

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM
CONFERENCING**

PRESENT

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

REGRETS

None

GALLERY

2

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY John Epps

That: The agenda be accepted, as presented, with the addition of Item #4 Move October 20 Committee Meeting to October 21st.
Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Merv Buckwald

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on August 11, 2026 be accepted as presented.
Carried

DELEGATIONS

REPORTS

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Summer Student Positions – The Township said goodbye to our summer students Jude Breen and Steven Kapp. Both young men helped us out tremendous over the course of the summer. Wishing them both the best of luck in their studies;
- b) Sanitation Assistant – The Township had an opening with the departure of Yvan Pelletier and we conducted interviews. Wayne Breen is our newest employee, and he will fill this vacant position;
- c) Solar Lighting Project: The department assisted with the installation of the solar lights on Water Street. We will be soon installing the solar lights at McCrea Park;
- d) Line painting in town has been completed in addition to painting all the stop blocks in Village;
- e) Crack Sealing has been completed on Zadow and Augsburg Roads;
- f) Culvert Replacements - The department has changed out quite a number of culverts in the last few weeks on Zadow Road, Budd; Corrigan, and Wentland Road

- g) The Monday to Thursday hours at Sno Drifters Waste Site have now ceased for the summer. The last day was Thursday, August 27th;
- h) The Roads Department's 4 days of 10 our shifts will cease as of September 19, and the crew will go back to 5 days of 8 hour shifts;
- i) For the months of September and October the Sno Drifters Waste Site is open on Thursdays as well as Saturdays. It will be open every Thursday beginning September 3 to October 29th. The hours are from 12 pm (noon) to 2 pm;
- j) The last day to take items to the Household Hazardous Waste Depot is Saturday, September 26;
- k) The Sand Road Waste Site will be closed on Monday, September 7th for Labour Day. The Sand Road & the Ruby Road Waste Site will be closed on Wednesday, September 30th for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation;
- l) Snow Removal 2026-2027 - John K. Reinert Sand & Gravel Ltd has quoted a price of \$100 per hour + tax for a 4-wheel drive plow for snow removal for the 2026-2027 season. Committee recommends that the snow removal for the 2025/2026 winter season be awarded to John K Reinert, Sand & Gravel Ltd in the amount of \$100/hour + tax;
- m) Declare Surplus Equipment - Requesting direction of Council to initiate the intent to declare and dispose of surplus municipal equipment with respect to the 2012 International Plow Truck, Model #SF667;
- n) John Street Construction Project - Bonnechere Excavating Inc. are starting on the John Street Construction Project.
Works Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

Darryl Wagner, CBO & Fire Chief, was present and gave his report.

- a) The Department had sixty-six calls for service from January to August;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
- c) The Junior Fire Fighter Program will be starting on September 16;
- d) Fifty-eight building permits issued from January to August.
Department & Building Report Received.

Water & Sewer Department

Daryl Verch, Water & Sewer Manager, present and gave his report.

- a) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;
- b) Staff have been doing lots of Ontario One locates for Aecon for the gas line installation and for other sites;
- c) James Pange was on site to do the audit and the Department had minimal items that need to be improved;
- d) All the fire hydrants have been flushed and checked and staff will perform maintenance on the ones that are not operating property;
- e) Staff performed a water service repair at 73 Louise Street on August 19;
- f) The Eganville Wastewater System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements as set out in the Certificate of Approval;
- g) The fire extinguishers have all been certified for the year;
- h) There was one geo-tube removed from the pad on August 19th.
Water & Sewer Report Received

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY John Epps

THAT: Committee proceed in Closed Session in accordance with the Municipal Act 2001, section 239.2 to deal with the matters as indicated below:

- b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual
- h) Information supplied in confidence to the municipality by another level of Government

MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: Committee moves out of Closed Session at 2:15 p.m. to rise and report that Committee met to receive information about an employee, correspondence from a provincial ministry and to give staff direction and approve minutes from August 11, 2026.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile Aug 6
2. AMO Watchfile Aug 13
3. AMO Watchfile Aug 27
4. AMO Watchfile Sept 3
5. AMO Policy Aug 13
6. AMO Policy Aug 28
7. AMO Policy Aug 31
8. County Council Summary August 2026
9. County Construction Update September 2, 2026
10. EORN Renfrew County July 2026
11. Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Strategy (MOI)
12. EOWC AMO
13. EOWC Aug 13
14. EOWC Newsletter
15. FCM Aug 11
16. FCM Aug 20
17. FCM Aug 24
18. FCM Sept 3
19. Letter from the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments Health and Safety Concerns
2. Elimination of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's Second Injury and Enhancement Fund (SIEF)
3. Email Request OVAH
4. Email Tower Siting Process
5. Legion Request
6. Ottawa Valley Community Arts Fundraiser
7. RCRSTF 2027 Sponsorship Options
8. Request for Support - NOHFC Funding Official Plan Zoning By-law Updates

(C) Correspondence "C"

B.3 Committee discussed the letter from the Ottawa Valley Affordable Housing group requesting the waiver of their hall rental fee. Committee directed staff to waive the rental fee and the expense will be added to Council's in kind expense account.

B.5 Committee directed staff to support the request from the Royal Canadian Legion to have a marching contingent from the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa parade from the parking lot of St. James Catholic Church to the Royal Canadian Legion at 57 Veteran's Way around 10:30am on November 11, 2026.

B.6 Committee discussed the letter from the Ottawa Valley Community Arts Fundraiser requesting the waiver of their hall rental fee. Committee directed staff to waive the rental fee and the expense will be added to Council's in kind expense account.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) Mayor's Report – Since Mayor Murphy's last report she attended 29 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows;

The County Council summary was provided to Committee. The ROMA Board met on August 16th. They met with Parliamentary Assistant for Rural Affairs, Bob Bailey, to discuss the ROD Grant applications and further grant opportunities that we would like to see more applicable to rural Ontario. We now employ the communications department from AMO. Keeth gave us an update of an enhanced communications strategy for ROMA which will be happening over the next few months. Due to the AMO Election, many members were not able to attend.

The EORN report was provided to Committee in correspondence.

On August 20th, the Mayor along with CAO, Craig Kelley, attended the wrap up of the EORN Cell Gap project in Rockland, Ontario. This was an opportunity for EORN to thank Rogers, the Provincial and Federal Governments and the partner Municipalities for their efforts and funding of this crucial project.

The RCDHU Board did not meet in August. The EOWC newsletter and other reports are in our correspondence.

AMO Conference - Delegation with Minister Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with Laurentian Valley, Pembroke and Whitewater Region: They met to discuss challenges that local municipalities are facing and what supports the Province could offer for water and wastewater services. Specifically looking at alternative governance and service delivery models to improve sustainability and affordability of these systems through economies of scale, lower cost financing, enhanced planning and shared risk management. The province has encouraged municipalities to examine these alternatives however municipalities would need transitional support to study and implement any changes. Delegation with Parliamentary Assistant Dave Smith, Ministry of Finance with Madawaska Valley and support from Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan and Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards: They met to discuss challenges that local municipalities are facing and what supports the Province could offer regarding the impact of the changes to alcohol sales and the bottle return program in rural areas due to the closure of many local beer stores and the lack of capacity for small stores to manage the bottle return program and its ineligibility in the blue box program causing a waste management issue for municipalities. Delegation with Parliamentary Assistant Ric Bresee, Ministry of Transportation with North Algona Wilberforce and Whitewater Region: They met to discuss the new pilot rideshare program and its eligibility for provincial gas tax supports should it successfully meet the transportation needs of our communities. Other transit supports are also available such as Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF) which the province suggested might be a better fit for the new program. Staff is reviewing the application requirements and collecting data on the newly implemented rideshare program to support the application.

Delegation with Minister Raymond Cho, Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility: This met to discuss the difficulty for small rural municipalities to meet the 50% funding requirements to implement 100% of the AODA standards with extra points if we exceed the standards. We requested supports and improvements to current funding models to fund higher percentages for small municipalities or more flexible requirements allowing for funding to be used to implement 75% to 80% of AODA standards which will significantly improve accessibility and inclusiveness in our communities as we move towards 100% compliance with the standards. Staff is following up with the Minister's Director of Stakeholder Relations to discuss further.

The EOWC also met with the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus to ask for their support through resolution of the retention of the 1.76 percent HST. They also had a meeting with Minister Rob Flack to present, once again, our three priorities. They Mayor was also in attendance for the 1 Billion dollar announcement (\$500 million from each of the Province and the Feds) for projects in municipalities that do not have development charges. The details of this grant program will be released in advance of the opening of applications on October 29th.

Through the County, the Mayor also had delegations with Minister Sylvia Jones, Ministry of Health, Parliamentary Assistant, Hardeep Grewal, Ministry of Transportation, Parliamentary Assistant Amargot Sandhu, Ministry of Infrastructure (twice but one time with Petawawa), Parliamentary Assistant Dave Smith, Ministry of Finance, Associate Minister Sam Oosterhoff, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Associate Minister Kevin Holland, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Parliamentary Assistant Jess Dixon, Ministry of Education.

On September 1st, the County and the City of Pembroke met with partners from Pembroke Fire Department, the MESA/HART HUB, Pembroke Regional Hospital, Renfrew and District Health Unit, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service and the City's By-Law Officer to review the successes of the MESA project and review steps that should be taken with the unhouseed and the overdoses across the County.

On August 24th, The Mayor along with CAO, Annette Gilchrist, and Councillor Caplan-Jamieson, cut the ribbon to celebrate our Electric Vehicle and Valley Go app being ready for external use. On August 28th, the Mayor brought greetings on behalf of Council to the season finale of Music in the Park which celebrated the memory of Guy Jamieson and Steve Agnew. On August 28th, the Mayor attended the 167th Cobden Fair. On August 29th, the Mayor, along with Councillor Caplan-Jamieson, presented Walter Hobden with a certificate of congratulations on his 90th birthday. On August 29th, the Mayor, along with Councillor Caplan-Jamieson, had a fantastic time sending off our Amazing Racers. Thanks to our incredible staff including Rachel Haines, Annette Gilchrist, Kevin McGrath, Kelsey, Jason Zohr, Darryl Wagner and all the volunteers. On August 29th, the Mayor also attended Bonnechere Valley's first ever drone show. This event was very well attended. Post-show comments provided some pros and cons which can be discussed for future. On August 30th, the Mayor brought greetings at the Tour de Bonnechere. They had a record amount of cyclists and raised money for the Eganville Food Bank and Ottawa Valley Mental Health.

Mayor Murphy is attending the Ontario East Municipal Conference in Ottawa from September 9th to the 11th. On Saturday, September 12th, the Bonnechere Museum is holding their night market On Sunday, September 13th, the Eganville Leader will be hosting an All Candidates event at the Legion at 7:00 p.m.

- (2) Council Remuneration Review Committee – Committee recommends that Council appoint a panel to review by-law 2025-009 and the results of the County of Renfrew’s remuneration survey received August 25, 2026 and make recommendations to Council by October 6, 2026.
- (3) Tax Adjustment Report – Committee recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 1297 Grattan Road be approved due to a fire and further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$369.44 be made to the property for the year 2026. Committee recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 31 Sheedy Lane be approved due to a demolition and that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$52.24 be made to the property for the year 2026.
- (4) Move October 20 Committee Meeting to October 21 – Committee provided staff direction to change the Committee and Council meeting from Tuesday October 20th to Wednesday October 21st.

ESTABLISH NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday September 22, 2026.

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY John Epps

THAT: The meeting adjourns at 3:20 p.m.

Carried



Jennifer Murphy, Chair



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk