

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY AUGUST 12, 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 Tracey Sanderson
CAO/Clerk Annette Gilchrist
Treasurer/Deputy CAO Sandra Barr

REGRETS

Councillor Brent Patrick

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 **Tracey Sanderson**

That: The agenda be accepted, as presented.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on July 15, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

William MacDonald proposed an additional crossing and speed limit reduction on Bonnechere Street West (Connecting Link Highway 60 & 41). Committee directed staff to research other options and bring the information back to Committee.

REPORTS

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) Danny Monette retired from the Public Works Department after 25 years of service. The Department thanks Danny, for his hard work, passion and everything he’s done for the community and the municipality for over the past 25 years;
- b) The Public Works Department would like to welcome Grayson Spence to our Bonnechere Valley Team. Grayson started with our department on July 28, 2025 in the role of an Equipment Operator/Labourer. Thomas Letang was also hired in the role of an Equipment Operator/Labourer, he started August 5, 2025;
- c) Sno Drifters Monday to Thursday Hours - The Monday to Thursday hours at the Sno Drifters Waste Site will end on Thursday, August 28, 2025. It will be open on Thursday in conjunction with Saturdays beginning September 4th for the months of September and October. The Thursday hours will be 12 pm (noon) to 2 pm;
- d) Sand Road Waste Site will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2025 for Labour Day;
- e) Bell Street Sidewalk Replacement Project - J. Wilson Paving commenced the Bell Street Sidewalk Replacement project on July 23, 2025. The sidewalk is in place and we are just waiting on asphalt to complete the project;

- f) Hot Mix Asphalt Project on McGrath Road - Greenwood Paving commenced the hot mix asphalt project on McGrath Road on July 23, 2025. The project is now complete;
 - g) Winter Sand - R.J. Selle Sand & Gravel Ltd has completed supply and deliver of winter sand to the various locations as identified in the awarded tender;
 - h) Rehabilitation of Hwy 60 Project - A total of four tenders were received for the Rehabilitation of Hwy 60 (Connecting Link). Committee recommends that the contract be awarded to Cavanagh Construction for a total of \$1,667,000.00 plus HST \$216,710.00 for a total of \$1,883,710.00;
 - i) Garbage Truck – The final negotiated price is \$256,000 plus HST. Committee recommends that we purchase the 2024 Freightliner from BTR Truck Rentals in the amount of \$256,000 plus HST.
- Works Department Report Received.*

Water & Sewer Department

Darryl 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 preforming locates for residents to carry our repairs;
 - c) Staff continuing to flush water hydrants;
 - d) Exercising main valves and doing directional flushing;
 - e) Repaired and extended four service boxes;
 - f) The Eganville Wastewater System continues to operate in full compliance with all requirements as set out in the Certificate of Approval;
 - g) Staff continuing to check the sanitary manholes;
 - h) Cleaned the grit out of the four pumping stations;
 - i) Staff installed two more bollards at the North Side Pumping Station, residents were parking so close to the bollards staff could not get the door open.
- Water & Sewer Report Received.*

Building & Fire Department

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

- a) The Department had sixty-one calls for service from January to July 2025;
- b) Level Two Fire Ban went on August 11, 2025;
- c) Fire fighter recruitment is ongoing;
- d) Draft false alarm by-law was provided to Committee for review and consideration. Darryl will bring more statistics back to Committee for further review.

Fire Department & Building Report Received.

Recreation & Culture

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

- a) Fire extinguishers at arena were inspected;
- b) Staff added a fresh coat of paint on the bleachers, on the Olympia room floor and the benches in rooms 6 & 7;
- c) Community Resources held their week Day Camp at the arena and they had a great turn out;
- d) Taste of The Valley on July 26th had an excellent attendance, with an estimate of over 1500 people visiting;
- e) The windows overlooking the rink were cleaned and the border was freshly painted;
- f) The Gun Show is being hosted at the arena on August 16th and 17th;
- g) The ice for the winter season will begin on Monday, September 8th with Cimco coming to start up the plant;
- h) Toy Bus Graduation was held at the Eagle's Nest on August 28th;
- i) Rotary Beach – Staff installed the ladder on the raft and placed buoys for the swim program;
- j) Tourist Information Centre - There are many people stopping in at the Centre on a regular basis. The most frequently requested information is about the Bonnechere Caves;

- k) Gerald Tracey Park - Music in the Park has had good attendance so far. The last session of the summer is Friday, August 22nd, with the Friends of Guy Jamieson – A Ceilidh Gathering. Staff put a fresh coat of paint on the gazebo and cleaned out and mulched the garden that was created in honour of sexual assault survivors;
- l) Legion Field - Both soccer and ball have finished their seasons. Soccer held a year end event with bouncy castles. The Museum held the Wheels in the Park car show on July 26th. The Legion Field sign is freshly painted with red, black and a white background to honour Veterans. The Tour de Bonnechere cycling event takes place on Sunday, August 24th;
- m) Village - The banner for the Madawaska Valley Studio Tour will be put up the week of August 11th. The planters around the village continue to be maintained by the horticultural students. Grass maintenance continues at all the parks in the municipality. All summer students will be finished by August 22-29.

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

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

- a) The August 7th, 2025 Provisional Budget Report along with the Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2025 was provided to Council;
- b) On July 21, 2025 the Township received our third quarter OMPF installment for 2025 of \$402,300;
- c) On July 24, 2025 the Township received our 4th OCIF installment for 2025 of \$81,735;
- d) Only July 24, 2025 the Township received our 1st CCBF installment for 2025 of \$63,830;
- e) On July 31st Sandra calculated forty seven 2025 property tax P.I.L. Billing in the amount of \$64,452.34;
- f) On August 1st Sandra calculated the 2025 property tax Final Billing in the amount of \$3,967,471.10 and the bills were taken down to the post office to be mailed out at the end of the day on August 1, 2025;
- g) Calculated and billed out three property tax Supplemental tax billing in the amount of \$49,065.43;
- h) Calculated and billed out five 2025 property tax Write Off's in the amount of \$12,966.85;
- i) Killaloe OPP Detachment Board Update – the first Board meeting took place on Monday August 11, 2025 in Killaloe. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday November 17, 2025.

Finance Report Received

Administration

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

- a) Annette completed the three AMO Delegation Briefs for our meeting with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks;
- b) Annette attended multiple meetings which included LAS Water/Wastewater Cohort which meets monthly and she hopes 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 25 participants registered;
- d) The Township has draft agreements with Millers Waste for Collection in the Village and Annette added them to a closed session for review as part of our recycling transition;
- e) The Electric Vehicle Chargers have been ordered for Whitewater, North Algona Wilberforce and Bonnechere Valley Townships. The Tender for the Vehicles are part of today's package for approval;
- f) Electric Vehicles for the Rural Transit Fund - We received two tenders. Unfortunately, one was late and was received after the opening had already occurred and therefore cannot be considered. The remaining tender submission is attached. The following recommendation will come to Council

this evening for consideration. Committee recommends That we purchase three 2026 Chevrolet Equinox in the amount of \$158,389.50 plus HST. And further that the purchase is funded 80% by the RTSF and the 20% portion is being funded equally between the 3 participating municipalities;

- g) Driftscape - "Enhance your destination with interactive maps, mobile tours, business directories, and gamified visitor experiences—tailored to your goals. Our platform makes it easy to connect with visitors, drive local spending, and showcase cultural stories." <https://www.driftscape.com/>. In the past, we looked into something similar but had not received funding to be able to pursue it. There would be an annual fee for the service of \$4775.20. Council agreed to a presentation from a Driftscape representative to see if they are interested;
 - h) Youth Summit - The planning committee met again in July. Logo contest submissions close on July 30th. The planning committee is meeting July 31st to pick the winner.
- Administrative Report Received.*

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile July 17
2. AMO Policy July 18
3. AMO Watchfile July 24
4. AMO Watchfile July 31
5. AMO Watchfile Aug 7
6. County-Construction-Update - August-2025
7. EOWC July Newsletter
8. EORN Cell Gap Project Monthly Update July 2025
9. ROMA Communication

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Opposition to Bill 17
2. Opposition to Battery Energy Storage System Facility
3. Blue Box Producers Responsibility Resolution re: Non-Eligible Sources
4. Support for AGFO Soil Report Recommendations
5. Opposition to the Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers
6. Opposing the Transportation and Disposal of Niobium Tailings at ALTMA
7. Letter of Support Bill C-2
8. Neighbouring Township Notice to Public Bodies
9. Support for Elect Respect
10. Petition - Verch Road
11. Follow up to Proposals for challenges facing small rural and northern communities
12. Resolution regarding Procurement and Advocacy of Trade Agreement Exemptions
13. Request to close and purchase a portion of road allowance

(C) Correspondence "C"

- B.10 Committee directed staff to research the costs of paving Verch Road request and bring back the information to Committee.

B.13 Committee agreed in principle to the request in principal from Wayne Drouillard to close and purchase a portion of road allowance.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(1) Mayors Report – Since Mayor Murphy’s last report she attended 11 meetings and a few events. Some of the highlights are as follows.

No County Council meeting is held in July.

Highway 512/Foymount Road construction is scheduled to begin on August 11th. It will be restricted to one lane during rehabilitation.

ROMA - The ROMA Board met on July 18th and the ROMA report is in your package. Planning is already underway for our January ROMA Conference. Work has begun on rebranding; however, the first renderings did not fully capture the Board’s vision. Revised proofs of our new logo will be presented in September.

During the meeting, a Board member shared that a municipality in his Zone had received \$18,000 for a housing project expected to cost millions. This amount would not even cover planning expenses. Mayor Murphy has spoken with the Warden about raising this with the Province, encouraging them to concentrate grant funding in fewer municipalities so that projects can move forward in a meaningful way rather than diluting funds across too many recipients.

EORN - The EORN Board met on August 5th. Mayor Murphy advised the Board that if she is successful in her bid for Warden, she will step down as Chair of EORN.

RCDHU - The Board did not meet in July.

OTHER – Mayor Murphy is looking forward to the AMO Conference and a huge thank you to CAO/Cler Annette Gilchrist for providing briefs for our delegations. There are also several County delegations that she will be attending.

EVENTS - On July 23rd, – the Mayor had the honour of presenting Paul and Colleen Prince with certificates recognizing their decades of dedication to our Soccer Club.

On July 26th, the Mayor attended Taste of the Valley at the arena which was a tremendous success, drawing over 1000 visitors to Bonnechere Valley. My thanks to the County and to our staff for organizing such a wonderful event.

On July 26th, the Mayor attended Wheels in the Park at Legion Field. With over 90 entries and hundreds of attendees, this event was spectacular. Congratulations to the Bonnechere Museum and the Bonnechere Inspired team for planning such a fantastic event, and Jenn thanked them for naming her an honorary judge!

On August 2nd, the Mayor attended the Museum’s smudging ceremony to launch the Bonnechere Inspired Tour, then travelled across the Township to visit vendors. Thank you to Bonnechere Inspired, our vendors, hosts, and everyone who took part.

This morning, CAO/Clerk Annette Gilchrist and Mayor Murphy, attended the celebration of life of Raye-Anne Briscoe, who was a politician for decades, Annette’s former Mayor, and a mentor to me at County Council.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday September 2, 2025.

MEDIA SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY **Tracey Sanderson**

THAT: Committee proceed in Closed Session in accordance with the Municipal Act 2001, section 239.2 to deal with the matters as indicated below:
(k) A position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations
Carried

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**

THAT: Council moves out of Closed Session at 3:31 p.m. to rise and report that Council met to receive information and give staff direction regarding contract negotiations with Miller Waste and approved minutes from July 15, 2025.
Carried

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Tracey Sanderson**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 3:32 p.m.
Carried



John Epps, Chair



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk