

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday March 24, 2026, 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ZOOM CONFERENCING**

PRESENT

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

REGRETS None

GALLERY None

INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA: None

26.36 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: the agenda be accepted as amended. With the addition of 9.6 The water reserve resolution. Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

26.37 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 10, 2026 as presented be hereby adopted. Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile March 12
2. AMO Watchfile March 19
3. AMO Policy March 11
4. FCM Communique March 17
5. EORN Renfrew County February 2026
6. Algonquin Forest Annual Work Schedule
7. Ottawa Valley Forest Annual Work Schedule
8. Integrity Commissioners Annual Report

Correspondence "B"

1. Support for Bill 21 Protect our Food Act 2025
2. Supporting Avon Maitland District School Board
3. Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act
4. Rideau Lakes Concerns re Alto High Speed Rail Project
5. Request for a Comprehensive Review of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework
6. Reduced Rate Distribution of Library Resources

Correspondence "C"

26.38 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

WHEREAS direction has been given to staff;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the correspondence be filed.

Carried

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Cheque Register and Board Reports

9.2 Resolution to approve Eganville Drinking Water System Summary and Monitoring Report 2025

26.39 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: The Eganville Drinking Water System Summary and Monitoring Report 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried

9.3 Resolution to approve Eganville Sewage System Performance and Monitoring Report 2025

26.40 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: The Eganville Sewage System Performance and Monitoring Report 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried

9.4 Resolution to support Provincial Bail Notification Program

26.41 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

WHEREAS the proposed changes under Bill C-14, the Bail and Sentencing Reform Act respond to community safety pressures and violent repeat offenses; and

WHEREAS this legislation is a step in the right direction, we still need more support for mental health and addiction services, more judges and prosecutors to clear court backlogs, and better data sharing across provinces; and

WHEREAS Municipalities continue to face rising demands on emergency services, growing homelessness, and limited access to health and social supports all of which contribute to public safety concerns; and

WHEREAS many of those committing crimes are not housed in the correctional system, therefore, remain in our communities; and

WHEREAS enforcement alone cannot solve the complex challenges driving crime and community disruption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Bonnechere Valley requests the Federal Government review the legislation closely and continue advocating for a comprehensive federal approach to community safety one that empowers local governments to meet the needs of their residents including but not limited to the following: Create a Designation of a chronic persistent offender. Allow community impact statements at bail and at bail hearings. Create reverse onus in bail for all firearms offences and have all bail-related gun charges go to the superior court for bail release.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, Federal Justice Minister, Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, Minister of Municipal Affairs, MP Cheryl Gallant and MPP Billy Denault, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

9.5 Resolution to support Ontario Veterinary College

26.42 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY John Epps

WHEREAS the cost of large animal veterinary services in Northern and Rural Ontario is significantly higher due to the long travel distances and limited number of large animal veterinarians available to service the region;

AND WHEREAS it has come to Council's attention that the Ontario Veterinary College for large animal veterinary services has been denying admission due to limited enrollment capacity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Bonnechere Valley formally requests that the Ontario Veterinary College, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association consider expanding enrollment capacity at the Ontario Veterinary College to allow more applicants to pursue certification as large animal veterinarians;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Veterinary College, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, Ontario Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association.

Carried

9.6 Resolution for Water Reserve

26.43 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: Council approve the transfer of an additional \$66,311.64 out of water reserve in 2025 to cover capital expenses.

Carried

CLOSED SESSION – NONE

BY-LAWS

26.44 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT:

By-Law 2026-020 Being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council
BE READ A FIRST TIME, BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME, BE DEEMED READ A
THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT

26.45 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Carried

Jennifer Murphy

Jennifer Murphy, Mayor

Annette Gilchrist

Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk