

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY April 21, 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

26.52 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

26.53 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 7, 2026 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Policy April 2
2. AMO Watchfile April 9
3. FCM April 7
4. FCM April 10
5. FCM April 13
6. EORN Renfrew County March 2026 Report
7. Memo to Municipal CAOs re Buy

Correspondence "B"

1. Ottawa Valley Trade Corridor Improvement Project
2. Resolution regarding School Boards
3. MEA letter to MTO March 29 2026
4. Resolution regarding Concerns re Bill 9
5. Request letter from museum

Correspondence "C"

1. Resolution re Heritage Properties

26.54 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

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 - Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

26.55 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

WHEREAS The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

WHEREAS The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

WHEREAS Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

WHEREAS Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, MPP Billy Denault and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

9.3 Resolution to approve the Water and Sewage Department's Financial Plan for 2024 to 2031

26.56 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: Council approve the Water and Sewage Department's Financial Plan for 2024 to 2031

Carried

CLOSED SESSION – NONE

BY-LAWS

26.57 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT:

By-Law 2026-024 Being a by-law to adopt a use of corporate resources policy for election purposes

By-Law 2026-025 Being a By-Law to delegate authority during restricted periods of an election year

By-Law 2026-026 Being a By-Law to establish requirements for open air burning

By-Law 2026-027 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.

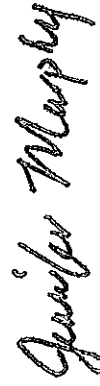
Carried

ADJOURNMENT

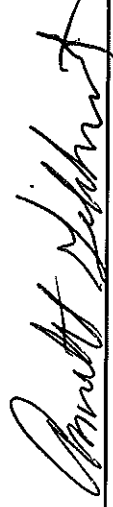
26.58 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY John Epps

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

Carried



Jennifer Murphy, Mayor



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk