

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 18, 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 **Merv Buckwald**

THAT: the agenda be accepted, as presented. Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Brent Patrick**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on March 4, 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

DELEGATIONS **None**

REPORTS

Recreation & Culture

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

- a) The last day of ice is Sunday, March 30th. Staff will be removing the ice the following week;
- b) The U9 Jamboree Tournament was hosted at the arena on March 2nd;
- c) The Lisa Sharpe Memorial Tournament was held on March 16th;
- d) Figure Skating is hosting their Year End show on March 30th;
- e) There was Public Skating throughout the March Break. The turnout was successful with 40+ attendance;
- f) Summer student jobs have been posted, interviews will be after March 28th;
- g) The EHL is in the finals, with Pembroke playing off against Killaloe;
- h) The new mixer valve has been installed at the arena;
- i) There are lots of hall bookings for the Eagle's Nest for different events:
 - o International Women's Day Breakfast 8am – 12pm
 - o The Rotary Club pancake breakfast March 8th, 9am to 11am
 - o A Barn Quilt workshop March 11th & 13th
 - o Library Budget Meeting March 6th
 - o Bonnechere Valley Job Fair on Friday March 14th.
 - o Other events scheduled such as a birthday party and an Enbridge meeting
 - o EHL every Friday
- j) The Outdoor Rink closed for the season after the first week of March due to weather;

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

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

- a) The auditors were on site at the municipal office on February 20 & 21 working on Bonnechere Valley’s 2024-year end audit;
- b) Staff have been working on the draft 2025 budget preparing for the Budget Meeting scheduled for Thursday March 20, 2025. The budget binders were completed and ready for Council pick up on Thursday March 13, 2025;
- c) The February Income Statement was provided to Committee, to compare February 2024 to February 2025;
- d) On February 28, 2025 Sandra attended the virtual Municipal Finance Officer Association discussion forum;
- e) The 2025 interim tax billing were calculated and printed on March 3rd, 2025 and the bills were taken down to the Eganville Post Office on Tuesday March 4, 2025. The total bill was in the amount of \$3,620,199.43 with 3287 tax bills;
- f) On Monday March 3rd, 2025 Sandra virtually attended the Tax Policy Working Group meeting at the County of Renfrew.

Financial Report Received.

Administration

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

- a) Annette provided Committee with a report on our strategic activities for 2024 and planned activities for 2025;

MISSION To make our community an affordable, efficient place where people choose to live, work, visit and participate in a culture that fosters communication, rural lifestyle, personal growth, and healthy commerce.

VISION

- ☐ Stronger Community engagement and communication
- ☐ Move forward with infrastructure and asset management planning
- ☐ Responsible new development growth
- ☐ Preserve rural heritage and character
- ☐ Modernize service delivery for efficiency and stabilized taxes
- ☐ Support thriving business community

Objective 1: Provincial advocacy and grant opportunities

Key Strategic Actions	Specific Projects or Activities completed in 2024	Specific Projects or Activities planned for 2025
1. Secure > \$1M per year in grants	Received \$1.4M in unconditional grants and \$756,843 in conditional grants	\$1,609,200 Unconditional \$2,456,280 Conditional
2. Refine the lobbying strategies for each key audience and 3. Mayor & CAO to have an agenda when visiting conferences for	Multiple Delegations with Ministry of Energy to discuss EGC contract	ROMA Delegations with Ministries of Finance & Transportation and ongoing advocacy with Energy.

Objective 2: Maintain and modernize service levels

Key Strategic Actions	Specific Projects or Activities completed in 2024	Specific Projects or Activities planned for 2025
1. Adherence to AMP so that assets are not beyond repair \$\$\$	Zadow Road, Arena Compressor, GAC Media Filters for Water, Hydrants and Valves, Tiger brush head	Bonnechere Street, PW Trucks, post closure costs, hydrants, upgrades to water treatment system
2. Apply for grants that will help with promoting new best practices that other Municipalities are utilizing		EV chargers and ride share to proceed in 2025, upgrades to arena (waiting to hear on funding)
3. Digital strategy implemented: implement e-filing system \$\$	File Hold installed water and sewer on boarded	Admin, Rec, Fire on boarding.

Objective 3: Staffing and shared services

Key Strategic Actions	Specific Projects or Activities completed in 2024	Specific Projects or Activities planned for 2025
1. Continue to use the county as a resource	Continued Planning meetings	Planning and HR supports
2. Share services w/ neighbors(Fire Chief, Roads' Super, AdminStaff)	Swim Program with NAW and LV successful. Shared Asset Management consultant	Swim Program, AM, Fire agreement with Douglas being reviewed. SPCA Neuter Scooter.
3. Communication to promote Training Opportunities (co-op)	Junior FF program. Participated in many career fairs across the County.	Implement program with Algonquin College for summer students. Recreation and Admin both have Coop students who started in January 2025. Junior FF continues. BV hosting a career fair in March 2025.

Objective 4: Smart infrastructure

Key Strategic Actions	Specific Projects or Activities completed in 2024	Specific Projects or Activities planned for 2025
1. Road Needs Study -> Prioritize Road Upgrades \$\$\$	Using 2021 AMP and 2013 Road Needs Study	Using 2021 AMP and 2013 RNS.
2. Waste management using Circular economy \$\$	Signed agreement with CMO for 2025.	Working on a subcontract agreement with Millers who was awarded provincial RFP for all of Renfrew County.
3. Feasibility Study and Planning for Extension of Services	John Street is priority. Started some design work with JLR using Gas Tax \$.	Continue to apply for funding to further study needs and cost of services.

Objective 5: Enhance the BVT brand

Key Strategic Actions	Specific Projects or Activities completed in 2024	Specific Projects or Activities planned for 2025
1. Common look & feel for all muni properties & assets across BVT	Used common colour scheme in all ads and promotions and business cards	New Banners
2. Strategic Marketing & Comms Plan for BVT implemented \$\$\$	Using current business analysis and quick facts from 2021 and funding CIP	Work with County on CIP and Regional approach and funds. Prepare Welcome packages and review economic development web pages.
3. Improve our marketing assets/collateral (drone videos etc)	Shared AMO video of BV. Promote BV at local events across the County and Province.	Will be on EV apps once chargers are installed which will attract visitors looking to charge. Continue to promote BV at every opportunity.
4. Promote our lakes, rivers, and opportunities for all season sports	Membership with Ottawa Valley Tourism Association and Ontario Highlands who promote BV online for our trails and biking and lakes and rivers.	Will be included in our Welcome Packages. We will also continue our relationship with OVTA and OHTO.

- b) Annette provided Committee with an OPA application and amendment as proposed in JLR’s final report. Committee provided direction for staff to submit it to the County for approval;

- c) Career/Job Fair 2025 - We had 9 organizations signed up for the Ignite Interactive Career and Job Fair. We have encouraged those attending to bring any summer student job ads as well as an interactive component if possible. The following organizations were present:

- Royal Canadian Air Force
- Eganville & District Seniors
- Bonnechere Caves
- Algonquin College Community Employment Services
- County of Renfrew
- Enterprise Renfrew County
- ConnectWell Community Health
- Labour Market Group of Renfrew & Lanark
- Township of Bonnechere Valley
- Renfrew County Clerks and Treasurers Association

- d) Easter Egg Hunt - Preparations are underway for the Easter Egg Hunt. Staff have started advertising on social media as well as on the website;

- e) BV Newsletter - The March and April newsletter was distributed during the last week of February;

- f) Labour Market Group of Renfrew & Lanark – Committee was provided with the highlights from the Labour Market Group of Renfrew and Lanark 2024 Employer Pulse Survey;

Administrative Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. FCM Communiqué Feb 27
2. FCM Communique March 3
3. County Council Summary February 2025
4. FCM Communique March 6
5. FCM Ottawa Conference
6. AMO Policy Update
7. AMO March 6 Watchfile
8. AMO March 13 Watchfile
9. AMO Policy March 13

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Protecting Canadian Values Ban the Nazi Swastika in Canada
2. Motion to Request Landlord Tenant Reforms

(C) Correspondence "C"

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 8, 2025 at 1:30 pm.

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**
THAT: the meeting adjourns at 2:11 p.m.

Carried

John Epps, Chair

Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk