

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY MAY 20, 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, Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED BY Merv Buckwald

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 April 22, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS **None**

REPORTS

Finance

- Sandra Barr, Treasurer/Deputy CAO, was present and gave her report.
- a) The 2024 draft financial statements from our Auditors, MacKillican and Associates were provided to Committee;
 - b) The 2025 Budget Presentation, 2025 Operating and Capital Budget By-law, and the 2025 Tax Rate By-laws were provided to Committee and are to go to tonight's Council Meeting for approval;
 - c) The April 2025 Provisional Budget Report was provided to Committee;
 - d) On May 2, 2025 the Township received our second OCIF payment in the amount of \$81,735;
 - e) On May 6, 2025 Sandra attended a 1.5-hour webinar with OMERS on upcoming changes to the management of the pension plan;
 - f) On May 8th the CAO and Treasurer met with our Commercial BMO Senior Relationship Manager Nicole Popke and Adam Barrett, Portfolio Manager;
 - g) For 2025 budget purposes, as per Ontario Regulation 284/09, a municipality may exclude from the budget, amortization expenses pertaining to tangible capital assets, post-employment benefit expenses and asset retirement obligations.

In developing its budget for the year 2025, Bonnechere Valley excluded unfunded post-employment benefits comprised of employee future vacation accrual costs, which at the end of December 31, 2024 amounted to \$106,516. It is estimated that the unfunded post-employment costs for 2024 in the amount of \$106,516 is representative of what the unfunded post-

employment benefits will be at the end of 2025. Bonnechere Valley also excluded unfunded asset retirement obligations from its budget for the year 2025. It is estimated that the unfunded asset retirement obligations, which at the end of 2024 amounted to \$3,514,219 is representative of what the unfunded asset retirement obligations will be at the end of 2025.

Any increase in post-employment expenses or asset retirement obligations at the end of 2025 will reduce the accumulated surplus.

At the end of December 2024, the accumulated surplus was comprised of:

Equity in tangible capital assets	\$33,123,499
Reserves	4,646,167
Equity in government business enterprise	914,865
Library Board	61,723
Unfunded - employee future benefit costs	(106,516)
Unfunded – asset retirement obligation	<u>(3,514,219)</u>
Total accumulated surplus	<u>\$ 35,125,519</u>

Recommendation:

WHEREAS for 2025 budget purposes, as per Ontario Regulation 284/09, a municipality may exclude from the budget, amortization expenses pertaining to tangible capital assets; post-employment benefit expenses and asset retirement obligations;

AND WHEREAS Council chose not to include amortization costs, post-employment benefit expenses for payout in a future year and unfunded asset retirement obligation;

AND WHEREAS a report must be presented to Council providing the 2025 impact of the excluded expenses from the budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council accept the following as excluded items from the 2025 Budget:

Amortization	\$1,958,402
Employee future benefit costs	\$ 106,516
Unfunded asset retirement obligation	\$3,514,219

Financial Report Received.

Administration

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

- a) Staff have been busy opening things up after winter and finalizing reports to the province for 2024 and getting many projects and events organized for implementation in 2025;
- b) It has been a month of many meetings for the CAO/Clerk including: Millers Waste regarding Recycling contracts for 2026 (more to come at a future council meeting) Algonquin College Collaboration Opportunities, Fairfield’s Board, Richard Innes checking in on how our Tourism Strategy is going, Municipal Housing Infrastructure Health and Safety Water Program Funding as we prepare to apply for John Street, EV charger contractors (more to come at June Council meeting), First Aid for Mental Health Training in Pembroke, Asset Management Consultants, Enbridge, AMCTO Zone 6, Election Group and Municipal Clerks II where Annette is teaching a course on Change Management and Annette is also preparing for presentations at AMCTO’s upcoming conference in Windsor;
- c) AMO Delegation Requests – Due May 30th, 2025 Annette Gilchrist proposes the following Minister Delegations for Council’s consideration.

