

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY February 3, 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

26.11 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

26.12 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 13, 2026 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Policy Jan 9
2. AMO Policy Jan 13
3. AMO Watchfile Jan 15
4. AMO Policy Jan 21
5. AMO Watchfile Jan 22
6. AMO Policy Jan 28
7. AMO Watchfile Jan 29
8. EORN Renfrew County December 2025
9. EORN Renfrew County January 2026
10. EOWC Champions Regional Priorities at ROMA 2026
11. EOWC Jan 12
12. FCM Jan 12

13. FCM Jan 14
14. FCM Jan 19
15. FCM Jan 26
16. January MOH Report to the Board 2026

Correspondence "B"

1. Call on Province of Ontario to Establish an Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP)
2. Letter re: Lisa Sharpe Memorial Tournament (Delegation at Council)
3. Lifelabs closure resolution
4. Illuminate the Township digital display board for NMLW 2026
5. Notice of CZBL for BLR to Public Bodies
6. OMERS Bill 68 Municipal Resolution
7. Request for Support for Sunshine Coach
8. Sustainable Funding for Police Resolution

Correspondence "C"

26.13 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

8.1 Cheque Register and Board Reports

8.2 Resolution Bill 5

26.14 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

WHEREAS on April 17, 2025, the Government of Ontario brought forth Bill 5: "Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy", a broad omnibus legislation that introduces sweeping changes to multiple environmental and planning statutes, including the Environmental Assessment Act, Endangered Species Act, Ontario Heritage Act, and others; and

WHEREAS Bill 5 received Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

WHEREAS the "Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy" Act, 2025 enables the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which allow the provincial cabinet to exempt projects from compliance with municipal bylaws, environmental protections, and Indigenous consultation obligations; and

WHEREAS Council supports the objective of Bill 5 to foster economic projects, development and growth of communities through the streamlining of current processes and cutting of red tape provided that important objectives such as local autonomy, health, safety, environmental protection, community well-being and Indigenous rights and relationships are upheld.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council endorses the stated goals of economic growth and development in the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, but expresses serious concerns with the Act as it interferes with local planning, limits public consultation, is inconsistent with the principles of free, prior and informed consent in consultation processes with Indigenous communities, and weakens protections to heritage and species, and formally opposes the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 in its current form; and

THAT Council endorses the position of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in requesting that municipalities be included in the development of any regulatory frameworks related to Special Economic Zones; and

THAT Council directs staff to submit this resolution to: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, MPP Billy Denault, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA).

Carried

8.3 Resolution Surplus Equipment

26.15 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

WHEREAS: the equipment described below is no longer necessary, useful or suitable for municipal purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following is hereby declared surplus:

1993 Pumper Truck

Carried

CLOSED SESSION – NONE

BY-LAWS

26.16 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT:

By-Law 2026-007 Being a By-Law to authorize a Road Licensing Agreement

By-Law 2026-008 Being a By-Law to Declare Support for the Sunshine Coach Service

By-Law 2026-009 being a By-law to authorize the Agreement for the Pothole Repair Program

By-Law 2026-010 Being a By-Law to authorize the Fire Protection Grant Agreement

By-Law 2026-011 Being a By-Law to authorize an Agreement with Millers Waste for the collection of Non Eligibles

By-Law 2026-012 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

26.17 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Carried



Jennifer Murphy, Mayor



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk