

**THE CORPORATION OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY  
MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY May 7, 2024 5:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ZOOM CONFERENCING**

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

**REGRETS** Councillor Merv Buckwald

**GALLERY** None

**INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA:** None

**24.068 MOVED BY** Tracey Sanderson  
**SECONDED BY** John Epps

**THAT:** the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

**PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**24.069 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**THAT:** The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 16, 2024 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence "A"**

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

**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

**Correspondence "C"**

**24.070 MOVED BY** Tracey Sanderson  
**SECONDED BY** John Epps

**WHEREAS** direction has been given to staff;

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** the correspondence be filed.

Carried

**NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9.1 Cheque Register and Board Reports

9.2 Resolution re: Phase out of water well testing

**24.071 MOVED BY** John Epps  
**SECONDED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**WHEREAS** the 2023 Auditor General's Value-for-Money Audit of Public Health Ontario (PHO) release in December 2023, recommendation number 5 states that PHO, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health (MOH), are to update and implement a laboratory moderation plan within 12 months to streamline the laboratory's operations;

**AND WHEREAS** this stemmed from a 2017 proposal by PHO, collaboratively with the MOH at the request of the Deputy Minister to close six of the 11 public health laboratory sites and gradually discontinue private drinking water testing to mitigate the rising costs of maintaining facilities, establish a more efficient operating model and reduce the rerouting of samples to other PHO laboratory sites;

**AND WHEREAS** Private drinking water systems in Ontario do not have the legislated safeguards that are required for municipal/communal/public systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002;

**AND WHEREAS** when water is monitored regularly, there is no way to know the true quality of the water, which puts people at increased risk of becoming ill;

**AND WHEREAS** the private drinking water test data maintained by PHO has been used by researchers to publish evidence that helps support public health policy;

**AND WHEREAS** in the Walkerton Inquiry Report Part 2, Justice O'Connor concluded the privatization of laboratory testing of drinking water samples connected directly to the E. coli O157:H7 outbreak in Walkerton Ontario in May 2000;

**AND WHEREAS** the proposed removal of PHO's free private drinking water testing is of concern for all of the above because even though well owners understand the importance of testing their well water the inconvenience and cost of doing so is a barrier;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Bonnechere Valley direct a letter to Minister Lisa Thompson requesting that the province not proceed with the recommended phase-out of free private well testing in Ontario;

And Further That area municipalities, the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, other Source Protection Committees, and local health units be forwarded a copy of the letter and asked for their support.

Carried

9.3 Resolution to support City of Pembroke Mental Health facility

**24.072 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** John Epps

**WHEREAS** the well-being of our community members is of paramount importance, and addressing mental health and substance use disorder is crucial for the overall health and safety of all our residents; and

**WHEREAS** the County of Renfrew, like many other regions, faces significant challenges related to mental health and addiction, with individuals and families grappling with the devastating impact of these conditions; and

**WHEREAS** timely access to specialized treatment and residential rehabilitation services and transitional housing is essential for those struggling with mental health issues and substance use disorders; and

**WHEREAS** we need to address the urgent need for additional treatment beds, especially for adults requiring intensive supports, and to improve access to care in rural, Northern, and Indigenous communities; and

**WHEREAS** the number of drug-related deaths in the County of Renfrew, as a whole, is on the rise underscoring the critical importance of accessible treatment options for those at risk of negative impacts including overdose and death; and

**WHEREAS** the establishment of a mental health, drug addiction treatment and residential rehabilitation facility serving the County of Renfrew would provide the following benefits:

1. **Local Accessibility:** Residents would have access to specialized services without the burden of travelling long distances, ensuring timely intervention and continuity of care.
2. **Holistic Approach:** The facility could offer integrated care, addressing both mental health and substance use disorders concurrently, thereby improving outcomes for clients.
3. **Community Support:** By providing a safe and supportive environment, the facility would contribute to reducing stigma and fostering community understanding of mental health and addiction.
4. **Collaboration with Existing Services:** The facility could collaborate with existing community organizations, healthcare and social service providers, and law enforcement agencies to create a comprehensive network of support (i.e. County of Renfrew MESA program).

**Now Therefore, be it resolved that** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley:

1. Urgently requests the Province of Ontario to allocate funding specifically for the establishment of a mental health, addition, and residential drug treatment rehabilitation facility serving the County of Renfrew.
2. Advocates for a facility that offers evidence-based, trauma-informed care, addressing both addiction and concurrent mental health issues.
3. Commits to working collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities, all community stakeholders, and provincial authorities to ensure the successful implementation of this vital facility.

**And Furthermore that,** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley encourages all residents to support this resolution and join the collective effort to enhance mental health and addiction services in our region.

**And Be It Further Resolved** that copies of this motion be distributed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions; Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health; the Honourable John Yakabuski, Member of Provincial Parliament for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus; and all neighbouring County of Renfrew lower-tier municipalities.

Carried

**CLOSED SESSION – NONE**

**BY-LAWS**

**24.073 MOVED BY** Tracey Sanderson  
**SECONDED BY** Brent Patrick

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-018 Being a By-Law to amend zoning by-law 2022-042 (Pigeon)

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

Carried

**24.074 MOVED BY** John Epps  
**SECONDED BY** Brent Patrick

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-019 Being a By-Law to regulate building permits and inspections

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

Carried

**24.075 MOVED BY** Brent Patrick  
**SECONDED BY** John Epps

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-020 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**

**24.076 MOVED BY** Tracey Sanderson  
**SECONDED BY** Brent Patrick

**THAT:** This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Carried

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Mayor Jennifer Murphy

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CAO Annette Gilchrist