

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 10, 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, Tracey Sanderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY John Epps

That: The agenda be accepted, as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY John Epps

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on February 17, 2026 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

2026 Food Bank Volunteer Recognition – Robert Miller, Kathy Lowden, Phil Reinke, Heather Park-Wheeler, Rémy Charreyron, Ellen Wiegold, Debbi Lazarus, and Nevill Carney were all recognized for their efforts for the Eganville Food Bank.

REPORTS

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Lakes, Ditches & Community Clean-up Days 2026 - Bonnechere Valley residents who assist in cleaning up our township lakes, ditches and community can take their bag of garbage for free to the Sand Road Waste Site. Committee recommends that the days will be Saturday, April 18, 2026 and Saturday, April 25, 2026. Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22, 2026;
- b) Easter Hours for Waste Sites - Lake Clear and McGrath Road Waste Sites will be closed Sunday April 5, 2026 and Sand Road Waste Site will be closed Monday April 6, 2026;
- c) Snow Removal Operations - This has been a busy winter season for the Roads Department team and the work continues as we are now engaged in snow removal activities. While the operations are exciting to watch, staff ask all residents, especially children, to give the vehicles space to do their work and stay a safe distance back;

- d) Flood Control - If the temperature rises above zero degrees in a short period of time, flooding can occur. Our department is maintaining the drainage systems to reduce potential flooding conditions. Staff are removing snow and ice from catch basins on roads and sidewalks to ensure melting snow drains when required. It is normal for water to pool around a catch basin in wet weather. Staff are ensuring that roadside ditches are cleared at the outlet end of the ditch system to provide drainage for the spring melt;
- e) Half Load Restrictions - Pursuant to Bylaw 2012-009 reduced load limits on will be strictly enforced on all Bonnechere Valley roads March 4, 2026 - May 31st inclusively or later if conditions warrant.
Works Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

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

- a) The Department had fourteen calls for service from January to February;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing. Three new recruits will now be attending calls;
- c) We will soon be entering our Provincial Burn Season which runs from April 1st to October 31st. With the extremely dry summers and high temperatures we have been experiencing, we are reviewing our open air burning by law to prohibit burning brush piles during this timeline. In 2025 we had a total of 168 brush burning permits applied for. Of these, 65 were during the Provincial Burn Season. We were in a lengthy complete burn ban at the end of last summer which impacted the total permits issued during the burn season. Many municipalities around us have seen wildland fire numbers climb and as such are taking this approach and changing their by-laws. By prohibiting brush burning, it is one less area of concern for our department. Our call volume has been on the rise and wildland fires can take days or weeks to contend with, let alone the cost we would incur should we need to enlist the assistance of the Ministry of Natural Resources
- d) Whitewater Township in partnership with Bonnechere Valley, Admaston Bromley, Horton and Laurentian Valley are coming together to host a contractor day on Wednesday March 25, 2026. Lunch will begin at 12pm and the meeting will start at 12:45pm. Meeting to be held in the Basement Hall at 44 Main Street Cobden, Ontario.
Fire Department & Building Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Policy
2. AMO Watchfile Feb 19
3. AMO Watchfile Feb 26
4. AMO Watchfile Mar 5
5. County Council Summaries and Budget Highlights
6. FCM Communique Feb 17
7. FCM Communique Feb 23
8. FCM Communique March 4
9. February MOH Report to the Board 2026
10. ROMA February Highlights

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Provincial Bail Notification Program
2. Affordability Requirements Tied to Federal Broadband Funding

3. ERC Sponsorship Packages 2026-2027
4. Black Bear Proposal - Additional Feedback Request
5. Request for Road Safety Measures on Fourth Chute Road
6. Small Northern New Residential Property Tax Class
7. Strengthening Self-Defense Protections and Addressing Rising Home Invasions in Ontario
8. Notice of Zoning Bylaw Amendment for KHR
9. Ottawa Valley Cycling Active Transportation Alliance
10. Municipality of Magnetawan Support Resolution
11. Request from Bradley Law
12. Ontario Veterinary College

(C) Correspondence "C"

- B.1 Committee supports the resolution regarding Provincial Bail Notification Program and directed staff to bring a resolution to the March 24 meeting of Council.
- B.3 Committee recommends staff promote this.
- B.5 Committee reviewed the request for Road Safety Measures on Fourth Chute Road. Committee directed staff to review signage and speed limits changes to address the concerns.
- B.8 Committee has no concerns with the Comprehensive Zoning By Law for Killaloe Hagarty & Richards and directed CAO Annette Gilchrist to reply to KHR.
- B.9 Committee agreed to the request from the Ottawa Valley Cycling Active Transportation Alliance and will take this into consideration when roads are reconstructed.
- B.11 Committee reviewed the request from Bradley Law and the resolution to approve the consent for removal of a development agreement on the part lot affected by the lot addition on Skelley Road was recommended for approval.
- B.12 Committee supports the resolution regarding Ontario Veterinary College and directed staff to bring a resolution to the March 24 meeting of Council.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Mayor's Report – Since Mayor Murphy's last report she attended 17 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows;
- On February 3rd, Mayor Murphy, along with CAO Annette Gilchrist, attended the Water and Wastewater funding announcement in Pembroke. Four municipalities were the recipients of \$38 million from this fund. Bonnechere Valley secured just over five million dollars for the rehabilitation of John Street. Thanks to MPP Billy Denault and the Province for this investment in Bonnechere Valley.
- On February 5th, Mayor Murphy brought greetings and thanks on behalf of the County to the opening of the HART Hub at the Carefor facility in Pembroke.
- On February 5th, Mayor Murphy had the pleasure of having supper with the new managers of CNL. This was an excellent opportunity to engage with the staff of this company and learn how they will continue to be excellent stewards.
- On February 17th, Mayor Murphy attended the Empire Club in Toronto with members from the EOWC to hear Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Rob Flack, speak about the dream of homeownership in Ontario.

On February 26th, Mayor Murphy met with MPP Stephane Sarrazin regarding potential changes to the OMERS governance model.

On February 27th, Mayor Murphy brought thanks on behalf of the County of Renfrew to the announcement of the expansion of Highway 17. This was very exciting and welcome news.

On February 7th, the Mayor attended the opening ceremonies of the 50th Anniversary of the Bonnechere Cup. Despite the frigid weather, this was a very well attended event. On March 6th, she attended the Bernadette McCann House International Women's Day breakfast at the Eagles Nest. Special guest speaker was Sabine Mersmann, CEO of Pembroke Regional Hospital.

The Lisa Sharpe Memorial Hockey Tournament will be held at the arena on Sunday, March 22nd. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 21st beginning at the Geo Trail.

- (2) Library Update – Deputy Mayor Tracey Sanderson updated Committee on the many activities and initiatives taking place at the Bonnechere Union Public Library. Tracey shared their presentation and it will be posted on the Township's website. The children's and adults programming at the Library continues to be outstanding.

ESTABLISH NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 24, 2026.

MEDIA SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY Merv Buckwald

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 individuals Carried

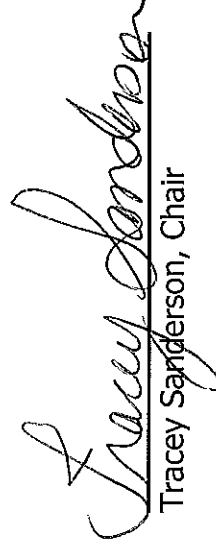
MOVED BY Merv Buckwald


THAT: Committee moves out of Closed Session at 3:13 p.m. to rise and report that Committee met to receive information and give staff direction regarding the Foymount Lookout and approved minutes from February 18, 2026. Carried

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY John Epps

THAT: The meeting adjourns at 3:13 p.m. Carried


Tracey Sanderson, Chair


Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk