

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY June 16, 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

26.82 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

26.83 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson

THAT: The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 2, 2026 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Policy June 1
2. AMO Watchfile June 4
3. AMO Watchfile June 12
4. County Construction Update June 2026
5. County Council Summary May 2026
6. EORN Renfrew County May 2026
7. EOWC June 2026 Newsletter
8. FCM Communique June 1
9. MPAC's exploratory work on a new revenue management system
10. OPP Annual Report for Upper Ottawa Valley

Correspondence "B"

1. Bill 119 Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026 Notification Letter
2. Support Resolution - Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax
3. Better Regional Governance Act Resolution
4. OPP Detachment Board Resolution of Support for traffic calming
5. National Dental Care Day Proclamation-Municipalities-2026
6. Recognizing Hwy17 Infrastructure-Renfrew County
7. Letter regarding BMO Bank of Montreal
8. Resolution for Provincial health care spending
9. RC Forest Management Plan
10. Integrated Living and Participation Model for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Correspondence "C"

26.84 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY John Epps

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 Rest stops on Hwy 11 and 17

26.85 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY John Epps

WHEREAS Highways 11 and 17 are critical transportation corridors supporting national trade, tourism, emergency response, and economic development; and

WHEREAS Ontario residents, travellers, commercial drivers, and emergency services rely on safe and accessible year-round highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS many stretches of Highways 11 and 17 lack sufficient rest areas, washroom facilities, truck parking, warming centres, fuel access, and safe pull-off locations; and

WHEREAS inadequate rest stop infrastructure contributes to driver fatigue, safety concerns, limited accessibility, and challenges for tourism and commercial transportation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley calls upon the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to prioritize the development of new and upgraded highway rest stops and traveller infrastructure along Highways 11 and 17; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such infrastructure include year-round washrooms, safe parking areas, commercial truck parking, warming shelters, electric vehicle charging stations, fuel access, tourism information, and improved emergency communication services where feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of Ontario, FONOM, NOMA, AMO, ROMA, MPP Billy Denault and MP Cheryl Gallant

Carried

9.3 Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario

26.86 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY John Epps

WHEREAS municipal fire services in Ontario operate under legislative authority established by the Province through statutes, regulations, codes, and prescribed standards governing training, equipment, certification, inspection, and operational requirements;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for implementing and maintaining compliance with these provincially mandated requirements primarily through local property taxation;

AND WHEREAS current provincial fire service grant programs are available to both full-time and volunteer fire departments across Ontario and are distributed through competitive application processes that may not fully reflect the differing financial and administrative capacities of urban and rural municipalities, highlighting the need for a more balanced approach to funding that supports all fire services equitably;

AND WHEREAS volunteer firefighters represent approximately 70–75% of firefighters in Ontario, protecting the majority of communities across the province and, particularly in rural areas, are frequently the first emergency responders to arrive on scene ahead of other emergency services;

AND WHEREAS other provincially regulated emergency services receive stable and predictable provincial funding contributions or cost-sharing arrangements;

AND WHEREAS the absence of a comparable and stable funding model for fire services creates a structural imbalance between provincial regulatory authority and municipal financial responsibility;

AND WHEREAS reliance on competitive funding creates budget uncertainty, limits long-term financial planning, and may not reflect the actual operational needs of fire services, contributing to instability, reduced preparedness, and the reduction of services within a critical emergency response sector;

AND WHEREAS stable and predictable funding is essential to maintain emergency preparedness, firefighter safety, service sustainability, and equitable protection for residents regardless of municipal size or tax base;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley respectfully calls upon the Province of Ontario to transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite, and full-time fire departments across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Michael Kerzner, Minister of the Solicitor General, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association, Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and MPP Billy Denault.

Carried

CLOSED SESSION – NONE

BY-LAWS

26.87 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson

THAT:

By-Law 2026-037 Being a By-Law to adopt road standards for municipal highways

By-Law 2026-038 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.

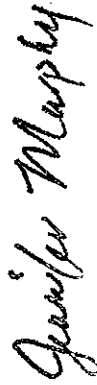
Carried

ADJOURNMENT

26.88 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Carried



Jennifer Murphy, Mayor



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk