



- d) Tourist Booth - The tree lighting is December 1, 2023, at 6:30pm. Staff will be serving hot chocolate. Jon Park Wheeler and Clair Bramma will be providing a prayer and leading the singing of Christmas songs. Beavertails will be set up on Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>;
  - e) The Village – Staff worked with the Works Department and Ron Bimm to put up the Christmas lights on the bridge. The park benches around town have been put away for the season. I'd like to thank the Horticultural Society for decorating the planters around town for Christmas;
  - f) Legion Field - The tennis nets have been taken down for the season;
  - g) A car accident knocked over the sign at the Tourist Booth. Committee recommends staff get the sign fixed and coordinate the look with McRae Park.
- Recreation Report Received.*

### **Finance**

Sandra Barr, Deputy CAO, was present and gave her report.

- a) The October Balance Sheet and the Provisional Budget Reports were provided to Committee;
- b) On October 25, 2023 Sandra Barr attended the Renfrew County Clerk's & Treasurer's Meeting at the Eagle's Nest;
- c) On October 27, 2023 Sandra Barr attended a meeting in Pembroke with the Township's benefit Consultants, Cowan regarding our Manulife health and dental benefits. The renewal rates for 2024 will remain stable;
- d) The Township has received notice of our 2024 OMPF funding. The Township will receive \$1,475,000 in 2024 which is down \$26,200 from 2023 (approximately 1.74%);
- e) In November the Township will receive \$98,071.00 for our sixth and final installment of Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) payment for 2023. The 2023 allocation was \$588,426 which will be going into a reserve for Road Construction of 2.3 kilometers for Zadow Road in 2024;
- f) Received two bank loans for two pieces of equipment that were recently purchased. (2024 Plow Truck \$348,413 and 2023 Excavator \$286,500);
- g) Tax Adjustment Report - Under Section 357 of the Municipal Act 2001, an application for an adjustment of taxes has been made for 87 Mulberry Lane and an assessment report has been received by MPAC. Committee recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 87 Mulberry Lane be approved due to the demolition. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$235.87 be made to the property.

*Financial Report Received.*

### **Administration**

Annette Gilchrist, CAO, was present and gave her report.

- a) Staff are currently reviewing By-Laws for building, property standards and animal control. These will come forward in January in draft and if accepted in principle will be brought forward to Council for consideration;
- b) The proposed schedule for 2024 Committee and Council Meetings was provided for Committee's review and consideration;
- c) The Townships of Greater Madawaska, Whitewater Region and Admaston/Bromley are currently advertising for a shared position for an Asset Management Coordinator. Bonnechere Valley has been working with Brenda Pilatzke as our Asset Management Coordinator, however she has given notice of her intention to retire after year end. Annette Gilchrist has asked her if she would stay on for 1 more year and she agreed based on a budget decision. Committee was provided with a job description for the new shared position and staff would like to be involved in this initiative to have someone supporting our departments one day per week, and Brenda Pilatzke could train that person in 2024. Committee provided staff direction to take part of this hiring committee and an advertisement for the position will be placed in December;
- d) The Lake Clear Study has been completed and a draft was presented to Council and the public. The Township will be accepting comments until the end of the year and will bring forward a final report for consideration in January. Depending on the decisions made for next steps these may impact policies under the Planning Act and would then require further consultation in the form of a public meeting similar to the zoning bylaw open house;

- e) At the Christmas dinner this year, the Township will be recognizing some long-time employees who have worked with the Township since before amalgamation in 2001;
- f) Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup> staff will be in training from 11 to 12 for our new electronic filing system;
- g) Strategic Workshop - The Strategic Workshop meeting will take place on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this session is to develop a roadmap that includes a few priorities, and some objectives and outcomes for the next four years. The specific objectives for the day are to:
  1. Develop a statement of long-term success;
  2. Discuss issues, opportunities, and risks that we need to consider;
  3. Agree on 4-5 priorities for 2024-2028;
  4. Agree on what the Township wants to accomplish against each priority in the next 2-4 years. We will also be reviewing our current Mission statement to determine if it is still relevant. - To make our community an affordable, efficient place where people choose to live, work, visit and participate in a culture that fosters communication, rural lifestyle, personal growth, and healthy commerce.
- h) In addition to Township meetings, Annette Gilchrist made an Ethics presentation at AMCTO's Zone 6 meeting (The Counties of Frontenac, Lanark and Renfrew, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, Prescott and Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and the City of Ottawa) that was held on November 23;
- i) Annette Gilchrist attended training on communication styles with AMCTO board members November 16<sup>th</sup> as part of our Fall Board meeting;
- j) On November 29<sup>th</sup> Annette Gilchrist will be attending Algonquin College for their Job Fair with the Renfrew County Clerks and Treasurers Association;
- k) On November 30<sup>th</sup> Annette will be moderating AMCTO's Municipal Licensing and Enforcement Forum;
- l) The CAO from Greater Madawaska and Annette Gilchrist met with Algonquin College November 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss opportunities for corporate training and municipal education add-ons for diploma programs and second career candidates. They will continue to follow up on these initiatives;
- m) The CAOs were invited to the November 1<sup>st</sup> recreation managers' meeting. It was a great meeting and provided a lot of information on the changes in this municipal sector;
- n) By-Laws - This evening Council will be considering By Laws for the closure and sale of portion of an unopened road allowance and a crossing agreement previously approved in principle at Committee Meeting. There is also a temporary use agreement for property on Queen Street. The property owner has requested a temporary residence until they can build their permanent residence. This is in accordance with Zoning By Law Section 3.30.1 which states that: Nothing in this By-law shall prevent uses incidental to construction, such as a construction camp or other such temporary work camp, tool shed, scaffold or other building or structure (including trailers or recreational vehicles) incidental to the construction, only for so long as the same are necessary for work in progress that has neither been finished nor abandoned. Any temporary construction uses (including trailers and recreational vehicles) shall be removed from the lot within 30 days of occupancy of the primary building;
- o) The Community Emergency Control Group participated in the yearly Emergency Management Exercise, Snowstorm on November 22, 2023;
- p) A draft of the Community Welcome Guides was created and provided to Committee. It will be mailed out to new residents;
- q) Banner of Bridge – Committee was presented with the proposed schedule for banners over the Bridge. Committee directed staff to get banner pricing and pricing on putting up and taking down the banner;
- r) Walk The Halls Opeongo High School is looking for a new volunteer to run the program. With Community Use of Schools, it is now \$100/month for insurance to run this event. Previously, it has been on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6-8 pm. It has been requested that the Township cover this insurance cost. Committee discussed, they did not agree to pay the insurance but they will continue to promote the event on social media if a new volunteer comes forward.

*Administrative Report Received.*

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

1. AMO Indigenous Community Awareness Training
2. AMO Municipal Waste Update
3. AMO Policy Update Nov 17
4. AMO Policy Federal Fall Economic Statement
5. AMO Watchfile Nov 16
6. AMO Watchfile Nov 23

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

1. Communities In Bloom
2. Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates
3. Request Madawaska Valley Studio Tour
4. Unnecessary Noise - Engine Brakes
5. Water taking Permit by Rule Support Resolution

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

B3. Committee recommends hanging the banner over the Bridge for the Madawaska Valley Studio Tour at no charge.

## **NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- (1)** Museum Update – Tracey Sanderson updated Committee on the Bonnechere Museum. They are hosting a craft fair on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am to 3pm;
- (2)** Library Update – Brent Patrick updated Committee on the Bonnechere Union Public Library. BUPL Rocks was on November 18, 2023 and was very successful;
- (3)** Mayor's Report – Since the last Mayor's Report, the Mayor attended 32 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows:

The ROMA Board met in Toronto on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

On Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, they continued their work towards a Strategic Plan led by Pat Vanini. The session focused on ROMA's Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, Opportunities, Needs and Wants. As previously reported the new Strategic Plan will be completed in December 2023.

On Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, they had their Board meeting which included a Cross-Province check-in. Items of interest were POA Challenges in almost all Zones, Sharing Services, Regional Waste Management, Growth Opportunities for Housing, Water and Wastewater and Municipal Funding for Hospitals.

The majority of our Board meeting focused on planning for the ROMA Conference which will take place from January 21<sup>st</sup> to January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto. The theme of the conference is Closer to Home focusing on services being closer to home in rural Ontario.

The Board is urging people to arrive on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> as each Zone will have meetings on Sunday morning.

The Board reviewed all plenary sessions and keynote speakers in depth. They believe that they have arrived at some excellent options for our delegates.

The ROMA Board met in Toronto on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

On Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Board continued their work towards a Strategic Plan led by Pat Vanini. The session focused on ROMA's Mission Statement and

Values. As previously reported the new Strategic Plan will be completed in December 2023.

On Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, they had their Board meeting which included a Cross-Province check-in. Items of interest were Illegal Land Use, Homelessness, the need for more Mental Health resources, Regional Waste Management, OPP Staffing Challenges, Cyber Security, and Water and Wastewater costs.

They reviewed the plenary programming and keynote speakers for the upcoming ROMA Conference. This is sure to be a great conference and the Mayor would remind any elected attending that each Zone will have meetings on Sunday morning. At this time, Zone 6 is slotted for 11:30 but I will confirm that time and location.

Our AMO Policy update included a report on the "voluntary" amalgamations of Public Health Units, the \$200 million grant opportunity for Water and Wastewater and the POA shortfalls in JP's and fine collection. The Mayor will have more on the POA issue in a following report as the AMO advisor for Courts will have a much longer delegation and question and answer period at our December meeting.

### **EORN:**

At the September 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the CEO, Jason St. Pierre reported that the summer period had not slowed down as the team continued to work closely with Rogers in forecasting and delivering our 2023/24 plan of 65 new tower sites while continuing to support the EOWC in the 7 in 7 regional housing plan implementation strategy.

The EOWC 7 in 7 Regional Housing Plan continues to be a focus for the EORN team. In July we completed and delivered the 7 in 7 business plans in partnership with KWM Consulting to the EOWC for their approval and direction. At this time, they continue to support the 7 in 7 business plan development by the EOWC and work to find funding sources that might be available to support this project. To date we have had numerous meetings with a variety of funding sources such as FCM and CMHC only to learn that their programs will not support a regional project or approach such as the 7 in 7. With this they have pivoted our funding request to partner with the counties and LTMs on available funding streams. They feel confident that we will be able to source approximately \$150k in funding by the end of the 2023 fiscal year in March. With this plan they have also presented to EOWC CAO the budget required for EORN to be able to deliver the first phase of the workplan developed at our July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in Kingston. Our team met with Scott from Community Housing Transformation Center about applying for \$50K for research and studies on the zone model which we are proposing. They are confident that with this funding we will be able to deliver Phase 1 of the workplan to the EOWC.

They are very close to releasing our Digital Strategy refresh which compared data from 2021 to 2023. In this short period of time, it is incredible to see the changes in strategies being deployed by federal and provincial governments and the new focus on key areas such as cyber security, digitalization of government services to better serve the public, remote health access and education uses. The report will be available for the board to review and comment on in the near future.

Duty to Consult continues and sites are being reviewed and released in a prudent manner.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Health Committee had a delegation made up of Dr. Jonathan Fitzsimon and Judy Hill who briefed us on a new initiative called Integrated Virtual Care.

The mission is to combine in-person and virtual care options, to improve healthcare equity by increasing attachment to a family physician and

comprehensive, team-based primary care for residents of Renfrew County. The Mayor will email the slide deck presented to Committee members.

A partnership between the City of Pembroke, Township of Laurentian Valley and the County of Renfrew to open a Warming Centre in the City of Pembroke was announced. This warming center is a construction style trailer and will be located on Lake Street where the Pembroke Farmers' Market is, close to other services such as the Grind. The Warming Centre will be open from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and will accommodate approximately 30 people. The County invested \$80,000 in this \$200,000 initiative. We are hopeful it will be open this Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor attended a special meeting of County Council to review the Long-Term Financial Plan and the Asset Management Plan. Staff will be bringing back some funding options to review so that we can mitigate any potential shortfalls.

#### **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor attended our newest business, Bloom Wildly, and presented them with a congratulatory certificate.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor laid the Wreath for the County of Renfrew and Councillor Buckwald laid the Wreath for Bonnechere Valley, at the Remembrance Day Celebration at Eganville Legion Branch 353.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Mayor, along with Councillor Buckwald and Councillor Epps attended the Echo Centre's Seniors' Fair which included some very innovative speakers and booths. I want to thank Councillor Buckwald for attending on my behalf in the morning.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor participated in Valley Heritage Radio's Holly Jolly Radiothon to raise funds for Hospice Renfrew.

#### **ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday December 19, 2023

#### **MEDIA SESSION**

#### **CONCLUSION**

**MOVED BY**            **Brent Patrick**

**THAT:** the meeting adjourns at 4:10 p.m.

Carried

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Merv Buckwald, Chair

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Annette Gilchrist, CAO