

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY JANUARY 13, 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, Tracey Sanderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY John Epps

THAT: The agenda be accepted, as presented, with the addition of Gemtec Consulting for the John Street Project under the Water & Sewer Report. Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson

THAT: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on December 16, 2025, be accepted as presented. Carried

DELEGATIONS

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) Staff received the Township's 2025 Focused Ministry of Environment Compliance Report, we did not have any Non-Compliance issues, there was Maximum Risk Rating with 447 questions, and in the and the Township scored 100%;
- c) Staff installed four new electric actuators on both mono plant filters;
- d) Staff repaired a water service break on January 31st on Queen Street;
- e) The Eganville Wastewater System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements as set out in the Certificate of Approval;
- f) Staff emptied the # 2 Treatment Plant due to lack of food for the bacteria and the bugs were dying which caused our levels to increase;
- g) Gemtec Consulting for John Street Project – Committee approved the costing from Gemtec to provide geotechnical, hydrogeological, and environmental engineering services for the John Street Project in the amount of \$70,500 plus HST.

Water & Sewer Report Received.

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Recycling Transition in 2026:
- Miller Waste has assumed recycling pick up at all the waste sites. Flyers were distributed at the site to aid with public awareness.
 - Miller Waste has commenced curbside commercial collection in the Village. Fridays will be the collection day for the commercial properties;
- b) Christmas Tree Drop-Off - The last day to take real Christmas Trees for them to be recycled was on Friday, January 9, 2025. Residents were to take their trees to the John Street Garage. After this date, residents can still take them to the Sand Road Waste Site;
- c) Torchlight Parade - Working with the organizers for the 50th anniversary of the Bonnechere Cup to have the torchlight parade come through the Village. The parade would be the opening event for the February 6th weekend;
- d) Winter Maintenance - Routine winter maintenance is being conducted on all vehicles;
- e) After the last series of snow falls the department is conducting snow removal at all sites.

Works Department Report Received.

Recreation & Culture

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

- a) Minor hockey tournaments kicked off January 4th and they continue every Sunday into February. Public skating is suspended during this period;
- b) Public Skating during the holidays brought in about 30-45 people per skate;
- c) We had 16 private ice time rentals over the holidays;
- d) Adam Bernard has booked every Wednesday morning;
- e) The public school is renting ice twice a week in January;
- f) We have our senior, parent and tot skate every Monday, with a turnout of 15 to 20 people;
- g) The Bonnechere Cup is using our power to run pumps to fill their water truck for the snowmobiling track;
- h) The Eagle's Nest Hall is being used for the hockey tournaments. Staff continue to have the Eagles Nest open on Friday evenings for the EHL;
- i) We have two private hall rentals in January;
- j) All the Christmas decorations have been taken down in the hall;
- k) Gerald Tracey Park - We have been cleaning off the outdoor rink and began flooding last week as we had a string of weather cold enough to make ice;
- l) Staff have started working on their budget.

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

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

- a) The December 31, 2025 Budget Report and the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025 were provided to Committee;
- b) Finance staff are working on 2025 year end entries. The auditors will be on-site February 19 and 20th to finalize the 2025 year end, which assists staff in preparing for 2026 budget deliberations in March;
- c) The 2026 Water and Sewer rates have been calculated, and a by-law has been prepared for Council's consideration and approval this evening;
- d) Also included for tonight's Regular Meeting of Council was the 2026 Interim Borrowing By-law and the 2026 Interim Tax Billing By-Law;
- e) In 2025 143 Tax Certificates were issued;
- f) 2025 Council Remuneration - Under Section 284 of the Municipal Act, each year, on or before March 31 provide to the council of the municipality an itemized statement on remuneration and expenses paid in the previous year to,

(a) each member of council in respect of his or her services as a member of the council or any other body, including a local board, to which the member has been appointed by council or on which the member holds office by virtue of being a member of council;

(b) each member of council in respect of his or her services as an officer or employee of the municipality or other body described in clause (a); and

(c) each person, other than a member of council, appointed by the municipality to serve as a member of any body, including a local board, in respect of his or her services as a member of the body.

In accordance with Bonnechere Valley By-Law 2025-009, the 2025 Council Remuneration is as follows:

	<u>PAY</u>	<u>MILEAGE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>CONFERENCE EXPENSES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
JENNIFER MURPHY	\$23,503.50	\$0.00	\$1,392.24	\$56.50	\$24,952.24
MERV BUCKWALD	\$17,012.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,012.50
JOHN EPPS	\$17,012.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,587.90	\$18,600.40
MEREDITH JAMIESON	\$3,682.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,682.16
BRENT PATRICK	\$10,646.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,646.00
TRACEY SANDERSON	\$15,322.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,322.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$87,179.16	\$0.00	\$1,392.24	\$1,644.40	\$90,215.80

Finance Report Received

Administration

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

- a) Annette met with our neighbouring CAO's to discuss shared services on January 7th. Staff continue with implementation of Citywide Asset Management Software and meet on a weekly basis. Staff are busy working on rolling everything over to the new year;
- b) Bank of Montreal - As reported at our last meeting, we waited to hear back from our meeting with BMO on December 15th. Not much information came out of that correspondence. Committee requested staff organize a Town Hall meeting on Thursday February 19th at 5:30pm and invite community stakeholders;
- c) Committee was provided a copy of AMOs submission to Bill 5. Annette spoke with the Manager of Planning at the County of Renfrew to see if the County made any submissions. They have not. As outlined in the AMO document the concerns for municipalities are environmental and archaeological impacts without municipal collaboration. For Bonnechere Valley this is especially concerning in terms of our history along the river, our neighbours in Pikwakanagan and any established habitat. However it is hard to make a detailed comment without having seen the regulatory framework. Committee directed staff to bring back a resolution to the February 3rd meeting stating our concerns with the Bill and the lack of details at this time;
- d) The Treasurer and Annette were registered and approved for the 2026 Pre-Budget Consultations in Pembroke on January 15th. Annette will discuss the Township's Minister of Finance Delegation Document regarding 100% HST rebate funding for municipalities and the Solicitor General Delegation Document on Policing Costs;

- e) ROMA Conference - All delegation documents have been submitted to the Solicitor General and Ministry of Energy and Mines for our two delegations approved. Ministry of Transportation was denied;
- f) Recreation Agreements - North Algona Wilberforce Agreement will come to tonight's Council meeting for approval and Admaston/Bromley is reviewing theirs January 22;
- g) Information and Privacy Report - We had 6 Freedom of Information Request in 2025 which is more than double the amount received in the last 6 years. Only one remains outstanding as it was only received on December 12th. Our report will be filed later this month with the IPC;
- h) AMO Conference - Rooms have been booked for the AMO conference in August. Registrations for the program will follow later in the spring for those interested;
- i) Arena Project - In 2022 Recreation Manager Kevin McGrath indicated that we had certain components coming to their end of life in the arena : a compressor, chiller and condenser. At the same time we were introduced to funding for energy efficiency to develop a plan that could be used to support an application for funding for these initiatives. We received the funding and developed a plan for the Arena and the Curling Club. We then used these plans to apply for funding. Although we cannot make any formal announcements yet Annette has approval to take this report to Council as we need a resolution to approve the signing authority on the attached agreement before it can be finalized and we need approval of two purchases that if not ordered this month will not be received in time to have them installed this summer when the Ice Plant is not in operation. The details are as follows and Annette included two quotes.

Estimates for Parts Required for Arena in 2022

Compressor \$85,000 (purchased in 2024 and can be submitted as part of this project as our application was 2022)

Compressor	\$300,000
Compressor	\$300,000

We were looking at an investment of \$685,000

Fast Forward to 2022 – Cost to implement Arena Energy Efficiency Plan to be eligible for funding.

2022 Cost Estimate for all components \$1,430,595 (estimated to reduce our carbon footprint by 80% and save us \$50,000 per year if fully implemented – some of these savings are not direct cost savings but offset by the Solar Panels)

Cost of	\$1,430,595
Funding	\$1,000,000
Funding	\$151,826

Cost to the Township \$278,769. This cost would be funded through a loan from FCM at a low interest rate (recently quoted at 3%). Due to the estimates being given in 2022 we asked our consultants to add an additional contingency.

2025 Cost Estimates \$1,607,280

Funding \$1,151,826

Cost to the Township \$455,454.

This cost is still less than the original estimate of \$685,000. We have already spent \$85,000 from reserves and we can claim back 80% of this expense. The cost is still going to be funded through a loan from FCM.

Committee authorized the purchase of a Condenser / Comp Cooling Loop / IQ Controller from Cimco Refrigeration through Canoe Procurement in the amount of \$375,000 plus tax. Committee authorized the purchase of a PHE /Brine Pump / Pre-Heat Tank from Cimco Refrigeration through Canoe Procurement in the amount of \$325,000 plus tax.

- j) Easter Egg Hunt - The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 21st to line up with March Break events. We will meet at the Geo Trail entrance and walk over to McRae Park again this year. This helps to avoid people arriving early and starting before everyone arrives. In 2025, we had 25 kids attend despite the rain. We hid 693 plastic eggs (2-3 chocolates per egg), and the consensus was that we should hide more eggs. We only had 180 plastic eggs returned to us. In 2025, the budget for this event was \$200, as we only had to purchase chocolate eggs, (we had enough plastic eggs left over from previous years). This year, Sarah recommends hiding empty plastic eggs for the hunt. Then, the children can exchange their plastic eggs for a baggy of chocolate eggs from the Easter bunny. The intention being each child will get the same amount of chocolate, and we will get the plastic eggs returned to reuse. This year, Sarah is requesting a \$400 budget for this event. She would like to purchase 1000 plastic eggs, small bags, and 10 x 1.5kg bags of peanut free chocolate eggs;
- k) Canada Day - Deposits are being sent out to Ry-J's Climbing Adventures and Capital Drone Show this month;
- l) March Break - Sarah reached out to Camp Smitty to see if they are interested in hosting day camp again during March Break. She will be reaching out to community groups to create a shared calendar advertisement again. This is something that may also be discussed as part of the 25th Amalgamation Committee;
- m) Swim Program - We are starting to prepare for the 2026 Swim Program. More information will be provided as it becomes available;
- n) Games at the Eagle's Nest - Sarah has received responses from two individuals, one adult and one high school student. She has not received confirmations on which dates they would be available. She will reach out to them this month to see if there are any dates that work;
- o) 25th Amalgamation Committee - Sarah received interest from three individuals and some event ideas from community groups. She will reach out to all interested parties and set up a time and date to meet;
- p) Eganville and Area Community Development Group - The EACDG had their first meeting of 2026 on January 7th to discuss the upcoming year.
Administrative Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

Darryl Wagner, CBO & Fire Chief was not present. Report Submitted.

- a) The Department had 96 calls for service from January to December 2025;
- b) The second pumper will be delivered in March 2026. The 1993 truck will be retired from the fleet;
- c) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing.
Fire Department & Building Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

- 1. AMO Policy December 15
- 2. AMO Watchfile December 18

3. AMO Policy December 19
4. AMO Policy December 23
5. AMO Watchfile January 8
6. EORN December 2025
7. EOWC December 2025 Newsletter
8. FCM December 16
9. ROMA December 23

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Library Board Resignation Notice
2. Barn Quilt Proposal
3. Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry
4. Resolution Steel and Softwood Lumber Support
5. Resolution Elbows Up for Climate Action
6. Removal of HST GST from New Homes
7. Municipal Accountability Act 2

(C) Correspondence "C"

- B.1 Committee directed staff to advertise for a Bonnechere Valley Representative for the Bonnechere Union Public Library
- B.2 Committee directed staff to let Laurel Cook know that Committee approved her request to host a Barn Quilt workshop using a varied version of the Township logo.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Mayor's Report – Since Mayor Murphy's last report she attended 11 meetings and attended several events. Some of the highlights are as follows;
County Council has not met since the Mayor's last report.

On January 8th and 9th, the Mayor attended the Inaugural Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus in Kingston. Bonnie Clark was re-elected Chair of the Caucus and Nathan Townend was elected Vice-Chair.

The ROMA Board report was provided to Committee.

There are potential changes to the governance of OMERS will now be added as a plenary at the ROMA Conference. This issue is very convoluted so the Mayor asked that a rack card of notes be made so that delegates have a take home.

EORN - The Cell project is now 86 percent complete. Since her last report, two more towers in the County of Renfrew have come online, one in Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan and one in Whitewater Township.

RCDHU - The Board of Health met yesterday for their 2026 Inaugural Meeting.

- (2)** Youth Dances – Committee discussed youth dances going forward. Committee directed Councillor Meredith Caplan Jamieson to have discussions with staff about the Youth Dances.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday February 3, 2026.

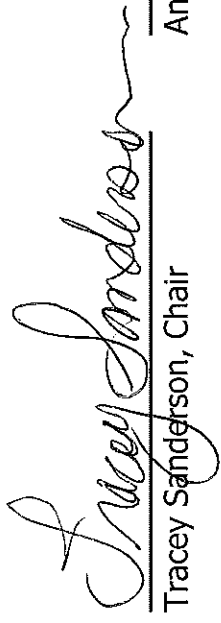
MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

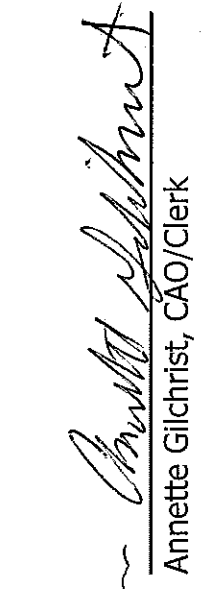
MOVED BY John Epps

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 4:20 p.m.

Carried



Tracey Sanderson, Chair



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk