

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY MAY 19, 2026, 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM
CONFERENCING**

PRESENT

Mayor Jennifer Murphy
Deputy Mayor Tracey Sanderson
Councillor Merv Buckwald
Councillor Meredith Caplan Jamieson
Councillor John Epps
CAO/Clerk Annette Gilchrist
Treasurer/Deputy CAO Sandra Barr

REGRETS

None

GALLERY

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CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, John Epps called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: The agenda be accepted, as presented with the addition of Item #2 Patio at Charlie's Eatery on Bonnechere Street.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on May 5, 2026, be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

None

REPORTS

Recreation & Culture

Kevin McGrath, Manager of Recreation and Culture, was present and gave his report.

- a) The Arctic Winter Games were held at the arena on April 28th, all Catholic Schools in Renfrew County participated. There were approximately 125 kids;
- b) Eagles Nest - We have six hall bookings for May. The new blinds have been installed;
- c) Tourist Information Centre - The water is on, and the bathrooms are open for the May long weekend. Washrooms will be accessible from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. The Tourist booth will be open from 10am – 5pm starting May long weekend;
- d) Gerald Tracey Park - The water is on, and the bathrooms are open for the May long weekend. Staff have started lawn and flower bed maintenance;
- e) Legion Field - The Splash Pad will be turned on for the first weekend of June. The nets have been installed for pickleball. Grass cutting maintenance is ongoing with the soccer field and baseball diamonds. Opeongo Soccer will be using the soccer field Starting May 21st to mid-August. Ryan Hoelke tilled and scraped the ball fields, so they are ready for the season. Minor Ball Games

will start May 18th; they have approximately 105 participating. Little league Ball will be starting at the end of May. Minor Soccer start is May 21st;

- f) McRae Park - The water is on, and the bathrooms are open for the May long weekend. We have started lawn and flower bed maintenance;
- g) Village - The planter boxes have been dropped off at Temperate Gardens. The boxes will be ready to be installed on the bridge for mid-June;
- h) Opeongo Park - Staff tilled the playground; and will be painting the pickle ball lines;
- i) Foymount Park - Staff will clean up the Foymount tennis court, paint the lines and install a net. The playground will be tilled later this month;
- j) Recreation staff have prepared a section of grass for lawn bowling and will monitor its usage this summer;
- k) Killaloe Wood Products will be donating \$4000 for shade trees in Legion Field.

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

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

- a) The May 13, 2026 Provisional Budget Report was provided to Committee.
Finance Report Received

Administration

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

- a) Sarah Richer is on leave and Rachel Haines has assumed her position. We also have Jenna Schison assisting us at the office until the Swim Program starts in July. It has been a month of many meetings including: Public Sector Digest Citywide implementation and training on our new asset management software, Enbridge, Association of Municipal Managers Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, 2026 Election Groups, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Municipal Clerks II where Annette is teaching a course on Change Management and she is also preparing for presentations at AMCTO's upcoming conference at Deerpark;
- b) AMO Delegation Requests Due May 21st, 2026 - The following Minister Delegations are being proposed for Council's consideration:
 - i) Transportation - request for gas tax to support transit efforts through the Echo Centre and the Townships of Bonnechere Valley, Whitewater Region and North Algona Wilberforce
 - ii) Environment – request for review and reform of the alcohol container return system to ensure it is fair, equitable, and sustainable for small rural communities. This was requested to be a joint delegation with Madawaska Valley, Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan and Killaloe Hagarty Richards
 - iii) Seniors and Accessibility – request for review, reform and funding for the AODA requirements to ensure achievable results for small rural communities
 - iv) Municipal Affairs and Housing – request for review of the Water and Wastewater Public Corporation model and request for expressions of interest. This was requested to be a joint delegation with Pembroke, Whitewater Region and Laurentian Valley
- c) Rural Transit Solutions - In 2025 funding was approved for Whitewater Region, North Algona Wilberforce and Bonnechere Valley to purchase 3 electric vehicles, EV chargers and coordinate a rideshare program to bring some form of transit to our rural communities. To date the three vehicles have been purchased, the chargers have been installed, and we are now working on setting up the software application to be able to rent out the vehicles. In the meantime, we are working with insurance to be able to lend the vehicles to the Senior Needs Association volunteer driver program to support local transit needs. The software app is scheduled to be available by the end of June and until then the Townships will support transit needs

through the senior center which already has a very successful program and has need of more vehicles. Once the app is online the Senior Center will be able to use it to book the vehicle along with our many public users. We will track all of the data of this pilot program and then have transit data available for discussions with the province on rural transit needs and funding required to maintain a small transit system in rural communities which currently have very limited options;

- d) The Growth Blueprint - In partnership with RCCFDC, this is a workshop for business owners being held at The Eagle's Nest on June 17 from 6-7:30pm;
- e) Canada Day - Drones, bouncy castles, face painting and cupcakes have been booked. The Rotary Club will be holding their breakfast at the Eagle's Nest;
- f) Swim Program - The initial registration period has closed. As of May 11/26, 88 Registrations have been completed. The swim schedule and lesson times are being coordinated. Lesson times will be communicated to parents;
- g) Driftscape – Staff are now working with Driftscape, a tourism-based app and website that highlights local attractions and experiences. Business listings have been submitted, the Driftscape Team are processing these. In progress are both the Bonnechere Valley Parks and Art Panels/Murals Tour.

Administrative Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

- 1. AMO Watchfile
- 2. AMO Policy
- 3. EOWC Newsletter
- 4. FCM Communique
- 5. County Construction Update May-2026

(B) Correspondence "B"

- 1. EOWC Resolution 2026-03 - Ontario Most Outdated Property Reassessment in Canada
- 2. Resolution for Integrated Living and Participation Model for Adults with Developmental Disabilities
- 3. Resolution C203-2026 Provincial Bill 100 – Better Regional Governance Act, 2026
- 4. Resolution to support Corridor Train Alliance
- 5. Letter requesting support for motorsports group

(C) Correspondence "C"

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Library Report – Board member Tracey Sanderson updated Committee on the business of the Bonnechere Union Public Library.
- (2)** Patio at Charlie's Eatery on Bonnechere Street – Restaurant owner requested use of the sidewalk to open a patio in front of their restaurant. Committee directed staff to work with owner Danny on the patio.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 2, 2026.

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 2:20 p.m.

Carried



John Epps, Chair



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk