

**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY  
MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY MARCH 5, 2024 1:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

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

**REGRETS**            **Councillor Mayor Merv Buckwald**

**GALLERY**            **None**

**CALL TO ORDER    COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**MOVED BY**            **Jennifer Murphy**

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

Carried

**PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY**            **John Epps**

**That:** The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on February 20, 2024 be accepted as presented.

Carried

**DELEGATIONS**

James McBain, Municipal Law Enforcement Services

**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) Harrington Mechanical removed the raw water header and the mixer and shortened one of the spool pieces;
- c) The Yearly Water Compliance Report has been completed;
- d) Staff have completed thirty water and sewer locates for Telecom;
- e) The fire hydrant that was hit by a vehicle at the Tourist Booth has been replaced;
- f) There was a six inch main valve replaced at the intersection of Queen Street and Patrick Street. The valve was broken in the closed position and could not be opened. We have two more six inch main valves leaking that will require replacing;
- g) The Eganville Sewage System continues to operate in full compliance according to the Provincial Guidelines that are set out in the Certificate of Approval;
- h) Staff changed out a domestic sewage pump;
- i) The 2023 Sewage Compliance and Digested Sludge reports were completed.  
*Water & Sewer Report Received.*

**Works & Waste Department**

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

- a) Tender BV-2401 Rehabilitation of Zadow Road - The advertisement for the Call for Tender appeared in the February 28, 2024 edition of the Eganville Leader. The deadline to receive tenders is Wednesday, March 13, 2024;

- b) Amend Compliance of Action Plan for Waste sites – Staff have been in contact with our consultants, Cambium Consulting and Engineering regarding the amendment of Compliance of Action to receive and collect donated items at the Waste sites. Cambium will need to get approval from the Ministry of the Environment before we can begin to implement this at our sites. The quote for cost of implementation is around \$400 per site. Committee recommends that we do this at three main sites: Sand Road, Ruby Road and Sno-drifters waste sites;
- c) ½ Load Restrictions came into effect on March 1, 2024;
- d) Ditch & Community Clean-up Days 2024 - Any Bonnechere Valley resident that assists in cleaning-up our ditches and community can take their bag of garbage for FREE to the Sand Road Waste Site. In 2023 the days were Saturday, April 22, 2023 and Saturday, April 29, 2023. Committee recommends that staff continue with the Ditch and Community Clean-up Days and the dates are Saturday, April 20, 2024 and Saturday, April 27, 2024, as Earth Day is Monday, April 22, 2024;
- e) Easter Waste Site Hours and Eclipse Hours
- Saturday, March 30, 2024 – Sno Drifters, Sand Road, Hwy 41 and Ruby Road Sites are OPEN
  - Sunday, March 31, 2024 – Lake Clear and McGrath Road Sites are CLOSED for Easter
  - Monday, April 1, 2024 – Sand Road Waste Site is CLOSED for Easter Monday.
  - Monday, April 8, 2024 – Sand Road Waste Site is CLOSED for the Eclipse.
- f) January 2024 Summary of Vehicle Counts - In the table below you will find stats for the month of January 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/ Card board	Metal	Organics	WEE	Appliances
Sand Road	673	743	471	476	25	22	35	11
Lake Clear	197	269	166	170	12	38	0	0
McGrath Road	150	188	140	141	0	9	0	0
Ruby Road	164	125	106	93	31	36	0	0
Hwy 41	135	183	125	122	0	6	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1319</b>	<b>1508</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1002</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>
Waste Site	# of Vehicles	Const/ Demo	WEE	Bulky	Tires	Metal	Free Pass	Weight KG's
Sno Drifters	36	34	0	6	0	0	11	41,810

- g) Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) Webinar - Dana Barkley participated in a Webinar by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on the CCBF Reporting Site Orientation. This orientation webinar was for the new website and demonstrated the methods for uploading and reporting information on road construction and/or rehabilitation which utilizes funding provided through the CCBF fund (previously referred to as "Gas Tax");
- h) Housing-Enabling Water Systems - Dana Barkley participated in the webinar for the new funding program called the "Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund". Application deadline is April 19, 2024 and notification for success/unsuccessful will be the Summer 2024. The outcome of the fund is to enable growth and housing opportunities, increase access to potable water; and increase treatment and/or management of wastewater and stormwater. If successful program start date is September 2024. Successful projects would be cost shared between municipal applicants and the Province. This includes a minimum of 27% of eligible expenditures covered by municipalities, matched at 73% by the Province.

*Works Department Report Received.*

## **Building & Fire Department**

Darryl Wagner, CBO & Fire Chief. Report submitted.

- a) The Department had twelve calls for service in January and February 2024. The Department will continue to monitor medical calls;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
- c) Lithium-ion battery training was March 2, 2024 ninety-seven firefighters participated in the training;
- d) Two building permits have been issued in January 2024.

*Fire Department & Building Report Received.*

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(A) Correspondence "A"**

1. AMO Watchfile February 22
2. AMO Watch file February 29
3. BUPL Year in Review

### **(B) Correspondence "B"**

1. Eliminate Carbon Tax
2. Library Request
3. Ruby Road Allowance Request
4. Pembroke Request for Support for Pool Repairs and Operating
5. AORS SDF Application - Letter to Clerks and Members of Council
6. Resolution RE Need for Increased Funding for Libraries and Museums
7. Resolution Town of Arnprior Support of Mental Health Services
8. Support - Rising Municipal Insurance Costs
9. Twp Perry - Amend Blue Box Regulation

### **(C) Correspondence "C"**

- B.1 Committee recommends supporting the resolution from Sarnia City Council strongly urging the Federal Government to cancel the Carbon Tax and request staff bring forward a resolution to the March 19 Council meeting.
- B.2 Committee recommends waiving the Eagle's Nest hall rental fee for the Bonnechere Union Public Library for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Tea on April 28.
- B.3 Committee agreed to allow Larry and Allison Goldberg to purchase the road allowance abutting their land as long as the land required by the County for their culvert is protected.
- B.4 Committee gave staff direction to respond to the letter from the City of Pembroke.
- B.5 Committee recommends support of the AORS resolution calling on the Province of Ontario to fund a Municipal Equipment Operator Course through the Skills Development Fund.
- B.6 Committee recommends support of the resolution for Increased Funding for Libraries and Museums and request staff bring forward a resolution to the March 19 Council meeting.
- B.7 Committee recommends support of the resolution for Support of Mental Health Services and request staff bring forward a resolution to the March 19 Council meeting.
- B.8 Committee recommends support of the resolution for Rising Municipal Insurance Costs and request staff bring forward a resolution to the March 19 Council meeting.
- B.9 Committee recommends that the Amend Blue Box Regulation be tabled to the next meeting for further review.

## **NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- (1) Mayor's Report - Since the last Mayor's Report, the Mayor attended 22 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows:

The ROMA Board met virtually on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

A review of LAS and ONE Investment was provided by Judy Dezell of LAS. This presentation can be shared by email. Of note, is a new program that LAS is working on with AMO for Water and Wastewater.

We had a discussion on transportation challenges in Rural Ontario. Some different strategies were shared but it was agreed that this should be an ongoing agenda item so that each Board member could submit their ideas in writing to be imparted to all. The Board was very interested in our partnership in submitting a grant proposal for the EV Ride Share program.

Our communications team, Redbrick, provided an update on the 2024 ROMA Conference Media and Social Media Analysis Highlights

- The 2024 ROMA Conference boasted yet another record attendance, as the event solidifies its place on the municipal calendars.
- There was significant online engagement and media attention before, during and after the conference.
- Nearly 1,000 online, radio and TV mentions.
- More than 20 reporters at the event representing major outlets, including the Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, CTV News, Citytv, CBC News and others.
- Substantial growth in the rate of LinkedIn engagement (50% increase over 2023)
- 30% growth in engagement rate on X/Twitter.
- Facebook growth in per-post engagement and impression rates.

We also received the feedback survey from the ROMA Conference. For the most part, comments were excellent, however, there were many good ideas for next year to ensure the delegates have an exceptional experience at the Conference. It is worth noting, that ROMA is in a contract with the Sheridan Hotel for the next three years and, therefore, cannot adapt the size of the plenary rooms. Also, each year we receive a suggestion that the ROMA and OGRA conferences re-amalgamate. The Board feels that the mandate of each of these associations are vastly different and are content in remaining two separate entities.

A financial report for the 2024 Conference will be provided in my next report.

The cross-Province check in included challenges with Water and Waste Water rates, Health care, License Plate renewal fees, Municipal investment in Hospital equipment and Homelessness strategies.

County Council - The new Director of Community Services is Andrea Patrick. Andrea held the position of Manager of Ontario Works and in the acting position since Laura LePine's retirement in January.

In February, the Warden welcomed the four new international Personal Support Worker recruits at Bonnechere Manor in Renfrew. Fleury Dushime of Burundi, Achile Awashare and Linda Samule-Uche of Nigeria, and Mavis Kissi Ghana received a warm welcome from Bonnechere Manor staff as they began orientation at the long-term care home.

The Ottawa Valley Tourist Association has launched the 2024 Tourism Awards which recognize and honour tourism champions across the Ottawa Valley. The Ottawa Valley Tourism Awards are presented annually by the OVTA to individuals, businesses, and events that recognize the importance of working together for the growth of the local tourism industry, as well as offering exceptional visitor experiences. The nomination deadline is March 25, 2024.

Dr. Jason Morgenstern, Medical Officer of Health with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit appeared to address the possible merger between health units.

Ian Duff, President of McSweeney and Associates, presented the County of Renfrew's new three-year Economic Development Strategic Plan. The planning process was conducted in partnership with the Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (RCCFDC) and resulted in a separate plan for each organization. There was a lot of discussion about how to recruit in order to sustain this plan.

The new *mesa* Team, the new name for the Health and Housing Crisis Engagement Team (formerly referred to as the 'Hub' model), marks a pivotal initiative within the County of Renfrew to address the critical intersection of health and homelessness. This collaborative initiative will be led by the Paramedic Service, Community Services, and Development and Property departments. Recognizing the urgent need for a unified and multi-sectoral approach, *mesa* establishes an evidence-to-action model that not only acknowledges the complex challenges at the nexus of health and homelessness but also delineates a roadmap for coordinated, integrated solutions. This report underscores the commitment of the County of Renfrew's administration, community services, development and property, and emergency services departments to work synergistically in executing a transformative strategy that goes beyond individual silos and leverages the collective expertise and resources of the community.

County Council directed staff to create and issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) to develop affordable housing on County-owned lands. The purpose of this EOI process is to develop a pilot project for alternative housing options. Staff will provide recommendations to Council at a future meeting. Local municipalities that wish to be involved are encouraged to contact the County.

County Council approved several infrastructure projects including the rehabilitation of County Road 64 (Opeongo Road), from Wieland Shore Road to Constant Lake Road, a distance of 8.20 km, by Greenwood Paving in the amount of \$1,718,606.60, plus applicable taxes. Also, the remaining portion of County Road 512/ Foymount Road will be completed this year.

Unfortunately, Bonnechere Valley was not chosen as a site for Taste of the Valley this year, however Jennifer Murphy did mention that the Township would be pleased to host the December special edition. Our stats compared to other Taste events were not as high as we would have anticipated.

At the end of March, the Warden and Mayor Murphy, along with Senior County Staff, will be interviewing for the position of Director of Corporate Services which was left vacant with the retirement of Jeffrey Foss in December.

Renfrew County & District Health Unit - Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) serves a population of 107,522 across the largest geographical area of any public health unit in Southern Ontario. Given the increased funding availability for public health units that pursue mergers, the potential to enhance capacity and effectiveness, and the strong encouragement for smaller health units like RCDHU to consider mergers, RCDHU is keeping an open mind and exploring potential options. This exploration has included some consideration of mergers with all neighbouring public health units, including meetings with North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU), Ottawa Public Health (OPH), and our four East Region health unit neighbours – Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU), Leeds, Grenville, Lanark District Health Unit (LGLDHU), Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health (KFLAPH), and Hastings Prince Edward Public Health (HPEPH). Furthermore, at the end of November 2023, RCDHU's Board of Health passed a motion to apply for provincial funding to explore the feasibility of amalgamation with neighbouring health units.

As a result of these considerations and meetings, RCDHU is exploring benefits, risks, and local impacts of potential mergers. Dr. Ian Gemmill was hired as a

consultant to assist in the analysis of options. He has extensive public health experience, having been a medical officer of health in Ontario for 20 years. Additionally, he served as acting medical officer of health at RCDHU for several months in 2023 following Dr. Robert Cushman's retirement.

RCDHU is taking a close look at this opportunity to explore potential mergers with other public health units, in support of enhancing public health capacity and effectiveness to better protect and promote the health of Renfrew County and District residents.

Ensuring that local service delivery is retained and public health services are enhanced will be key as the board considers the study results and whether a merger makes sense for RCDHU. There will be more updates in mid-March as the studies are reviewed and decisions are made on next steps by the involved Boards of Health. Public health units interested in a merger must submit a business case to the province by April 2nd. Mergers are planned for implementation in January 2025.

- (2) Police Services Board Update – Mayor Murphy asked that photo radar in the Village be discussed at the next Police Service Board meeting;
- (3) Reminder of Public Planning Meeting at 5:15pm.

### **ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Meeting will be held on March 19, 2024.

### **MEDIA SESSION**

### **CONCLUSION**

**MOVED BY** Tracey Sanderson

**THAT:** the meeting adjourns at 3:24 p.m.

Carried

---

Brent Patrick, Chair

---

Annette Gilchrist, CAO