- 1. Energy – May request a follow up meeting at the conference rather than another delegation regarding our upcoming contract.

2. Environment - to amend the legislation to allow for trucks older than 12 years and % to be used instead of separating ineligible. More cost efficient.
3. Transportation - request to take over connecting links similar to Hwy 174, DVP and Gardiner – We could also have this as a joint delegation with Renfrew and Laurentian Valley Pembroke and Madawaska Valley.
4. Infrastructure - to talk about denial of our John Street project and our resubmission (it was highlighted at AMO conference last year for gas tax use for studies)
5. Finance – Talk about 100% rebate of HST and need for continued support for infrastructure and services.
6. Solicitor General - ask to make policing reduction permanent. As we are taking on so many provincial responsibilities like homelessness and mental health through policing.
7. Municipal Affairs – Request Revisions and Consultations to Strong Mayor Powers.

Bill 5 and Bill 17 are interesting, but Annette is not confident on the impact for the Township or County. More research is needed therefore she did not recommend them for a delegation at this time.

Committee recommends requesting meetings for all seven of the delegations proposed. Committee recommends doing a joint delegation on #3 Transportation with the other partners, and a joint presentation on #6 Solicitor General Policing costs, and a joint presentation on #7 regarding Strong Mayors with Killaloe Hagarty & Richards Mayor and staff.

d) Murphy Shoreline Documents - Our lawyers conducted an updated search of title, and recommended an amendment be made to the attached 2014 By-law and Shoreline Alteration Agreement before it can be registered as the legal description is not correct. The By-law and Shoreline Agreement have been amended to show Mr. and Mrs. Murphy's property as being "Part Lot 21, Concession 13, Part 9, 49R17154 being PIN 57466-0491 (LT) in the former geographic Township of Sebastopol, now in the Township of Bonnechere Valley, County of Renfrew. By-Laws will be coming forward to tonight's meeting to make this amendment and repeal the 2014 By-Laws;

e) Raddatz/Zhang/Deng Zoning amendment - Attached to this report is the originally proposed Schedule A reviewed at the public meeting on April 22, 2025 and the Amended Schedule A revised by our Planners. The change is described as a slight reconfiguration of the parcel for consent B51/24 being rezoned from RU to RU-E25. The reconfigured parcel matches the required survey for the consent. It does not change the purpose or effect of the zoning amendment therefore there is no need to have another public meeting. The By-Law is coming forward to tonight's meeting for Council's consideration;

f) Canada Day - Fireworks, bouncy castles, face painting, music, and cupcakes have been booked. Enbridge reached wanting to sponsor activities in the community. Enbridge will be sponsoring the bouncy castles and rock-climbing wall for Canada Day, in the amount of \$6,750. Enbridge will provide some signs to have near the bouncy castles on Canada Day as well as one lawn sign for the tourist booth. Enbridge will also be acknowledged on our promotional materials for the event. We are also receiving \$6,000 from the Celebrate Canada fund. With grant funding and additional sponsorship, I would like to request increasing the \$250 Crafts and Games budget to \$500. This would allow me to purchase more outdoor games and supplies that we can reuse year after year.

Administrative Report Received.

Water & Sewer Department

Daryl Verch, Water & Sewer Manager, was not present. Report submitted.

- a) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;

- b) The coating contractor has 100% of the painting completed in the GAC filter compartments;
 - c) Each GAC pump was pulled and checked for leaks and new O-rings installed in the discharge couplers;
 - d) The filter water well was cleaned and disinfected then 24 hours later bacti samples were collected;
 - e) Continental Carbon were on site to disinfect the filter chambers and 24 hours later they installed the GAC filter media;
 - f) Building safety railings were completed for the room over the chlorine room;
 - g) Staff flushed the water main on John Street;
 - h) The Eganville Wastewater System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements as set out in the Certificate of Approval;
 - i) Staff opened the RV dumping station for the season on May 1st.
- Water & Sewer Report Received.*

Recreation & Culture

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

- a) We had Arctic Winter Games on April 30th, all Catholic Schools in Renfrew County took part. There were approximately 125 kids;
 - b) We have 7 bookings for the Eagle's Nest for the month of May;
 - c) Tourist Information Centre - The Tourist booth and sign are being painted blue for the Towns colours. The water is on, and the bathrooms are open for the May long weekend. Washrooms will be accessible from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm;
 - d) Centennial Park - The water is on, and the bathrooms are open for the May long weekend. We have started lawn and flower bed maintenance. We are prepping the park for the May 25th ceremony for Gerald Tracey. Mike has started working on the new tin roof for the Gazebo;
 - e) Legion Field - The Splash Pad will be turned on for first weekend of June. The nets have been installed for Pickleball. Grass cutting maintenance is ongoing with the soccer field and baseball diamonds. Opeongo Soccer will be using the soccer field Starting May 20th to mid-August. Minor Ball Games will start May 19th. Little league Ball will be starting end of May. Minor Soccer Start May 22nd
 - f) McRae Park - The water is on, and the bathrooms are open for the May long weekend. We have started lawn and flower bed maintenance;
 - g) Village - The planter boxes have been dropped off at Gerbers Nursery. The boxes will be ready to be installed on the bridge for mid-June. Benches will be place around town by the end of the month;
 - h) Opeongo Park - Playgrounds will be tilled later this month;
 - i) Foymount Park - We will clean up the Foymount tennis court, painting lines and installing a net. Playground will be tilled later this month.
- Recreation Report Received.*

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Employment Opportunity Equipment Operator/Labourer position. Staff conducted interviews and have hired a new Operator who will commence on June 3rd;
- b) Summer Student – Roads Department has hired one summer student currently. Jude Breen started on May 5th and will be assisting at both the Sand Road Waste Site and in our Public Works Department. A second summer student will join us towards the end of the June;
- c) Waste Site Summer Hours - May 16, 2025 this is the last day for Winter Hours for the Waste Sites. Summer hours begin at all the sites on May 17, 2025;
- d) Household Hazardous Waste Depot opens for the summer season on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The depot will be open ONLY on Saturdays from 9 am to 4 pm and will run until September 27, 2025;
- e) Sand Road Waste Site is closed on Monday, May 19, 2025 for the Victoria Day Holiday;

- f) Sno Drifters Waste Site will commence the Monday to Thursday hours of 8 am to noon beginning on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 as the 19th is a statutory holiday. The Monday to Thursday hours will be in effect until August 28, 2025. After the 28th of August the site will be open on Thursdays in addition to its Saturday scheduling;
- g) Change to Wednesday Hours at Ruby Road Waste Site - Currently the Ruby Road waste site is open on Wednesday from 1 pm to 3 pm during summer hours. Staff would like Council to consider a change to the Wednesday hours from 12 pm (noon) to 2 pm. The reason for this request is that our Ruby Road Waste Site attendant also works at the Sand Road Site on Wednesdays from 3-6 pm. The change would allow ample time for the waste site attendant to leave the Ruby site and go to Sand Road. It would assist when Sand Road opens that there are two attendants on site at all times. Since our proposed change in operating hours for Ruby remains within the 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. range set in the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA), we do not require additional authorization from the Ministry to make this change.
- h) Tender Closing for Winter Sand - The tender for the Supply, Hauling & Stockpiling of Winter Sand closed on May 1st. There were 3 tenders received. Staff Recommend the tender be awarded to R.J. Selle Sand & Gravel in the amount of the \$85,142.24 (including HST);
- i) Tender Closing for Hot Mix Asphalt - The tender for the placement of HL4 Hot Mix Asphalt on McGrath Road closed on May 7th. There were 5 tenders received. Staff recommend to award tender to Greenwood Paving in the amount of \$347,744.17 (including HST);
- j) Tender for ¾ ton 4x4 Double Cab Pickup Truck - We have a tender out for a Three Quarter ton 4x4 Double Cab Pickup Truck with Western Plow Harness Wiring and V Plow Controller. The closing date is Friday May 23rd;
- k) Tender for Gravel: We have a tender out for the Supply & Placement of Maintenance Gravel. The tender is due May 30th;
- l) New Plow Truck - Through the Canoe Procurement Group we have obtained a quote on a 2026 Freightliner chassis with Viking plow equipment, as supplied and installed by Gincor Industries. The net price is \$439,930 plus HST. (Full quotation provided to Committee as a separate attachment. The Canoe Procurement Group began as a way to help communities, access scarce resources has since evolved into a nationwide network that empowers members with streamlined procurement solutions. More than just better pricing, Canoe was founded on the principle of ensuring municipalities could get what they needed to serve their communities effectively, a mission that the Canoe Procurement Group continues today. The Roads Department was seeking Council Pre-Approval for the purchase of the new plow truck which would be financed through a bank loan as discussed at Budget Meeting. Committee directed staff to proceed with the purchase.

Works Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

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

- a) The Department had thirty five calls for service from January to April 2025;
- b) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
- c) There will be some junior firefighters graduating this year. We have enrolled three more, this provides some overlap as the graduating students will be mentoring the new juniors. Staff will continue to roll out the program in this fashion, filling the spots as they become vacant;
- d) Working with Hydro One on the possibility of invoicing for fire services when power lines are down;
- e) The first fire truck is in production with delivery by September of 2025. We have access to a link from the builder to view the progress. There are numerous warranties included. The second fire truck will arrive in March 2026.

Fire Department & Building Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile April 24
2. AMO Watchfile May 1
3. AMO Watchfile May 8
4. AMO Watchfile May 15
5. AMO Policy May 1
6. AMO Policy May 14
7. AMO Policy Prebudget
8. AMO Policy Budget
9. County Council Summary April 2025
10. FCM April 25
11. FCM April 30
12. FCM May 1
13. FCM May 6
14. FCM New Federal Cabinet1. AMO Policy - New Cabinet

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Elected Officials Forestry Tour - June 10, 2025
2. Notice from County of Renfrew OPA regarding Community Improvement Plans
3. Resolution regarding Carbon Tax
4. Resolution regarding exotic animals
5. Resolution regarding Bill 5
6. Resolution regarding Daylight Savings Time
7. Resolution regarding surveillance of Heavy Vehicles
8. Resolution regarding Salt Management
9. The Grind Sponsorship Request
10. Wieland Shore Request
11. Clee Road Request
12. Request from the Library
13. Closing of Victoria Street Block Party Request

(C) Correspondence "C"

- B.1 Mayor Murphy will attend the Elected Officials Forestry Tour - June 10, 2025
- B.10 Committee will not be leasing the land on Wieland Shore Road to McCullough this year however the home owners can request again next year.
- B.11 Committee did not agreed to the request for Clee Road to pay a portion of the survey.
- B.13 Committee agreed to the request to close Victoria Street for the Block Party on Saturday June 28, 2025 from 1pm to 4pm. Steet will be closed except to local traffic and emergency services.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1) Library Update - Brent Patrick updated Committee on the business of the Library;

- (2) Mayors Report – Since her last report, the Mayor has attended many meetings and several events;
- (3) Climate Change Action Plan Postcards – Jenn showed Committee the postcards and left them on her desk;
- (4) Notice of OPA Lake Clear – Notice was advertised in the Eganville Leader. The Public Planning meeting will be on Thursday August 21, 2025.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 3, 2025.

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 3:26 p.m.

Carried

Jennifer Murphy

Jennifer Murphy, Chair

Annette Gilchrist

Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk