

**THE CORPORATION OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY  
MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY MARCH 19, 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

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

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

Carried

**PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

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

**THAT:** The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 5, 2024 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence "A"**

1. County Council Summary February 2024
2. AMO Watchfile March 7 2024

**Correspondence "B"**

1. Bonnechere Cup Inc - Request to use power every January
2. Unnecessary Noise Engine Brakes
3. Request and Thank you from Community Resource Centre
4. Request Access via Unopened Allowance Off Corrigan Road8. Support - Rising Municipal Insurance Costs

**Correspondence "C"**

1. Amend Blue Box Regulation

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

**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 to cancel carbon tax

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

**WHEREAS** the federal government recently increased the carbon tax in April 2023 and will almost triple it by 2030; and

**WHEREAS** the Parliamentary Budget officer has admitted that when fiscal and economic impacts of the federal fuel charge are considered that the vast majority of households will see a staggering loss; and

**WHEREAS** this tax flows through from producers to transporters to the grocery store floor for our citizens; and

**WHEREAS** this tax does very little to reduce pollution and emissions; and

**WHEREAS** two thirds of Canadians are approximately \$200 away or less from not being able to pay all their bills at the end of the month; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Bonnechere Valley write a Letter to the Federal government strongly urging them to cancel the carbon tax which is financially hurting our citizens at a time when affordability concerns are at an all-time high to ease the financial and inflationary pressure on our Citizens.

**AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of the letter be sent to MP Cheryl Gallant, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and all Municipalities in Renfrew County and the City of Pembroke.

Carried

9.3 Resolution to support SDF funding for Operator Course

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

**WHEREAS**, municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

**AND WHEREAS**, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

**AND WHEREAS**, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

**AND WHEREAS**, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Township of Bonnechere Valley supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

**AND THAT**, the Township of Bonnechere Valley calls on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

**AND THAT**, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccini, Township of Bonnechere Valley's Member of Provincial Parliament John Yakabuski and the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors.

Carried

#### 9.4 Resolution to support increased funding to libraries and museums

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

**WHEREAS** the provincial funding for public libraries is currently based on population levels from 25 years ago which fails to reflect the substantial growth and changing needs of our communities; and

**WHEREAS** libraries provide essential community support for Canada's post-pandemic recovery, competitiveness and resilience as detailed in the report titled "overdue" released by the Canadian Urban Institute and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council; and

**WHEREAS** libraries situated at the heart of communities, serve as multifaceted institutions catering to diverse needs. They provide essential services such as access to culture, information, refuge for those experiencing domestic violence, election information centres, job search facilities, health clinics, language learning centres for newcomers, and spaces for educational and community events; and

**WHEREAS** despite their vital role public libraries in Ontario have not seen an increase in provincial funding for over 25 years, leading to a decrease in the value of the province's investment by over 60%; and

**WHEREAS** 90% of library funding comes from local municipal governments, provincial operating funding is crucial to providing stability to library budgets especially in times of inflation, technological changes and increasing demands on libraries as community hubs; and

**WHEREAS** the funding envelope for the Community Museum Operating Grant has remained stagnant for over 15 years limiting the ability of community museums to offset increasing operational expenses, impacting their role in preserving and promoting local stories, attracting cultural tourists, supplementing school curriculum and contributing to a vibrant and vital community; and

**WHEREAS** the Bonnechere Museum is a community hub critical to the health and vibrancy of our community, creating a sense of place that defines our unique identity; and

**WHEREAS** cultural institutions play a vital role in shaping and preserving our history and contributing to tourism, social participation, senior well-being, skill-building and learning;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the township of Bonnechere Valley urges the Provincial Government to support increasing funding to both public libraries and community museums. Recognizing these institutions as national assets and strategically investing in their potential to contribute significantly to post-pandemic social cohesion, economic well-being and community resilience; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be circulated to the Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, the Association of Municipalities Ontario, the

Ontario Library Association, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries and MPP John Yakabuski.

Carried

#### 9.5 Resolution in support of Pembroke Hospital Mental Health Services

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

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley supports the resolution from the Town of Arnprior and their support for the Mental Health Services of Renfrew County (MHSRC) Hoarding Program and its benefits to all residents within the County of Renfrew.

**WHEREAS** Council for the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley encourages the Pembroke Regional Hospital to continue to fund well into the future this valuable program.

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Pembroke Regional Hospital, all local municipalities and the County of Renfrew in support of the MHSRC Hoarding Program.

Carried

#### 9.6 Resolution to support reduced municipal insurance costs

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

**WHEREAS** Ontario Municipalities are experiencing higher insurance rates at each renewal with limited access to insurance providers willing to quote on municipal insurance needs;

**AND WHEREAS** the Township of Bonnechere Valley's annual insurance premiums have increased from \$156,902 to \$233,940 from 2020 to 2023, representing an accumulated increase of 49% over this period;

**AND WHEREAS** these annual increases are unsustainable and divert funds from critical municipal services as one of the most significant constraints in limiting yearly tax levy increases;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley directs staff to send a letter to the MPP for Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke calling for action to reduce insurance costs;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that a copy of the letter and this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all Renfrew County Municipalities and the City of Pembroke for support.

Carried

#### **CLOSED SESSION – NONE**

#### **BY-LAWS**

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

**THAT:** By-Law 2024-014 Being a by-law 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**

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

**THAT:** This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Carried

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Mayor Jennifer Murphy

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CAO Annette Gilchrist