultation on Urban to Rural Migration. The top key factors were workforce development, all infrastructure and community assets including schools, libraries, health care, et cetera.

AMO policy advisors presented discussion items stemming from Bill 185, *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act*, which reversed some of Bill 23 but is intended to allow faster and cheaper building of homes. Of concern is the section regarding a Municipality's ability to incentivize industry, builders, et cetera to do business in their area. More discussion on this Bill will occur once all the details are released.

On June 5th, the Teeny Tiny Summit is being held in Tweed at the Kiwanis Pavilion. Since Tweed is in Zone 6, Mayor Murphy will be attending on behalf of ROMA. Cost of entry is \$40 and if anyone would like to join the Mayor, the registration is on the OMAFRA website. The theme for this Summit is Creating Community Wealth and Well-Being. The keynote speaker is Peter Kenyon from Bank of IDEAS in Australia. Peter has worked with more than 2000 communities throughout Australia and overseas facilitating fresh and creative ways that stimulate community and local economic renewal.

Federal Budget – On page 41 of the tabled Federal Budget there is a proposed new property tax. "At a time when we need to build as quickly as possible, it makes no sense that good land, in good areas, is sitting there, underused. As all orders of government put in place policies to tackle housing supply shortages, there is a

concern that some landowners in Canada may be sitting on developable land, hoping to profit from rising land values when the land could instead be used for immediate residential development. Vacant land needs to be used, and it is best used to build homes. The government is taking significant action to resolve Canada's housing crisis, and the federal government believes owners of vacant land in Canada must also do their part to unlock unused land for homes. Budget 2024 announces that the government will consider introducing a new tax on residentially zoned vacant land. The government will launch consultations later this year."

The assumption is that this would only apply to large urban centres and only those on serviced land however it is definitely a clause we will want to respond to when consultations open up.

EACDG - The EACDG met on May 1st to finalize the details for the Beer and Wine Fest which will take place on June 1st. Tickets are \$30 each which includes six samples from the vendors and charcuterie. There will be BV branded charcuterie boards for sale, made locally by Terry King. There are only 100 tickets available so get yours soon!

A very special thank you to Terry Hoelke for building the accessible picnic table for the shelter at the splash pad. Terry donated his time to build this beautiful table. The entire cost to the EACDG was \$240.70 but is worth approximately \$1800.00.

Events - The Bonnechere Union Public Library Tea was an enormous success. Councillors Sanderson and Epps, and Mayor Murphy joined Susan Taylor's beautifully decorated table. Congratulations to Julie Laroque for winning the best decorated with her Mother's Day themed table.

On May 3rd, Jennifer Murphy attended the unveiling of the 8 new affordable housing units in Pembroke. Associate Minister, Rob Flack, announced the 3.1 million dollar investment from the Province to help the County build supportive housing units. There are four one-bedroom accessible units on the main floor and four two-bedrooms on the second and third floors. All units are rent geared to income;

- (2) Reach for the Top – Tracey Sanderson updated Committee on a group of students from Opeongo High School that attended Reach for Top competition. Reach for the Top is a Canadian academic quiz competition for high school students. They placed 19/32 at the Provincial Finals; and
- (3) Museum AGM Update – Tracey Sanderson updated Committee on the museum. The AGM was held on May 6. Two board members left, and the two new board members were appointed - Remi Charron and Laurel Cook.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on May 21, 2024.

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY Jennifer Murphy

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 3:30 p.m.

Carried

Brent Patrick, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO