

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY APRIL 21, 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 1

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

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

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: The agenda be accepted, as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on April 7, 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 last day of ice at the arena was Sunday March 29th;
- b) Figure Skating had a good turnout for their end of the year show;
- c) Staff have conducted the summer student interviews. They hired two students for the grass cutting, two students for horticulture and three students to rotate between the Tourist Booth and Legion Field Park. Their start dates will vary from about the end of April to the end of June, and all positions will be finished by the end of August;
- d) Killaloe won the EHL finals in 5 games;
- e) CIMCO was in to shut down the ice plant March 30th, and the ice was removed;
- f) Minor Ball and Minor Soccer registration will be held from April 20th – 23rd;
- g) On April 23rd, we have a fly-fishing practice rental on the ice surface;
- h) April 28th we have the Renfrew Country Arctic Winter games on the ice surface and in the Eagles Nest;
- i) We had the new LED lights installed in the Community Centre;
- j) The planter boxes for the Bridge will be taken to Temperate Gardens this month for planting;

- k) On April 23rd the Eagle's Nest is booked for the "So you want to Run for Council" information session. April 26th is the Library fundraiser social tea party;
- l) Spring clean-up is beginning in the parks. Staff have removed a Manitoba maple tree that had fallen on April 7th;
- m) The new aluminium bleacher was delivered for the ball field at Legion Field. *Recreation Report Received.*

Finance

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

- a) The 2026 Budget Presentation and the 2026 Budget Report were provided to Committee;
- b) Taxes Receivable Summary at the end of March:

March 31, 2023	\$1,968,135.26
March 31, 2024	\$2,161,455.97 up \$193,320.71 from 2023 to 2024
March 31, 2025	\$2,349,257.10 up \$187,801.13 from 2024 to 2025
March 31, 2026	\$2,561,551.83 up \$212,294.73 from 2025 to 2026
- c) In 2025 143 tax certificates were completed at the request of various Law Firms, at this time in 2026 Sandra has prepared 31 tax certificates;
- d) On March 26, 2026 we received the first two OCIF instalment payments for 2026 for \$73,560.00. There are six instalment payments per year;
- e) On March 25th, and March 27th Sandra Barr attended a 7.0 hour free virtual webinar titled "Climate and Asset Management" through MFOA and lead by Urban Re Advisory Inc. The workshop assists staff in integrating climate adaptation actions into asset management, to enable better infrastructure decisions that respond to climate risks and future operating conditions;
- f) On April 8, 2026 Sandra attended a 1.5 hour webinar with OMERS on the changes that happened to the management of the OMERS pension plan.

Finance Report Received

Administration

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

- a) Deputy CAO Sandra Barr and CAO Annette Gilchrist attended Election Training in Kingston April 16th and 17th;
- b) Committee was provided with a revised Lease between the Township and the Sebastopol Heritage Society. Annette will bring it back for passing by By-law May 5th;
- c) Committee was also provided with the Water and Sewer Department Financial Plan 2024 to 2031. A resolution is required at Council this evening to approve the Plan;
- d) Committee was provided with the Strategic Plan Report;
- e) Election - The Provinces Candidate, Third Party Advertiser and Voter Guides have been uploaded to the Townships website under the Election tab. Links to the nomination forms are included as part of the Candidates Guide. Staff will put together candidate packages specific to the Township of Bonnechere Valley following the training in Kingston. Nomination Papers will be accepted as of May 1, 2026. There are two By-Laws coming to Council this evening. One delegates certain duties and acts during restricted periods after nomination day or the election of a new Council and the second one is a policy for use of corporate resources for Election purposes;
- f) EV Chargers - The Level 3 Charger has been installed and commissioned at the Township Office. The Level 2 was missing a part but will be installed once we receive it. The Level 2 does not have to be connected to the Level 3. Staff wanted direction from Council as to where the Level 2 charger should be installed. Committee directed staff to install the Level 2 charger at the Arena;
- g) Camp Smitty - Camp Smitty is hosting summer day camp once again. Staff will be advertising shortly;

- h) Swim Program - Swim program registration is open. The program will run at Rotary Beach this year and is open to Admaston/Bromley, Bonnechere Valley, Laurentian Valley, North Algona Wilberforce, and Whitewater Region residents. As of April 13, 37 children have been signed up;
- i) Aquafit - Aquafit is back for another summer. Staff will begin advertising shortly, and will ask the Echo Centre to help promote within their networks as well;
- j) Grant Applications Approved -
 - i) Canada Summer Jobs 2026 – Approved for 4 summer student positions in the amount of \$9,856;
 - ii) Celebrate Canada 2026 – Approved for \$6,000 to help cover a portion of the cost for the drone show;
- k) 25th Celebrations Swag – Committee agreed to purchase ball caps and frisbees for the 25th Anniversary. The frisbees can be given away and the ball caps can be sold.
Administrative Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) 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 Ontario

(B) 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

(C) Correspondence "C"

1. Resolution regarding Heritage Properties

B.1 Committee discussed the request from the Museum and determined that an accessible washroom is their priority. Staff will get a quote for the costs on making that washroom accessible and bring that back to Committee on May 5 to decide if we should submit this project through the Ease Grant.

C.1 Committee tabled the Resolution regarding Heritage Properties Deadline Extension to the May 5 meeting

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Library Report – Board member Tracey Sanderson updated Committee on the business of the Bonnechere Union Public Library. Circulation at the Library in March was good, typical for this time of year, with 1,626 checkouts. Circulation of all our museum passes in March was 19, and the Ontario Parks Pass circulated twice. They welcomed 11 new members in March and currently have 1,639 active cardholders. There were 1,196 library visits in March, but they were closed one day for inclement weather, and another day and a half for a maintenance issue. It is typically a bit higher. Their busiest days continue to be Tuesdays and

Wednesdays. Wi-Fi usage in March was good, with 186 unique clients. There were 463 Public Access Computer sessions in March. Youth Night is every Wednesday evening from 5-6 p.m. We missed a few weeks in March with the weather-related closure on the 11th, March Break the following week, and the maintenance-related closure the next week. There were 29 youth here on the 4th, and most of them participated in the Nintendo game, Just Dance.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 5, 2026.

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

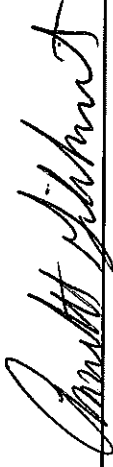
MOVED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 2:57 p.m.

Carried



John Epps, Chair



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk