

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY APRIL 22, 2025 1:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND VIA ZOOM
CONFERENCING**

PRESENT

Mayor Jennifer Murphy
Deputy Mayor John Epps
Councillor Merv Buckwald
Councillor Brent Patrick
CAO/Clerk Annette Gilchrist
Treasurer /Deputy CAO Sandra Barr

REGRETS

Councillor Tracey Sanderson

GALLERY

None

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, John Epps called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: the agenda be accepted, as amended, with the addition of Item 8.4 May 6, 2025 Meetings. Carried

Committee observed a moment of silence for the passing of Madawaska Valley Mayor Mark Wilmer.

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY Merv Buckwald

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on April 8, 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

DELEGATIONS None

Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship Recipient - Brian Weckwerth

Food Bank Volunteer Recognition - Doug Davies, Mary-Anne Essex, Paul Gillis, Geri McPhail, Gail Livitsantis, Thais Vega de Cordido & Herminio Cordido Absent - Madeline Moreau

REPORTS

Works & Waste Department

Jason Zohr, Works Superintendent was present and gave his report.
2024 Chevrolet 2500HD Silverado Pickup Truck - After conducting some market research regarding the purchase of new versus used pickup trucks. It is the recommendation for Council consideration that a sole-source purchase from Boyer Chev Buick GMC (Bancroft) Ltd for a 2024 Chevrolet 2500HD Silverado, 4WD, Double Cab Pickup Truck in the amount of \$78,949.04. Our recommendation is based on the research that this dealership is offering the best reduction in price and has the model in stock, ready for delivery. As we are now entering our busy Spring/Summer road maintenance season and a vehicle that we can have instantly would reduce the load of our staff. The insurance replacement amount is not yet determined but in the process of being finalized for the end of the month.

Works Department Report Received.

Recreation & Culture

Kevin McGrath, Manager of Recreation and Culture, was present and gave his report.

- a) The last day of ice was Sunday March 30th;
 - b) Figure Skating had a very good turnout for their end of the year show;
 - c) The Recreation Department had their summer students in for interviews. We have hired two students for the lawn maintenance positions, two for horticulture and two for the tourist centre. Their start dates will vary from about the end of April to the end of June;
 - d) Pembroke won the EHL finals, in 4 games;
 - e) Cimco Refrigeration was in to shut down the ice plant on March 31 and the ice was removed on April 1;
 - f) Minor Ball and Minor Soccer registration was held from April 7th to 9th;
 - g) Staff have installed two new toilets in change rooms;
 - h) On April 15, Prime Arena Services cleaned the Rink Boards;
 - i) On April 24, we have a fly-fishing practice rental on the ice surface;
 - j) April 30, we have the Renfrew County Artic Winter games on the ice surface;
 - k) The planter boxes from the bridge were taken to Gerbers Nursery;
 - l) Staff have started to take down all the banners and the lights were taken off the bridge. Staff put up the, 'We Stand with Survivors' Banner across the Bridge;
 - m) On April 27, we have the library fundraiser social tea party;
 - n) Mike waxed the Eagle's Nest floor for the new season;
 - o) Centennial Park - Spring clean-up has begun. The flags were changed;
 - p) Legion Field - Staff have a new aluminum bleacher for the ball field.
- Recreation Report Received.*

Finance

Sandra Barr, Treasurer/Deputy CAO, was present and gave her report.

- a) The March Income Statement was provided to Committee. The first two columns compare March 2025 to March 2024, column three is 2025 year to date, column four shows 2024 year to date, and the last two columns are the 2024 and 2023 Budget;
 - b) Taxes Receivable summary:

March 31, 2023	\$1,968,135.26
March 31, 2024	\$2,161,455.97 up \$193,320.71 from 2023 to 2024
March 31, 2025	\$2,349,257.10 up \$187,801.13 from 2024 to 2025
 - c) In 2024 133 tax certificates were completed at the request of Lawyers, at this time in 2025 40 tax certificates have been prepared;
 - d) On March 27, 2025 we received an OCIF instalment payment for 2025 for \$81,736.00, six installment payments per year;
 - e) On April 8, 2025 Iron Mountain attended the Municipal Office and shredded 25 bankers boxes from 2017 as per our Records and Retention By-law;
 - f) On April 16TH Annette and myself met with a representative from MPAC to go over some statistics and review some key features in their software Municipal Connect, that we use daily;
 - g) On April 16th Sandra met with staff members from MMAH to discuss our 2024 financial indicators;
 - h) On April 17th Sandra attended the virtual 1.0 hour meeting of Municipal Finance Officer Association discussion forum;
 - i) On April 22, 2025 the Township we received the second of four payments of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund;
 - j) The 2025 Annual Repayment Limit from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is included in your package. Our estimated annual repayment limit is \$812,617.
- Financial Report Received.*

Administration

Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk, was present and gave her report.

- a) Staff have been busy interviewing and filling vacancies as well as summer student positions;

- b) Meetings and data collection have begun on the water/wastewater cohort with LAS and AMO;
- c) The 2026 recycling transition work continues;
- d) The Treasurer and Annette attended the Renfrew County Clerks and Treasurers meeting on April 7th with a focus on Integrity Commissioner complaints, emotional intelligence, a county-wide emergency exercise and rural transit;
- e) Staff are also working on capital projects approved through grants or in principle to ensure all projects can be implemented, commenced or completed this year;
- f) The 2025 / 2026 insurance renewal is underway;
- g) Municipal Election training and meetings have begun across the province;
- h) Lake Clear Official Plan Amendment - The OPA was submitted to the County, and they are ready to send out notices. Committee recommends a meeting date of August 26th or 28th. Annette will ensure that the Eagles Nest is available and she will provide the dates to the County staff;
- i) Career/Job Fair 2025 - We had 17 students attend the event and 9 organizations participated. Sarah Richer was happy with the level of participation considering it was the Friday of March Break. Many of the students who attended were engaged and eager to learn about the possible job and career opportunities. Opeongo High School hosted a summer job fair during their lunch hour a few weeks later. This provided an opportunity for students to make multiple impressions with the organizations who attended both events. Thank you to all who attended;
- j) Easter Egg Hunt - Despite the rain, approximately 25 kids attended the easter egg hunt. We hid a total of 693 eggs. Meeting at the Geo-Trail entrance and walking over to McRae Park works well. Sarah will to continue this going forward. This reduced the risk of people showing up early and having to hold off the kids from starting early. Next year, Sarah will hide the empty plastic eggs and make treat bags for the easter bunny to hand out to ensure all kids get chocolate;
- k) Camp Smitty - Camp Smitty is hosting summer day camp once again. Registration is open and is available online this year. We have started advertising;
- l) Swim Program - Swim program registration is open. The program will run at the Lake Dore Swim Club again this year and is open to Bonnechere Valley, North Algona Wilberforce, Laurentian Valley, and Whitewater Region residents. As of April 10, 68 children were registered;
- m) BV Newsletter - The information call for the May and June newsletter went out early April. The newsletter will be distributed end of April;
- n) Pole Banners – Committee was provided with pole banner mock ups. Thirty (15 Canada 15 BV) banners will be ordered;
- o) Gerald Tracey Park Signs - Committee was provided with a mock up for the Gerald Tracey Park signs.
Administrative Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. April AMO Watchfile Reports
2. April AMO Policy Updates
3. AMO Health Democracy Event
4. Eastern Ontario Regional Network
5. Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus
6. County of Renfrew Construction Update
7. 2025 County of Renfrew Budget Overview
8. FCM Updates

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Installation issues with Accelerated High Speed Internet Project
2. Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers
3. Procurement and Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions
4. Municipal use of X
5. Health Unit Yellow Ribbon Campaign

(C) Correspondence "C"

B.2 Committee supports the resolution Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers and requested staff to bring a support resolution to the next meeting

B.5 Committee supports the Health Unit Yellow Ribbon Campaign

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Mayors Report – Jennifer Murphy updated Committee: Jenn spoke on Strong Mayor Powers, EORN, the 2025 Teeny Tiny Summit taking place next week in Picton, Ontario;
- (2)** Library Update - Brent Patrick updated Committee on the business of the Library. In March 2025 usage was 4324; internet usage of 2899; new patrons 15; total active patrons 1669. Their afternoon fundraising tea is Sunday April 27;
- (3)** Annual Integrity Commissioners Report – Our Integrity Commissioner received no requests for advice in 2024 under the Code of Conduct, relating to potential conflicts of interests either general or under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.
- There was one complaint submitted to the Integrity Commissioner for the Township of Bonnechere Valley in 2024. Reports were submitted to Council for no complaints, as the one complaint was dismissed. The reason for dismissing a complaint varies, but can include complaints that are not within the jurisdiction of the Integrity Commissioner, or that despite being within the Integrity Commissioner's jurisdiction, allegations that do not amount to a breach after undertaking a preliminary review of the facts.
- (4)** May 6 Meetings – Committee recommends cancelling the Committee and Council meetings scheduled for May 6.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 20, 2025 at 1:30 pm.

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 individual, including municipal employees

(k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations

Carried

MOVED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: Council moves out of Closed Session at 3:51p.m. to rise and report that Council met to receive information and give staff direction regarding nominations for senior of the year, fire truck update and approved minutes from March 4, 2025.

Carried

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 3:51 p.m.

Carried



John Epps, Chair



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk