

**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY  
MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY JUNE 17, 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 Brent Patrick**

**That:** The agenda be accepted, as presented with the addition of Item #8.3 Mayor's Report. Carried

**PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY Merv Buckwald**

**That:** The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on June 3, 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) Arena – Staff are beginning to rent the ice surface for ball hockey birthday parties. Enbridge is sponsoring a rink board on the ice surface;
- b) Eagles Nest - There are 6 hail rentals this month;
- c) Tourist Information Centre - Garden and grass maintenance continues. The Tourist Centre is open only on weekends but will be operating Tuesday - Sunday from 9am – 5pm starting on June 27th, 2025. On Wednesdays and Thursday's, it will be open until 9PM for music in the park. Temperate Garden has planted the island in front of the tourist booth;
- d) Gerald Tracey Park - Garden and grass maintenance continues. Light posts are being fixed and put back up along the path in the park. The swing set posts have been repaired. The bandshell is being rented out June 21<sup>st</sup> for National Indigenous People's Day. Music in the park begins June 21<sup>st</sup>. Mike completed the roof on the gazebo;
- e) Legion Field - Grass maintenance continues. Ball and soccer are in full swing. There is a Cobden Elementary Baseball Tournament on June 11<sup>th</sup>. There is an adult baseball tournament on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The schools and daycare are making use of the Splash Pad;
- f) McRae Park - Garden and grass maintenance continues;
- g) Village - Garden and grass maintenance continues;
- h) The planter boxes will be placed on the bridge the week of the 16<sup>th</sup>;

- i) Staff worked with the Works Department and Bruce Pole to change the banner on the bridge and put up Canada flags;
- j) The Welcome to Eganville Hill and the cement planters around town have been planted by the Horticultural Society;
- k) Lake Clear - Staff placed the buoys out at Wieland Shore and Buelow Beach. Staff whipper snipped around the beach and outhouse;
- l) Museum - Staff put the Pride Flag up for National Pride Month;
- m) The Farmer's Market was well attended June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>;
- n) Fountain in Bonnehore River above the dam – The Township shipped the fountain to a company for an estimate to repair the fountain. They are not able to repair the light kit unfortunately as the internal wires are too short to work with. A new light could be purchased but it would cost approximately \$3,867.94 as they are affected by the current retaliatory Canadian tariffs. Kasco is coming out with an updated light kit that should be less expensive next season. For now, they have removed the current light kit so that it would not cause any problems with tripping the GFI unnecessary. Committee recommends that staff further investigate a new fountain and bring the information back to Committee in September.

*Recreation Report Received.*

## **Finance**

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

- a) The June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Provisional Budget Report along with the Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2025 was provided to Committee;
- b) On May 15, 2025 Sandra and CAO/Clerk Annette Gilchrist attended an AMCTO Zone 6 meeting in Brockville. Sandra reported that this was an engaging and informative session;
- c) On May 21, 2025 the Township received our third OCIF payment in the amount of \$81,735;
- d) From June 8 – 11, 2025 Sandra Barr attended the Association of Municipal Clerks and Managers Conference, along with CAO/Clerk Annette Gilchrist. Sandra attended sessions on the following topics: Plugging Holes in the Finance Department, Managing the Double Digits, Strong Mayor Powers, Municipal Case Law Updates, Sustaining Authentic Teams, 2026 Municipal Elections, and a Presentation by Rick O'Connor on Delegations;
- e) On June 13, 2025 Sandra attended a 1 hour virtual Municipal Finance Officer Association discussion forum for populations under 10,000;
- f) Processed payroll 1 of 2 for the volunteer firefighters;
- g) On June 18, 2025 Sandra will be attending a virtual information session with Graham Wright, Police Services Advisor, and the members that have been appointed to the Killaloe Police Service Board, as well as staff members from the respective Townships;
- h) Tax Adjustments Report - 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. Staff requires Council approval for these adjustments.  
Felhaber - Committee Recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 33542 Highway 41 be approved due to fire. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$1135.19 be made to the property for 2025.  
Skelly - Committee Recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 35 Sheedy Lane be approved due to a demolition. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$325.19 be made to the property for 2025.  
McCormack - Committee Recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 1182 Perrault Road be approved due to fire. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$2457.88 be made to the property for 2025.  
Verch - Committee Recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 1176 Minnie Road be approved due to fire. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$2493.11 be made to the property for 2025.

Armstrong - Committee Recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 124 Billena Way be approved due to a demolition. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$325.19 be made to the property for 2025.

Tubby - Committee Recommends that the application for an adjustment of taxes for 128 Queen Street be approved due to a fire. And further that an adjustment of taxes in the amount of \$553.56 be made to the property for 2025.

#### *Finance Report Received*

#### **Administration**

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

- a) The insurance renewal was provided to Committee for information and review;
- b) The lease for the West Champlain Family Health Team was provided to Committee, it expires August 2025;
- c) Rural Transit Solutions Fund – Canada's Ministry of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities – In 2023, the Township of Bonnechere Valley approached staff of Whitewater Region and North Algina Wilberforce to seek interest in participating in a joint funding application to the Rural Transit Solutions Fund being administered by Canada's Ministry of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities. The quotes obtained in 2023 have increased. The recommendation is to proceed with the project despite the increase of \$65,133.

The original joint application supported a federal government investment of up to \$387,302 in the project which each participating municipality contributing \$43,792, over a three-year period (total project cost ± \$519,128). The acquisition of one (1) electric vehicle and two (2) charging stations for each participating municipality. The partnering municipalities contribution to the project, representing 20% of the eligible cost (noted above) and the non-eligible cost (maintenance, hydro, permitting, insurance) represents \$131,376, being \$43,792 each. The cost to implement the project as planned has now increased to \$584,286 requiring a contribution of \$196,984 or \$65,653 per municipality. \$43,792 in 2025 and \$21,711 in 2026. While the above program supports the project for a period of three (3) years, the commitment to receive this funding is to maintain ongoing operation, maintenance and repair of the assets (vehicle and charging stations) for a total of five (5) years. As such, the Township will be responsible for a continued program for two (2) years without federal support which is expected to cost ±10,000 (Operating ±\$20,000, less Revenue - Rental/Charging Station) of ±10,000). This cost is expected to far outweigh the benefit to the community and the Township will retain the assets after the five-year period.

The implementation of the program is still underway including the procurement of the vehicles. The Tender would be advertised in June with approval in July or early August. Once the purchase and installation of the charging stations is complete (September) then we will proceed with the preparation and integration of software (December). We are expecting the launch the ride-share to the public in April 2026.

The other option for consideration is to change the scope of the project and purchase Level 2 Chargers instead of a Level 3 and Level 2 pedestal. The cost savings to do this would ensure the project is completed within the original estimates however the time to charge on a Level 2 is 4 hours for 300 km and the time to charge on a Level 3 is 45 minutes. This is still an option should Council choose to change the scope. The tender may also come in less than budgeted which may cover the costs or it may come in higher than anticipated. The cost for an electric SUV is between \$50,000 and \$80,000. The estimate used is \$60,000.

Financial Implications: As previously noted, the Township will be required to commit a total of \$43,792 in 2025 and \$21,711 in 2026 with ongoing commitment in 2027. Should the pilot project be successful it could be

expanded or improved as a partnership with rural transit. Rental rates and costs will be reviewed on an annual basis. Should the pilot project not be successful the ride-share program will end, and staff will review the data collected to inform future rural transit decisions. The vehicle must remain as part of the township fleet until 2030. There would then be ongoing cost to maintain the vehicle less the reduction in mileage paid and fuel costs. The ongoing cost to maintain the EV chargers will be \$2300 per year less any charging revenue received.

Committee recommends: Whereas Whitewater Region, North Algona Wilberforce and Bonnechere Valley signed a partnership agreement to implement the Rural Transit Solutions Fund;  
And Whereas quotes have been received for Chargers, installation, Software and Insurance;

Now therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley authorizes the purchase of a Level 3 Charger with a dual Level 2 pedestal from Flo through Canoe Procurement in the amount of \$56,048;

- d) Energy Reporting - This year's reporting requirements under O. Reg. 25/23 Broader Public Sector: Energy Reporting and Conservation and Demand Management (CDM) Plans under the Electricity Act, 1998, and to provide an update on the 2024 Broader Public Sector (BPS) annual energy reporting results. BPS organizations are required to report their 2024 calendar year energy data through ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (Portfolio Manager) by July 1, 2025. Note that school boards are to report energy data for the corresponding school year. The Ministry will not be accepting submissions past July 1st. Energy usage can represent some of the largest operating costs in buildings. The BPS Energy Reporting and Benchmarking initiative can help building owners and operators to:

- Access accurate and reliable information about building performance;
- Identify energy and water efficiency/ cost saving opportunities; and
- Compare your building's performance to similar buildings.

- e) Blue Box Regulations - The ministry posted proposed amendments to the Blue Box Regulation (O.Reg. 391/21) made under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 (RRCEA). The proposed changes aim to ensure that Ontario's blue box program remains affordable and sustainable for both residents and producers, through measures that could help curb future costs and maintain current services, while supporting the regulation's intended outcomes of reducing and diverting waste. The proposed amendments have been posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for a 30-day consultation period (June 4, 2025 to July 4, 2025). For details about the proposal, please visit the ERO website at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-0009>.

*Administrative Report Received.*

### **Works & Waste Department**

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

- a) Tender BV2025-05 Sidewalk Replacement for Bell Street - We received 4 tenders for the Sidewalk Replacement for Bell Street. Committee recommends to award the tender to J. Wilson Paving in the amount of \$21,012.00 plus HST;
- b) Curbside Collection Schedule Change - There is a schedule change for the curbside collection for recycling for Village of Eganville Residents. On Tuesday, July 1, 2025 there will be no recycling pickup due to the stat holiday. Therefore due to the holiday recycling will be picked up on Wednesday, July 2, 2025;
- c) New versus Used Garbage/ Recycling Collection Vehicle - Bonnechere Valley is set to fully transition to the new Blue Box program in 2026. Miller Waste was awarded the contract for this area for eligible recycling collection. If the Township contracts with Millers it will reduce our costs as we would only have to pick up non-eligible recycling in the Village. The savings would be approximately \$17,000 per year however the loss of revenue would be at least \$60,000 a year. Should Millers subcontract the village to the Township

we would be required to sign a 7-year agreement, upgrade our equipment and continue to file the paperwork we are doing currently for the Reverse Logistic Group (RLG).

The benefits of the Township being the subcontractor for Miller Waste are that it allows Bonnechere Valley to conduct curbside collection for our Village Residents in 2026 and for a guaranteed 7 years with a yearly renewal of up to an additional 3 years. As a subcontractor our community will be provided with the same level of service they are accustomed to and with no transitional delays. The increase in cost would be the purchase of a new truck which will also be used for garbage.

This is due to the requirement by the province in the agreement that as a subcontractor a collection vehicle may not be older than twelve (12) years at any time during the Statement of Work. The subcontractor shall provide Miller Waste and Reverse Logistic Group (RLG) proof of an order for a new Collection Vehicle confirming that such new Collection Vehicle will be delivered to the Subcontractor and in use before the Collection Vehicle it is replacing is twelve (12 years old). Our current truck is a 2007.

The funds we will receive to continue to provide this service to our residents as a subcontractor will cover the cost of the loan and interest as well as the current wages, supplies and maintenance. The newer truck should also reduce costs of maintenance and provide some savings.

We have received pricing from Joe Johnson Equipment for a new versus used vehicle and well as a price from City View Specialty Vehicles. If we were to go with the option of a new vehicle even if we ordered one right away it may not get here until March 2026. We must have the vehicle by January 2026 or lease a vehicle until the new one can be delivered.

- d) Pete West is contracting to have his driveway paved. The Township will request an estimate to have the end of Wellington Street South completed at the same time to ensure efficiency and cost savings. Committee directed staff to have the township portion paved at the same time;
- e) Taste of the Valley is in Eganville on July 26 from 10am-3pm. We are working with the County to make this event great. We have reached out to a few local organizations with a request for volunteers to assist with parking. We are still waiting on confirmations;
- f) Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Grant was approved for the Eganville Arena GHG reduction and energy efficiencies.  
*Works Department Report Received.*

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(A) Correspondence "A"**

1. County Council Summary May 2025
2. Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus Newsletter June 2025
3. AMO Policy Update
4. AMO Watchfile June 5
5. AMO Watchfile June 12
6. FCM Communique

### **(B) Correspondence "B"**

1. Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025 Resolution
2. Floating Accommodations - Position Paper
3. Firefighter Certification Opposition Letter
4. Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program
5. Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education DPSMA
6. Request from St. Johns Augsburg

### **(C) Correspondence "C"**

B.3 Committee recommends support of the Firefighter Certification Opposition Letter with amendments. Staff will bring back a resolution to the next meeting.

B.6 Committee agreed to reduce the tipping fees for demolition.

**NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- (1) Library Update - Brent Patrick updated Committee on the business of the Library;
- (2) Reminder EGC Meeting and EGC AGM – Meetings are scheduled for June 17, 2025;
- (3) Mayors Report – was deferred to the July 15 Committee Meeting.

**ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday July 15, 2025.

**MEDIA SESSION**

**CONCLUSION**

**MOVED BY Merv Buckwald**

**THAT:** the meeting adjourns at 3:37 p.m.

Carried

  
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John Epps, Chair

  
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Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk