

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY MAY 20, 2025 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 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

INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA:

None

25.062 MOVED BY

Brent Patrick

SECONDED BY

Merv Buckwald

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

25.063 MOVED BY

John Epps

SECONDED BY

Brent Patrick

THAT: The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 22, 2025 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

25.064 MOVED BY

John Epps

SECONDED BY

Brent Patrick

THAT: The minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on April 29, 2025 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

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

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

Correspondence "C"

25.065 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY John Epps

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 Report

25.066 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: Council direct staff to hold the cheque to Brian's Little Carpentry in the amount of \$5,398.84 until after a closed session is held on June 3rd, 2025 to discuss.

Carried

9.2 Request for Leave extension

25.067 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

WHEREAS section 259 of the Municipal Act provides that the seat of a member becomes vacant if the member is absent from the meetings of the council for three successive months without being authorized to do so by resolution of the council;

AND WHEREAS Councillor Sanderson last attended the Committee Meeting held on March 4, 2025;

AND WHEREAS Councillor Sanderson was first absent from Council on March 18, 2025 and has been absent since that date due to medical reasons;

NOW THEREFORE Be It Resolved That Council authorizes the absence of Councillor Sanderson to continue until September 2025 should she need this time to ensure a full recovery before she resumes her duties as a Member of this Council.

Carried

9.3 Resolution regarding Strong Mayor Powers

25.068 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

WHEREAS the Ontario government has proposed expanding the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation on May 1, 2025, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets, planning and operational decisions;

AND WHEREAS this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminish the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley;

1. Does not support the proposed strong mayor powers as currently outlined;
2. Strongly suggests that free reign of decision-making regarding hiring, firing, committees and so forth be removed from the proposed authority;
3. Strongly suggests that members of current Council were duly elected officials by citizens with the awareness of one vote per council member and majority votes are the democratic process;

4. Requests that the Provincial Strong Mayor Powers proposed to take effect on May 1, 2025, be deferred to allow for greater clarity and that the Province seek collaborative input from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Rural Ontario Municipal Association and the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario;
5. Directs staff to forward this resolution to Minister Flack, Premier Ford, MPP Billy Denault, AMO, ROMA and AMCTO;

Carried

9.4 Resolution to approve Unfunded Amounts in the 2025 Budget

25.069 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

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

Carried

9.5 Resolution to approve Financial Statements

25.070 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: The 2024 Financial Statements and the 2024 Financial Information Return from MacKillican & Associates be approved as presented.

Carried

9.6 Resolution to award Winter Sand Contract

25.071 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: The tender for the Supply, Hauling & Stockpiling of Winter Sand be awarded to R.J. Selle Sand & Gravel in the amount of the \$85,142.24 (including HST).

Carried

9.7 Resolution to award Hot Mix Asphalt Contract

25.072 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: The tender for the supply and placement of HL4 Hot Mix Asphalt on McGrath Road be awarded to Greenwood Paving in the amount of the \$347,744.17 (including HST).

Carried

9.8 Resolution to approve purchase of a 2026 Freightliner chassis with Viking plow equipment, as supplied and installed by Gincor Industries through Canoe Procurement Group

25.073 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: Council approve the purchase of a 2026 Freightliner chassis with Viking plow equipment, as supplied and installed by Gincor Industries through Canoe Procurement Group in the amount of \$439,930 plus HST.

Carried

CLOSED SESSION – NONE

BY-LAWS

25.074 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: By-Law 2025-022 Being a By-Law to authorize a shoreline closure and purchase Hodge

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

Carried

25.075 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

WHEREAS Pursuant to Section 34(17) of the Planning Act, Council has determined that no further public notice is required in respect to changes that were made to the proposed zoning by-law amendment after the public meeting of April 22, 2025;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: By-Law 2025-023 Being a By-Law to amend zoning by-law 2022-042 – Raddatz and Zhang Deng

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

Carried

25.076 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: By-Law 2025-024 Being a By-Law to amend zoning by-law 2022-042 – Marquardt

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

Carried

25.077 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: By-Law 2025-025 being a by-law to adopt the General Operating Budget and Capital Budget for 2025.
BE READ A FIRST TIME, BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME, BE DEEMED READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Carried

25.078 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: By-Law 2025-026 being a By-Law to adopt 2025 Tax Rates.

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

Carried

25.079 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: By-Law 2025-027 Being a By-Law to rescind By-Law 2014-039 and authorize the execution of a revised shoreline alteration agreement – Murphy

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

Carried

25.080 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: By-Law 2025-028 Being a By-Law to rescind By-Law 2014-040 and authorize the closing and purchase of shoreline road allowance - Murphy

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

Carried

25.081 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: By-Law 2025-029 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.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

25.082 MOVED BY Brent Patrick
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT: This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Carried



Jennifer Murphy, Mayor



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk