

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 7, 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

None

GALLERY

None

CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair, Jennifer Murphy 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 **John Epps**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on September 16, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

REPORTS

Works & Waste Department

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

- a) 3-Month Sanitation Assistant Position - Yvan Pelletier has been hired to assume the position for the Sanitation Assistant;
- b) The Sand Road Waste Site will be closed on Monday, October 13, 2025 for Thanksgiving;
- c) Winter Hours for Waste Sites - All Waste Sites will be switching to winter hours starting October 14, 2025;
- d) Sno Drifters Thursday Hours - The Thursday hours from noon to 2 pm commenced on September 4, 2025. The last day for the Thursday hours will be Thursday, October 30, 2025;
- e) The Hazardous Waste Depot is now closed for the season. The last day to take items was September 27, 2025;
- f) Wellington/Patrick Street Cross Walk - The new system has been installed and is in use;
- g) Connecting Link is in full construction mode and the project is progressing;
- h) The new sanitation truck has arrived. Staff are in the process of licensing and getting township logos on the truck;
- i) New Pickup Truck - The new 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Pickup has arrived;

- j) Grinding - Sittler Grinding Inc has been into the Sand Road and Ruby Road sites and have grinded the brush. They have also grinded the mattresses, shingles and the construction and demolition materials at the Sno Drifters site;
- k) Sno Drifters Waste Site - The Sno Drifters Waste Site is filling up to capacity. As per our 2024 Annual Report prepared by Cambium, we have approximately 5.8 years remaining in its site life. We need to have our Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) filed to be able to haul construction and demolition material out of the site and either go to another facility or go to the Ruby Site, where according to the 2024 Annual Report by Cambium there are approximately 28 years of life remaining;
- l) Ruby Waste Site - Our current Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) does not permit us to accept construction and demolition material at the Ruby Road Waste Site. We would need to file a new ECA and pending approval we would need to move the scale and build an area for it. This would increase costs due to more frequent grinding of the material, or we could source how much it would cost to purchase our own machine designed to break up the construction and demolition materials when placed on ground. We are assessing the most cost-effective way to deal with Construction and Demolition waste. The following are potential options:
- i) Haul to an outside facility. Hauling costs would be approximately \$150,000 per year, but it would save years on our Ruby Waste Site. The Township would have to amend Snodrifters Waste Site to allow for off site transfer. This option would save \$70,000 per year in grinding costs;
- ii) Amend and haul to Ruby Site which would still cost \$70,000 in grinding and transportation costs which at this time are unknown. This would use up years at Ruby Waste Site and the Township would then have to potential haul all our garbage to an outside location when the Rudy Waste Site is at capacity;
- iii) Move scales to Ruby Waste Site. This would still include grinding costs but setting up the scales would be a one-time cost, so it would save on transportation expenses overtime until Ruby Road Waste site runs out of space;
- iv) Move scales to Ruby Waste Site. Purchase a compactor for the Ruby Waste Site to save \$75,000 per year on the grinding costs. The compactor equipment would cost approximately \$750,000.

Once we have all the costs and impacts reviewed, staff will bring back more information to Council. This may also include policies to decrease the amount of Construction and Demolition waste accepted on site, such as no full demolitions. Other Townships have implemented similar policies, and full demolitions have to be taken to an off site facility that deals with that amount of material and we would only take renovation materials to mitigate the loss of life remaining.

Works Department Report Received.

Administration

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

Lake Clear's at-capacity status has been in effect since the mid 1980's. The County of Renfrew's Official Plan restricts development to "permanent and seasonal single-family dwellings, home occupations, small scale convenience stores, institutional community use, non-intensive farming and forest management uses." It is noted that recreational vehicles (RVs) are not listed as a permitted use. The County Official Plan also provides policy direction to local councils regarding RVs. These policies encourage local councils to develop measures to address temporary uses and structures, including recreational vehicles, on lots adjacent to lakes. There are several waterfront properties along Lake Clear that have RVs on them. The use of the RVs has raised concerns including impacts to lake water quality associated with septic systems and phosphorous, as well as setbacks and visual character.

The Township hired consulting services to better understand the health of the lake through an updated Lakeshore Capacity Assessment model and review the existing land use planning framework for RV's, which has informed this amendment to the proposed Official Plan and will inform a future amendment to the Township Zoning By-law to balance the desire to be on the lake with the health of the lake. The changes will conform to the other policies in the County Official Plan (e.g. 300 metre distance, setbacks, etc).

The amendment proposes to add wording to this Lake Clear policy to allow for RVs to be stored or used on existing vacant or residential lots of record. The RVs would be subject to any requirements of the provisions of the Township Zoning By-law and any future licensing requirements. The policy also includes requirements for water and wastewater servicing of trailers. This Official Plan Amendment is the first of three components. A zoning by-law amendment and licensing by-law are separate components that would be considered by the Township in the future.

To move the file forward we need a resolution from the Township to County Committee/Council to direct how the Township would like the County to proceed on the file. There are three options for the Township to consider now that the commenting and public meeting portion has concluded:

1. Withdraw the proposed application and not make any amendments to the Official Plan;
2. Approve the application as submitted;
3. Request that the County approve the application subject to the following modification:

That item a(ii) be modified to add the following wording to the second paragraph, immediately following the words "forest management uses.":

"The storage and occupation of recreational vehicles shall be permitted in accordance with the Township of Bonnechere Valley's Zoning By-law and Licensing By-law. These by-laws shall address, but are not limited to, the following considerations:

- a) The maximum number of recreational vehicles permitted per lot;
- b) Locations for the storage and occupation of recreational vehicles;
- c) Restrictions on the duration of occupancy;
- d) Requirements for servicing, including water supply and wastewater management."

The reason for the proposed modification is that the Official Plan is a broad framework that outlines the general policies and objectives for land use and development within a municipality. It is used to guide the planning and development of the community and is reviewed periodically to ensure it remains relevant. The Zoning By-law is a more specific document that provides detailed regulations on land use, including the permitted uses, height, and density of buildings on properties within a designated area. It is implemented through the Official Plan and is used to manage land use and development in a more detailed manner. The modifications reflect this relationship in much better terms. Below is the OPA amendment as proposed in JLR's final report previously approved by Council and submitted to the County.

Administration Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Policy Sept 15
2. AMO Policy Sept 18
3. AMO Watchfile Sept 18
4. AMO Watchfile Sept 25
5. AMO Policy Sept 26
6. AMO Watchfile Oct 2
7. County Council Summary September 2025
8. EOWC Newsletter
9. FCM Communique Sept 12
10. FCM Communique Sept 16
11. FCM Communique Sept 22
12. FCM Communique Oct 2
13. Board of Health Report

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Canada Post Resolutions
2. Northern Ontario Resource Development Program
3. Mandatory Swim and Water Safety Programs
4. Request for Support from the Legion on Remembrance Day

(C) Correspondence "C"

B.1 Committee supports the resolution regarding the Canada Post Labour Dispute and the impact on municipal communications and directed staff to bring the resolution to the October 21 meeting of Council.

B.3 Committee supports the resolution for Mandatory Swim and Water Safety Programs into the regular elementary school curriculum and directed staff to bring the resolution to the October 21 meeting of Council.

B.4 Committee supports the request from the Legion on Remembrance Day to have members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 353 and a marching contingent from the Canadian Forces Base Petawawa parade to the Legion at 57 Veteran's Way on November 11, 2025.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Mayor's Report – Since Mayor Murphy's last report she attended 14 meetings and a several events. Some of the highlights are as follows;

The September County Council summary was provided to Committee.

At the September 10th County Council meeting, Anya Gansterer, Artistic Director with Ottawa Valley Community Arts, and Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture and Curator of the Arnprior District Museum, presented on the Art Gallery of the Ottawa Valley (AGOV) project.

AGOV is a regional initiative that promotes accessible, outdoor public art across Renfrew County — with a goal of ensuring that every resident is within a 30-minute drive of art installations. To date, Ottawa Valley Community Arts has delivered over 30 projects, raised more than \$1 million, and engaged more than 50,000 people across 20 communities.

Bonnechere Valley and Eganville could play a meaningful role in this initiative through:

- Identifying local mural and painted door opportunities in our downtown core;
- Partnering with AGOV to feature local artists and youth in future public art projects;
- Integrating art and heritage into our streetscape and tourism planning; and
- Supporting the creation of a County-wide public art fund to leverage future installations.

This initiative aligns strongly with our community's goals for beautification, tourism development, and local artist engagement.

The ROMA Board has not met since my last report. However, Jenn participated in a meeting with the committee responsible for selecting recipients of the ROMA Scholarships, awarded annually to students from three secondary schools across Ontario who demonstrate leadership and commitment to rural communities.

The EORN Board will meet at the end of this month. Our most recent initiative, the Automated Speed Enforcement Project, has been placed on hold pending the Provincial Government's decision regarding the proposed ban on these cameras.

Mayor Murphy attended the Ontario East Municipal Conference (OEMC) from September 17th to 19th. This conference focuses on key issues and opportunities across Eastern Ontario, with particular emphasis on tourism, economic development, and regional collaboration. Jenn participated in a number of sessions; however, a few in particular stood out and are worth noting.

Jenn attended a session called "Lights, Camera, Action" which highlighted the success of Mississippi Mills, specifically the Village of Almonte, which has been used since 2013 for over forty feature films. The region's rich and varied architecture has often been described as a cinematographer's dream, making it a popular location for movies set in places like Vermont and Alaska.

While the region benefits economically from filming, public concern has grown alongside the list of films. Residents and businesses question if the road closures, noise complaints, and parking strains are worth it. Initially, staff handled requests as they came, but over time, issues became more predictable. In 2020, Council directed staff to develop a Municipal Film Policy to protect residents and business owners while streamlining the process for film crews.

One of the most insightful sessions at OEMC focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Municipalities. The presentation highlighted how AI technologies can enhance efficiency, service delivery, and communication within local government. Examples included automated systems to manage citizen inquiries, predictive tools for road and asset maintenance, and data analysis models to support planning and infrastructure decisions.

For our municipality, AI could offer opportunities to maximize limited staff resources and streamline day-to-day operations. Tools such as virtual assistants could help manage service requests or by-law questions.

The session also emphasized the need for strong governance, transparency, and data protection to ensure responsible use of emerging technologies. Overall, the discussion reinforced that AI, when approached thoughtfully, can help municipalities like ours do more with less—enhancing responsiveness and long-term sustainability without losing the human connection that defines local government.

On September 21st, it was the Mayor's honour, along with Councillor Sanderson and Mayor James Brose, to welcome the Executive of the Eganville Legion to officially unveil the new arch, painted Canadian Flag and poppies and Veteran Sidewalk at Legion Field.

On September 21st, it was the Mayor's pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of all of Council to the Eganville Legion opening of Legion Week. At this event, Donna Dyson gave the audience a list of all of the ways the Legion contributes to our Community.

On September 24th, Mayor Murphy attended the second annual Renfrew County Day. This event was very well attended and showcased all of the assets of the County of Renfrew.

On October 3rd, Mayor Murphy was pleased to join Councillor Buckwald and members of our Bonnechere Valley Fire Department to officially welcome the arrival of our brand-new fire truck. Continuing a proud fire service tradition, the firefighters ceremonially "pushed" the truck into the hall.

On October 3rd, Annette, Sarah, and Mayor Murphy filmed a series of video vignettes as part of our community's application for HGTV's *Home Town Takeover*. The videos take place on the walking bridge and show case the road rehabilitation on Bonnechere Street, the bandshell to capture our musical spirit, the ROCK to showcase the downtown core, Museum, painted doors and that we are the Ordovician Capital of Canada, and finally McRae Park. The Mayor thanked Annette and Sarah and the office staff who joined them at McRae Park for the final scene. The staff's enthusiasm and community pride truly shone through, and together Bonnechere Valley showcased why our hometown is so special and so deserving of this incredible opportunity.

On Friday, October 10th, we will be hosting our second annual Uplift Youth Summit at the Eagles Nest. Thanks to Sarah and Annette for all of their work to put this very important day together.

On Wednesday, October 15th, we will be reviewing applications for our Vacant Seat on Council. It is imperative that we are all in attendance.

On October 23rd, the Township will be completing the yearly emergency exercise. We are also going to be involved in the County wide exercise. We are going to be having a live portion to our exercise this year. There will be an education process starting at 9:00am to 12:00pm. This is necessary for compliance. We will then start the exercise at 1:00pm.

Council was invited to the Decades Dinner and Dance fundraiser for the Bonnechere Museum on Saturday, November 1st at the Eganville Legion from 5pm to 12am. Dress to impress in the decade of your choice and enjoy an amazing four course 1950s inspired dinner catered by Chef Danny from Charlie's Eatery. This is followed by a silent auction as DJ Shannon spins dance tunes through the decades. \$85 for the dinner and dance and \$20 for dance only.

ESTABLISH NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday October 21, 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:
(b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees
(f) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Carried

MOVED BY **Merv Buckwald**

THAT: Committee moves out of Closed Session at 3:10 p.m. to rise and report that Committee met to receive information and give staff direction regarding the request to revoke a building permit and release the legal advice received, complaint regarding information timelines and use of a road allowance and approve minutes from September 16, 2025.

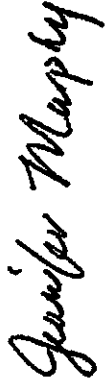
Carried

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **John Epps**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 3:10 p.m.

Carried



Jennifer Murphy, Chair



Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk