

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 07, 2023 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

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

REGRETS **None**

GALLERY **3**

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

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

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented with the addition of a second closed session item regarding an identifiable individual. Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on January 10, 2023 be accepted as presented. Carried

DELEGATIONS

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – Jennifer Gruntz. Jennifer provided an explanation of MPAC’s role in relation to property assessment and the municipality.

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) The 2023 Schedule 23 and 24 sampling was completed in January;
- c) The yearly quarterly samples for the Water Plant THM’s HAA, Sodium, Lead, along with chemicals were also completed;
- d) Repaired a water service valve on Alice Street;
- e) Staff are working on the 2022 year end reports for the water system;
- 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) Staff are working on the year end reporting for the Wastewater System and Sludge Disposal;
- h) Staff are preparing for a detailed annual inspection that will take place on February 14;
- i) Staff are repairing a water main break today on Wallace Street.

Water & Sewer Report Received.

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Staff have been busy with snowplowing, sanding and snow removal. Due to the large volume of snow staff are slightly behind on removal of snow from the Village;
- b) There has been an increase of transport truck traffic on Bruce Street. The truck's GPS systems are routing them over Bruce Street, which is causing some traffic issues, when they get stuck on the steep hill. Committee recommends proceeding with investigation to make Bruce Street a "No Truck Route".
- c) Spring Creek Road is in bad shape due to the large amount of truck traffic on that road. Committee recommends with proceeding with investigation to make Spring Creek a "No Truck Route" until it is reconstructed and it can be reevaluated at that time.

Works Department Report Received.

Fire Department

Dave Murphy, Fire Chief, was present and gave his report.

- a) The department had six calls for service in January 2023;
- b) The recruiting process is ongoing;
- c) All apparatus and equipment remain service ready. Staff are continuing to renew and upgrade equipment when required;
- d) Presently working on booking apparatus pump testing and ladder certification for the spring;
- e) Training Committee continues to maintain an active schedule;
- f) New recruits are currently enrolled in OFMEM on-line legislation training. This training is the pre-requisite for all other OFMEM training moving forward;
- g) In person inspections and public assistance requests continue;
- h) The department is sending four members to the 2023 North Eastern Fire Conference in March. All members in attendance will be taking part in training opportunities. Three are enrolled in the NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor course while the fourth is enrolled in fire leadership courses. The certified courses (OFMEM recognized) will position the department very well moving forward;
- i) Our Fire Department does not currently have Naloxone Kits on their fire trucks. Committee recommends that the Fire Department look into pricing on getting kits and training fire staff for the 2023 budget.

Fire Department Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

- (i) AMCTO Advocacy Update – Property Assessment
- (ii) AMO Policy Update – A Call for Provincial Action on Property Assessments
- (iii) EOWC Newsletter
- (iv) ROMA Update – December 20, 2022
- (v) AMO Watchfile – January 19, 2023
- (vi) AMO Update – January 20, 2023
- (vii) AMO Watchfile – January 26, 2023
- (viii) ROMA Update – January 25, 2023
- (ix) EOWC News Release – January 30, 2023
- (x) OFA Invitation
- (xi) PLEO Parent Lifeline
- (xii) 2023 Farmland Forum

(B) Correspondence "B"

- (i) The Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy – Tax Free Therapy
- (ii) Robert Osborne – Maple Leaf Tax
- (iii) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Updates to Ontario's Producer Responsibility Framework
- (iv) Township of McNab Braeside – Reduce Tax on Fuel Used For Heat
- (v) Renfrew County 55+ Seniors Games – Donation Request
- (vi) Marianhill Emergency Plan – Request for Water
- (vii) Wayne Drouillard – Request for Closure and Purchase of Road Allowance
- (viii) Woman's Sexual Assault Centre – Request to Hang Banner across the Bridge
- (ix) Township of Montague – World Thinking Day
- (x) Lanark Highlands – Violence Against Women
- (xi) Town of Petrolia – School Board Election
- (xii) City of Thunder Bay – Bill 42 Gender Affirming Healthcare Act
- (xiii) Township of Montague – Renfrew Inquest
- (xiv) City of Hamilton – Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster Act
- (xv) Town of Halton Hills – Repeal Bill 23 – The Build More Homes Faster Act
- (xvi) Renfrew County Veterinary Services Committee – Annual Meeting Update

(C) Correspondence "C"

Committee request that the correspondence from Robert Osborne regarding Maple Leaf Tax be tabled to the March 7 Committee Meeting.

Committee provided staff direction to the CAO to respond to the Marianhill regarding their Emergency Plan Request for Water; that Bonnechere Valley would be willing to supply them water if necessary.

Committee provided staff direction to the CAO to reach out to the Renfrew County 55+ Seniors Games regarding their donation request to see if there is anything that the Township could provide to the group in kind.

Committee provided staff direction to the CAO to allow the Woman's Sexual Assault Centre to hang their banner across the Bridge.

Committee recommends support of this request of Wayne Drouillard regarding the Closure and Purchase of Road Allowance.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) Mayor's Report –

The Mayor attended 36 meetings and several events in the month of January. Some of the highlights are as follows:

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network and Rogers are looking forward to moving forward with some new builds in our area this spring. The weather has not been our friend. Other delays seem to have been rectified.

The Ontario Winter Games Opening Ceremonies held on Thursday, February 4th were amazing despite the terrible weather. No amount of snow or wind could keep the athletes from showing their excitement to be back to this event. As noted, the games were postponed from 2022 to this year. A very special thank you to Melissa Bishop for attending and speaking at the Ceremonies. The Games continue this coming weekend with another Opening Ceremony on Thursday, February 9th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

The Eganville and Area Community Development Group is looking forward to a few projects this year. Once these projects have been ratified by the whole committee, the Mayor will have more to report.

Chair Tracey Sanderson, of the Bonnechere Valley Youth Action Committee will provide an update on this Committee.

Our Rural and Remote Mental Health and Addiction Initiative is going to join back into our Bonnechere Valley Health Committee, which is Chaired by Carole Devine. We are looking at partnerships with our Ontario Health Team.

The Elected Officials are gearing up for Budget at the County. This year is going to be very difficult with trying to balance service delivery with the reality of our household budgets.

The Mayor and the CAO attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in Toronto from January 21st to January 24th. On January 21st, the Mayor had a reception with the delegates running for the ROMA Board. It was an opportunity to speak to the issues in each Zone which seem to be very similar across the Province.

During Registration on January 22nd, the Mayor and CAO and many Renfrew County Delegates campaigned for Jennifer to sit on the ROMA Board, handing out rack cards with my information and mints.

On January 22nd, each ROMA Zone was given an opportunity to speak to their delegates. Zone 6 had four candidates of which the Mayor was one. These speeches were very well attended.

On January 22nd, the Mayor and the CAO were part of a panel to speak about Asset Management. The panel consisted of Councillor Maggie Horsfield and Chief Financial Officer, Margaret Karpenko, from the City of North Bay, Mayor Cheryl Ganann and Director of Finance, Donna DesFillipis from the Township of West Lincoln, and myself and CAO Annette Gilchrist representing Bonnechere Valley. North Bay has a population of approximately 52,200, they cover 315 square kilometres, and have 833 kilometres of roads. West Lincoln has a population of 14,500, they cover 387 square kilometres, and maintain 527 kilometres of roads. Bonnechere Valley has a population of 3,700, we cover 593 square kilometres and maintain 512 kilometres of roads. I have provided these stats to show the diverse nature of the three Municipalities chosen for this panel, not only in population, but in the road networks that are maintained which is our biggest challenge in our Asset Management Plan. The Mayor and the CAO heard from many of the attendees that it was a fantastic session. Our response from ROMA was also very positive.

On January 23, in addition to hearing from the Premier, the Chair of ROMA and many other speakers, the Mayor and the CAO attended a delegation with Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Caroline Mulroney to discuss her "Connecting the East" transportation plan which is centered around Electronic Vehicle charging stations and inclusive and public transportation. Both of these initiatives would benefit our tourism and local economy. They also spoke to the need for more wayfinding signage.

The results for the ROMA Board elections were announced on January 23rd. Mayor Murphy was honoured to be elected as the representative for Zone 6. Everyone who attended from the County of Renfrew was extremely helpful in our Mayor's election. ROMA is the voice of Rural Ontario and Jennifer intends to use her voice to further any and all advocacy that the Board chooses as their priorities. Jennifer's first Board meeting is on February 17th.

Due to Jennifer's election to the Board, she had to give up Eastern Ontario Leadership Council. She attended her last meeting of the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council on February 2nd.

At the Ministers' Forum (otherwise known as the Bear Pit), the Mayor was able to ask the question of the Attorney General Doug Downey about the backlog of Provincial Offence Act cases and the shortage of Justices' of the Peace.

Her question was about the serious backlog of Provincial Offence Act cases and also a shortage of Justices of the Peace across Ontario with more expected to retire in the near future and the fact that many of the newly appointed JP's still require a full year of training. Her question was does the ministry have any plans to leave the portal on the AG website open to allow for a constant flow of applicants to choose from to ensure that we do not see these shortages in the coming years. The Attorney General agreed that either the portal should be left open for potential candidates or that there should be an explanation on the AG website and a date for when the portal will be reopened.

On January 24th, the Mayor and the CAO had a delegation with the Solicitor General, Michael Kerzner, regarding Firefighter Certification. In attendance was Ontario Fire Marshall, Jon Pegg. Although they acknowledged that the grant of \$973.50 was probably not sufficient, they are holding their ground in keeping this certification in place. This may prove difficult in the future for recruitment and retention in our Fire Department.

On January 25th, the Mayor attended County Council. Of note, 35 properties have been acquired on 512 for the rehabilitation of that highway.

On February 5th, Jennifer Murphy attended the Bonnechere Cup Opening Ceremonies to bring greetings on behalf of Bonnechere Valley. This event was very well attended.

The Mayor called upon her fellow Councillors to bring forward any and all ideas for this year. She believes that if they all work together and incorporate ideas from our ad-hoc committees and our tourism strategy, Jennifer believes that they can make this a great term for our residents, business and tourists. It will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

The Mayor also sent condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Lisa Sharpe who passed tragically on January 25th

- (2) BUPL Update – Brent Patrick updated the committee on the business of the library. In 2022 there were 13,184 visitors to the library; 395 programs offered, with 2359 in program attendance; 3320 public access computer sessions; 783 Facebook followers; 16,963 website visits; 5396 reference questions answered; 2042 Wifi users; 22,352 times items were checked out; 5925 e-books checked out; 1688 active borrowers; 166 new library cards issued; 1170 materials added to their collection at a value of \$25,752.74. The Library is the Township’s warming or cooling centre, when it is open, in the event of an emergency. Committee recommends that staff issue a reminder to residents, about the warming/cooling centre;
- (3) Tourism Strategy – Committee recommends that the three year Tourism Strategy prepared by Brain Trust be adopted by Council. Staff was directed to obtain quotes for new Discover Eganville banners for on the hydro poles;
- (4) Draft Delcan Site Plan Agreement – Committee recommends approval of the draft Delcan Site Plan Agreement, with the removal of the maintenance of the Foymount Sign Garden from the agreement, that the complaint protocol remain confidential, and that they will not be purchasing their water from the Eganville Water Plant because it is chlorinated. The estimate for the landscaping also needs to be added to the agreement. They have agreed to continue to maintain the Foymount Sign Garden as a good will gesture. This agreement will come back to Council to be passed after Delcan has had a meeting with members of the public;
- (5) Winterfest Update – Tracey Sanderson updated Committee on March Madness which will be held the first weekend of March Break; and
- (6) Request for Letter of Support for Stacey Lacombe to reopen Service Ontario in Eganville – Committee recommends support of this initiative and directed the CAO to write the letter of support.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday February 21, 2023

MEDIA SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: Committee proceed in Closed Session in accordance with the Municipal Act 2001, section 239.2 b) being a personal matter about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees to discuss the Fire Chief recruitment and section 239.2 k) being a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to negotiations for the operations of Eganville Generations Corporation for which the Township is the Owner.

Carried

MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: Committee moves out of Closed Session to rise and report that Committee met to receive information and give staff direction regarding recruitment of a new Fire Chief, operations of Eganville Generations Corporation and to approve minutes from January 10, 2023. Carried

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY John Epps

THAT: the meeting adjourn at 4:26 p.m.

Carried

Brent Patrick, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO