

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY JULY 15, 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 1:31 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 June 17, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

None

REPORTS

Water & Sewer Department

Daryl Verch, Water & Sewer Manager, was present and gave his report.

- a) The Eganville Drinking Water System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements;
 - b) Staff added 44 bags of filter sand media and twenty two bags of anthracite media to the four filter compartments;
 - c) Staff flushed hydrants;
 - d) Exercising main valves and doing directional flushing;
 - e) Replaced a fire hydrant on Queen Street;
 - f) Replaced two main valves on Queen Street and Wellington;
 - g) The Eganville Wastewater System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements as set out in the Certificate of Approval;
 - h) Staff checked the sanitary manholes.
- Water & Sewer Report Received.*

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Employment Opportunity Equipment Operator/Labourer position – The Department is looking for someone to join their team and had a deadline date of July 9th to accept resumes, 12 applications received, and two will be interviewed;
- b) Sanitation Assistant - With the retirement of John Valliquette we had a vacant position to fill as a Sanitation Assistant. Staff conducted interviews and

offered the position to Creg Mitchell who will assume the role beginning July 15th;

- c) Sno Drifters and Sand Road Waste Sites will be closed on Monday, August 4, 2025 for the Civic Holiday;
- d) Everline Line Painting came the evening of July 8th and repainted the stop blocks, road lines and parking stalls in the Village of Eganville. They will need to come back and touch up on John Street;
- e) Site Visit to view 2024 Freightliner – Jason Zohr conducted a site visit to Milton, Ontario to view the 2024 Freightliner rear-load garbage truck. We are currently in negotiations with the company to see if a deal can be reached;
- f) Waste Site Stats were provided to Committee. Traffic volume is up at all the waste sites. Committee recommends that staff ask users for their address to confirm property ownership.

Works Department Report Received.

Building & Fire Department

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

- a) The Department had fifty-five calls for service from January to June 2025;
 - b) Level One Fire Ban went on July 14, 2025;
 - c) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
 - d) There has been an increase in false alarm calls, multiple times at the same location. A draft False Alarm By-Law will be brought forward at the August Committee Meeting;
 - e) The first of the two new pumpers trucks is now in the paint shop. Delivery is still set for the first new truck in September 2025.
- Fire Department & Building Report Received.*

Recreation & Culture

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

- a) Arena - Canada Day celebrations were very successful. All our summer students have started now. Taste of the Valley is July 26th. Game On from the Community Resource Centre in Killaloe is hosting Day Camp on the ice surface from July 29-August 1;
- b) Eagles Nest - The Rotary Club held their Canada Day breakfast and had a great turn out for it. Authors Night will be held every Monday in July from the 7th to the 28th from 7 – 9 pm. There was a Babysitters Course on July 9th and Hydro One has a meeting on July 22nd;
- c) Rotary Beach – The Works Department added a load of sand to the beach and dragged it;
- d) Tourist Information Centre - Garden and grass maintenance continues. The weekly average number of visitors is 220 people (Tuesday – Sunday);
- e) Gerald Tracey Park - Garden and grass maintenance continues. The playground has been filled;
- f) Legion Field - Grass maintenance continues. Ball and soccer are finishing up their seasons. Minor Ball has their year-end games on July 23. Little League ball (competitive) is continuing. Opeongo soccer continues into August. There is a Show and Shine car show and Adult Baseball Tournament July 26th. The duck race was very successful. The funds raised are going towards a play structure which has been ordered to avoid the 2.5% increase in price that was expected July 1st. There is a 10–12-week delay. The total cost would be approximately \$25,000;
- g) McRae Park - Garden and grass maintenance continues;
- h) Village - Garden and grass maintenance continues. Farmers Market has seen good turnouts at the Museum. Madawaska Studio Tour Banner will be going up soon;
- i) Foymount - On July 3rd, the Works Department scraped the tennis court; Recreation staff cleaned up and repainted the lines. The playground was rototilled, and we cut around the Foymount sign as well as cleaned the garden.

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

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

- a) The July 10th, 2025 Provisional Budget Report along with the Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2025 was provided to Council;
- b) Continuing to work with our municipal software provider to get I-City Online available to our residents. The I-City Online Portal will allow residents to create an account and have the ability to be able to check their account balances and see their payments. Staff training is scheduled in August 2025;
- c) Attended an online information session with Board Members regarding the Police Service Board. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday August 11, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Killaloe Haggarty & Richards Township Office;
- d) Tax Adjustments Report - Background: Under Section 357 of the Municipal Act 2001, an application for an adjustment of taxes has been made for the following properties and an assessment report has been received by MPAC. We require Council approval for these adjustments. Sprague – Committee recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 441 A Cormac Road be approved due to fire. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$1520.66 be made to the property for 2025.

Finance Report Received

Administration

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

- a) Three AMO Delegations have been approved so far. Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks;
- b) Annette has attended multiple meetings which include LAS Water/Wastewater Cohort which meets monthly and I hope to be able to share with Council the outcomes once the work is complete;
- c) As Chair of the CAO group for Renfrew County, Annette was able to organize a cohort for Municipal Administration Program Unit 1. We have 20 participants registered and the cap is at 25. This will allow municipal employees to take this training and network with their colleagues across the county for a couple of hours twice a month from September to December. We hope to offer this to Algonquin Summer students next year as an attraction tool for the municipal sector;
- d) Annette has been working on the Elections Ontario portal to get ready for the 2026 election. MPAC is now only providing information on school boards;
- e) Request from the museum board for permission to make capital upgrades to the building. The Board needs to have permission prior to applying for an upcoming accessibility grant. The grant requires us to apply to make the entire building accessible. This would include renovations to the main floor bathroom, installation of an accessible door upstairs and a lift that would be installed on the exterior of the building for access to the upstairs. Committee approved the request in principal, but requested Annette to request more information on the grant before we provide them with a letter from the Township;
- f) A draft lease for the West Champlain Family Health Team was provided to Council. If approved in principle Annette will bring back with a by-law in August;
- g) We have had multiple requests regarding retaining walls within the Township. Annette researched other municipalities policies and provided Council with a proposed policy for the Township. Committee approved the draft in principle, and directed Annette to bring it back with a by law in August. This will assist Public Works in addressing these issues consistently;
- h) There are service level implications with the purchase of the new play structure at Legion Field. As our Strategic Plan states maintain and modernize current assets but limits unaffordable growth. As the Gerald Tracey Park structure will need to be replaced in the next 5 years Annette would like to recommend that instead of replacing what is there the township invests in something similar to Legion Field so that we have two play structures that are close to equal in value of what the one current one (ie two \$25k structures versus one \$50k instead of a \$25k and \$50k). This will keep our replacement

costs the same and just increase our maintenance service levels. If that is approved in principle that will be the recommendation for a future budget for Gerald Tracey Park play structure;

i) Annette included a draft letter regarding Fire Fighter Certification as directed the June 17th meeting for your review and approval before sending.

Committee approved the request;

j) We received a request regarding a new subdivision or possible condominium plan. Before the owners proceed with the County process, Annette wanted to discuss with Council the possibility of communal services and get an approval in principle if this is something we are willing to support. If not, then that gives the owner the information, they need to proceed in a direction that works with individual systems. Committee discussed the possibility of communal services. Committee did not support a communal system.

Annette Gilchrist will let the owners know so they can proceed in a direction that works with individual systems;

k) The Swim Program is up and running for the 2025 season. This year in partnership with North Algonia Wilberforce, we will be offering Aquafit lessons for adults/seniors at Rotary Beach. The Monday to Thursday Swim program has been temporarily moved to Eganville's Rotary Beach while Lake Dore is being tested for algae.

Administrative Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. Deputy Minister's Letter - Building Code Act Amendment
2. June MOH Report to the Board
3. AMO Watchfile June 19th
4. AMO Watchfile July 3
5. AMO Watchfile July 10
6. AMO Policy Update
7. AMO 2024 Annual Report
8. County of Renfrew Construction Update
9. County Council Summary June 2025
10. FCM Voice
11. FCM Communiqué
12. Notice of Official Plan Meeting regarding Lake Clear
13. EORN June Update
14. ROMA Board Update

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Support for Increased Canadian Disability Benefit
2. Support for raising OW and ODSP Support Programs
3. Support to increase income thresholds for Veterans
4. Letter of Support - Call for inclusive research to reflect diversity of Canadian communities
5. Request for Community Garden
6. Request from Toy Bus
7. Bonnechere Cup Request

(C) Correspondence "C"

B.3 Committee recommends a support resolution to increase income thresholds for Veterans to come back to the August meeting of Council;

B.5 Committee recommends support of the request for Community Garden in Foymount.

B.6 Committee recommends support of the request from the Toy Bus and waived the rental fee of the arena ice surface for August 28th from 9:30am - 12 pm.

B.7 Committee recommends support of the request from the Bonnechere Cup to waive to hall rental fee for their 50th celebration on Thursday February 5, 2026.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) Mayors Report – Since Mayor Murphy’s last report in March, I attended 71 meetings and several events. Some of the highlights are as follows.

County Council - The County is doing an exceptional job at communication, including our monthly County Council report and the construction updates also included in today’s package. Of note, Ruby Road and Opeongo construction is underway and County Road 512 (Foymount Road) tender for rehabilitation from Highway 41 to Silver Lake Road was approved at a special meeting of Council. All of these projects represent major investments in Bonnechere Valley.

ROMA - Prior to the ROMA Board meetings, the Board attended the AMO Healthy Democracy symposium. The Healthy Democracy Project represents a four-year, \$1 million initiative aimed at enhancing municipal democracy by boosting diverse candidates.

The two-day forum, attended by 154 participants including elected officials, municipal staff, youth, and civil-society partners from 82 organizations, aimed to:

- Discuss and reduce barriers to running for local office
- Rejuvenate youth participation
- Explore strategies for civil and respectful civic discourse
- Launch new engagement tools and partnerships

ROMA’s June Board meeting was held in Chair Christa Lowry’s community of Mississippi Mills on June 12th and 13th. These annual on-location meetings offer ROMA Board members the opportunity to learn more about the diverse needs of rural communities, and to find common ground on shared interests. At our Board meeting, we met with local businesses regarding the on-the-ground impacts of global economic turmoil. It also heard from Lanark County on their highly collaborative process to create a Community Safety And Wellbeing Plan.

Proactive Advocacy with Rural Affairs Minister Lisa Thompson

- The Board held their first meeting with the Minister of Rural Affairs, Lisa Thompson, since the provincial and federal elections.
- It was a productive conversation, as ROMA emphasized its desire to work collaboratively with the Minister to promote the long-term economic resilience of Ontario’s rural communities, and sought the Minister’s leadership in addressing rural municipal fiscal sustainability.
 - The Board emphasized rural municipalities’ capacity and commitment to support the province and federal government in their economic development and resiliency strategies.
 - It also raised the impacts of trade disruption and tariffs locally, including on the cost escalation for infrastructure projects.
 - The Board highlighted the ongoing need for a social and economic prosperity review, to fix the broken provincial-municipal fiscal framework. Rising OPP costs on top of municipal spending in areas of provincial responsibility – health, homelessness and social services – reduce municipalities’ ability to fund core municipal services and infrastructure.

- Minister Thompson thanked ROMA for its work and the Board's ability to bring a rural perspective to the provincial table. She expressed broad support for further discussions on how the province and municipalities could work together on a provincial-municipal fiscal review, including discussion with Minister Flack. The Minister also asked for the Board's participation in her rural summits later this year.
- The Minister committed to ongoing communications with the Board and rural municipalities, including a quarterly newsletter highlighting funding opportunities for local governments and small businesses.

Busy Provincial Legislative Agenda

- This spring, the province introduced about a half dozen bills with significant impact on municipal governments. AMO and ROMA continue to monitor and provide submissions on legislation that range from expedited planning approvals and Planning Act and Municipal Act exemptions to changes to the development charge regime, codes of conduct and homelessness encampments enforcement.
- OPP Billing Review -The Ministry of the Solicitor General recently announced a review of the OPP cost-recovery model. The review should be completed before the next 2026 annual billing cycle. AMO is working closely with SOLGEN on this review and will emphasize the broader need to reform the provincial-municipal fiscal relationship.
- Broadband - It does not appear that the province will meet its 2025 target. AMO and ROMA will continue to communicate to the province that municipalities share its priority to roll out high-speed internet to all Ontarians quickly, and are doing all they can to make fast, responsible installation happen in their communities, working with ISPs.
- Tariffs - AMO recently provided materials and supportive resources for municipalities to help the sector understand the impact of trade disruption and tariffs, including on local communities and on their infrastructure projects. Resources are available here: infrastructure, tariffs and trade, including a modeling tool and webinars. <https://www.amo.on.ca/policy-category/finance-infrastructure-and-economy/tariffs-and-trade>

Developing a Rural Infrastructure Advocacy Strategy

- Rural Ontario's population has grown significantly since 2021, putting further strain on municipal infrastructure. Funding for this infrastructure is inadequate – it's often one-time funding, involving lengthy and competitive application processes, often dependent on achieving new housing starts.
- ROMA is working with the AMO Policy team to develop a new rural infrastructure advocacy strategy to build a case for a better municipal-provincial funding arrangement across the province. Stay tuned for more information on this work.

EORN - The EORN cell gap project was provided to Committee. Rogers and their subcontractors are making significant progress across Renfrew County. In Bonnechere Valley, two new uplifts are now in service—one in Eganville and another at Constant Lake. A co-location site on Janet Road is also operational. In addition, five new Rogers towers have been constructed, with four currently in service. These active sites include Opeongo Road at Klondike, Corrigan Road at Silver Lake, Boldt Road at Donegal, and Perrault Road. The fifth site, located at O'Connor Road and Wolfe Road, is scheduled to be in service in 2026.

RCDHU - Dr. Morganstern's report is in our Correspondence.

Other Items - At our June 25th County Council meeting, Mayor Jennifer Murphy was pleased to announce that she is running for Warden of the County of Renfrew for the 2025–2026 term. With three prior terms as Warden, she believes she brings proven experience, steady leadership, and a deep commitment to the people of Renfrew County. Jennifer thanked current Warden Peter Emon for keeping her well-informed on the many initiatives underway. Jennifer is looking forward to continuing the momentum

of all endeavours and earning the support of County Council to build on the solid foundation he has helped to shape.

On April 5th, Jennifer attended the Easter Egg Hunt. Despite the weather, the kids had a blast! Thanks to Sarah, Annette and Gabe for organizing this event.

On April 27th, Mayor Jennifer Murphy, along with Deputy Mayor Epps, attended the BUPL Tea.

On May 13th, Mayor Jennifer Murphy attended the Renfrew and Area Chamber of Commerce breakfast at Mataway Park. Jennifer spoke about the EORN progress and Strong Mayor Powers.

On May 17th, Mayor Jennifer Murphy attended the Clothing Bank to greet the Canadian "Lightening McQueen", which is a car from the animated movie "Cars".

On May 24th, Mayor Jennifer Murphy attended the Bottle Drive at the Beer Store which was raising money for leukemia.

On May 30th, I welcomed, on behalf of the EORN Board, Associate Minister Sam Oosterhoff to Belleville to meet with our small Internet Service Providers to listen to challenges they are experiencing with other internet/broadband projects.

On June 5th, Jennifer attended the Echo Centre to congratulate the multitudes of Volunteers on their work throughout the year.

On June 7th, I attended the Night Market at the Museum and visited all of our businesses that remained open so that residents and visitors could experience our amazing Village. Thanks to the Museum Board and Bonnechere Inspired for organizing this very well attended event.

On June 10th, Jennifer, along with many elected and staff, participated in the County of Renfrew Forestry Tour. On this tour they attended Roseburg Forestry Products in Laurentian Valley, our County Forestry tract in Beachburg and Heideman's Lumber. This tour was extremely interesting and gave all the attendees a greater understanding of the importance of forestry in our area.

On June 21st, Jennifer attended the National Indigenous Peoples Day at the bandshell in Gerald Tracey Park.

On June 28th, Jennifer attended the Truck and Tractor Pull at Snodrigfers.

On June 28th, Jennifer attended the Block Party on Victoria Street. This was a great afternoon and the organizers are already planning for a bigger event next summer.

On Canada Day, Jennifer attended the Rotary Breakfast, the set-up for the Duck Race, and welcomed the scavenger hunt participants to the Museum and then gave out cupcakes. In the afternoon, I was at the arena and announced the Duce Race. Thanks to all staff that made this possible and to the EACDG, Rotary and Volunteers for a very successful Duck Race. The proceeds, along with a donation from Rotary, will be used for our new play structure at Legion Field.

On July 7th, Jennifer attended Killaloe Wood Products (in Bonnechere Valley), to welcome Associate Minister Kevin Holland who brought the announcement of \$900,000 to KWP for a biomass project.

On July 12th, Jennifer attended the Golden Lake Property Owners' AGM at the Makwa Centre.

On July 14th, Jennifer attended the Western Mayors' breakfast at the Wilno Tavern, with Mayor Valerie Jahn of BLR, Mayor Dave Schulist of Madawaska Valley, Mayor James Brose of NAW and Mayor Dave Mayville of KHR.

- (2) Library Update - Brent Patrick updated Committee on the business of the Library;
- (3) Augsburg Road Subdivision Proposal – Committee discussed the possibility of communal services. Committee did not support a communal system. Annette Gilchrist will let the owners know so they can proceed in a direction that works with individual systems;
- (4) Draft Letter Regarding Fire Fighter Certification – Committee approved Annette's draft letter.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday August 12, 2025.

MEDIA SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: Committee proceed in Closed Session in accordance with the Municipal Act 2001, section 239.2 to deal with the matters as indicated below:
(e) litigation or potential litigation
Carried

MOVED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: Council moves out of Closed Session at 3:25 p.m. to rise and report that Council met to receive information and give staff direction regarding an invoice from Brian's Little Carpentry and approved minutes from June 3, 2025.
Carried

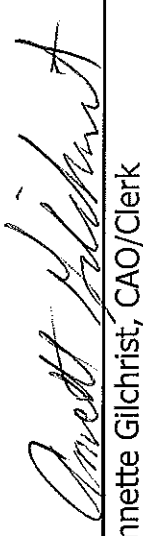
CONCLUSION

MOVED BY Brent Patrick

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 3:25 p.m.

Carried


Jennifer Murphy, Chair


Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk