

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday February 18, 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

26.18 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

26.19 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 3, 2026 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile Feb 5
2. AMO Watchfile Feb 12
3. EOWC January 2026 Newsletter
4. EOWC February 2026 Newsletter
5. FCM Communique Feb 3
6. FCM Communique Feb 9
7. County of Renfrew approves 2026 budget

Correspondence "B"

1. Resolution Regarding Enhanced School Bus Safety
2. Request from Camp Lutherlyn
3. Resolution-Affordable Housing
4. Support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025
5. Food Bank Request
6. Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children
7. Support for Steel and Lumber Sectors
8. Notice Comprehensive Zoning By-Law for Admaston/Bromley
9. Re-Nature Request for Resolution of Support - Bonnechere Valley
10. Renfrew Veterinary

Correspondence "C"

26.20 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
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 Appointment of Community Members to Killaloe OPP Detachment Board

26.21 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: Cheryl Summers and Steve Gravefell be appointed as community members to the Killaloe OPP Detachment Board for a period concurrent with the present term of Council.

Carried

9.3 Appointment of Community Member to Bonnechere Union Public Library Board

26.22 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: Eileen Whyte be appointed as community member to the Bonnechere Union Public Library Board for a period concurrent with the present term of Council.

Carried

9.4 OMERS Bill 68 Municipal Resolution

26.23 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY John Epps

WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children's aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

WHEREAS the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS' governance structure through Bill 68; and

WHEREAS these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

WHEREAS this model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain the current OMERS governance model, with two corporate Boards, as the structure that would best deliver on the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, MPP Billy Denault, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

Carried

9.5 Sustainable Funding for Police Resolution

26.24 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are required to maintain a police service; and

WHEREAS municipalities, across Ontario, with a police service board, are required to “ensure adequate and effective policing is provided in the area for which they have policing responsibility in accordance with the needs of the population in the area and having regard for the diversity of the population in the area” and

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are required to have and maintain critical infrastructure, including appropriate police facilities and equipment, to ensure adequate and effective policing is provided; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are experiencing increased police operating and capital costs directly related to new compliance and operational standards required under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019; and

WHEREAS these cost increases stem from provincially mandated requirements including training, certification, technology, reporting, and staffing obligations necessary to bring local police services into compliance with the Act; and

WHEREAS municipalities have no discretion in implementing these measures and limited ability to absorb the resulting financial pressures within existing budgets; and

WHEREAS policing is a provincially legislated responsibility, yet municipalities are bearing the brunt of the costs to implement provincial mandates;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Council request that the Province of Ontario provide targeted financial assistance to municipalities to offset any additional costs that are directly and demonstrably incurred as a result of compliance with the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, and not general increases to police budgets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Council request that the Province of Ontario provide stable sustainable funding to offset costs associated to implement provincial mandates;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP Billy Denault, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

Carried

CLOSED SESSION – NONE

BY-LAWS

26.25 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson

THAT:

By-Law 2026-013 Being a By-Law to amend By-law Number 2022-042 – Witt

By-Law 2026-014 Being a By-Law to stop up, close and sell a portion of an unopened road allowance – Bouchard

By-Law 2026-015 Being a By-Law to enter into a contribution agreement for the green and inclusive community buildings program

11.4 By-Law 2026-016 Being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council

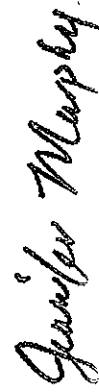
BE READ A FIRST TIME, BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME, BE DEEMED READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT

26.26 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

THAT: This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Carried



Jennifer Murphy, Mayor



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk