

THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY October 21, 2025 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ZOOM CONFERENCING

PRESENT

Mayor Jennifer Murphy
Deputy Mayor John Epps
Councillor Merv Buckwald
Councillor Tracey Sanderson
Councillor Meredith Caplan Jamieson
CAO/Clerk Annette Gilchrist
Treasurer/Deputy CAO Sandra Barr

REGRETS

None

GALLERY

None

INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jennifer Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA:

None

25.144 MOVED BY

Meredith Caplan Jamieson

SECONDED BY

Merv Buckwald

THAT: the agenda be accepted as amended to include resolution to declare the Township of Bonnechere Valley as “Halloween Capital of Renfrew County.”

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

25.145 MOVED BY

Tracey Sanderson

SECONDED BY

Merv Buckwald

THAT: The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 7, 2025 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

25.146 MOVED BY

John Epps

SECONDED BY

Merv Buckwald

THAT: The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 15, 2025 as presented be hereby adopted.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Watchfile Oct 9
2. AMO Policy Oct 10
3. AMO Watchfile Oct 16

4. FCM Communique Oct 7

5. EORN Update Renfrew County September 2025

Correspondence "B"

1. Automated Speed Enforcement Resolution - Oct 6 25 - Newmarket Council

2. Support Resolution - Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)

3. Amending Ontario Blue Box Regulation

4. OVTA Sponsorship Opportunities

5. Notice of Application to AGCO

6. Lane between Wallace and Knox Terrace

Correspondence "C"

25.147 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson

SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

WHEREAS direction has been given to staff;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the correspondence be filed.

Carried

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Cheque Register and Board Report

9.2 Canada Post Resolution

25.148 MOVED BY John Epps

SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

WHEREAS the labour dispute between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers remains unresolved;

AND WHEREAS it is crucial for the Government and mandate review to hear the views from municipalities on key issues, including maintaining Canada Post as a public service;

AND WHEREAS reductions in service significantly impact businesses, non-profit organizations and municipal governments limiting their ability to communicate essential information;

AND WHEREAS many rural municipalities rely heavily on Canada Post for the distribution of newsletters and other important communications to residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley urges the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the Federal Government to promptly return to the negotiating table.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, MP Cheryl Gallant, Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke, Canada Post, CUPW President and FCM.

Carried

9.3 Mandatory Swim and Water Safety Resolution

25.149 MOVED BY John Epps
SECONDED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson

WHEREAS drowning remains one of the leading causes of preventable death among children in Ontario, and research by the Lifesaving Society of Ontario indicates that most children who drown never intended to be in the water; and

WHEREAS evidence clearly demonstrates that basic swimming ability and water survival skills significantly reduce the risk of drowning; and

WHEREAS many children across Ontario face barriers to accessing swimming lessons outside of school, whether financial, cultural, or geographic in nature; and

WHEREAS municipalities across the province, including the City of Dryden, have expressed strong support for improved water safety education for children; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education holds the authority to include water safety and survival training in the elementary school curriculum, recognizing it as a vital life skill comparable to fire and road safety education; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley supports the resolution passed by the Council of the Corporation of the City of Dryden urging the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, MPP Billy Denault, Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Carried

9.4 Resolution to approve Sole Source Purchase of Asset Management and Maintenance Software

25.150 MOVED BY Merv Buckwald
SECONDED BY Tracey Sanderson

WHEREAS: the Treasurer and CAO deems the purchase necessary through a sole source as per Part V of Procurement By-Law 2023-017;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley approve the purchase of PSD Citywide Inc. as follows:

\$21,200.00 for the license of the Citywide Assets and Maintenance modules,
\$77,900.00 for implementation & consulting services of the Citywide Assets & Maintenance.

Carried

9.5 Resolution to appoint the Emergency Control Group

25.151 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: Councillor John Epps be appointed to the Emergency Management Control Committee for 2025 and that the Chair of the Committee be CEMC, Erica Rice, Senior Administrator representative be Annette Gilchrist and Fire Chief Darryl Wagner as Emergency Services Representative.

AND FURTHER THAT: The following persons are designated as the Municipal Emergency Control Group :

- A) The Mayor Jennifer Murphy, or (Designated Head of Council)
- B) Councillor Merv Buckwald
- C) Councillor Tracey Sanderson
- D) Councillor John Epps
- E) CAO, Annette Gilchrist (Alternate Sandra Barr)
- F) CEMC, Erica Rice (Alternate Grayson Spence)
- G) Public Works Supervisor, Jason Zohr (Alternate Dale Verch)
- H) Water/Sewer Department Supervisor, Daryl Verch (Alternate Dave Loader)
- I) Recreation Manger, Kevin McGrath (Alternate Kelsey Macisaac)
- J) The Emergency Information Officer, Dana Barkley

Carried

9.6 Halloween Capital of Renfrew County

25.152 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

WHEREAS Halloween has become a cherished tradition in the Township of Bonnechere Valley, bringing together residents, families, community groups, and local businesses in vibrant celebration of creativity, imagination and community spirit; and

WHEREAS the people of Bonnechere Valley consistently demonstrate extraordinary enthusiasm and effort in decorating homes, organizing events, and ensuring that Halloween festivities are safe, inclusive, and memorable for all ages; and

WHEREAS this dedication reflects the Township's strong sense of community pride and its commitment of its residents and volunteers who make Halloween a highlight of the year across Renfrew County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley hereby recognizes and commends the exceptional community spirit that makes Halloween in Bonnechere Valley truly extraordinary;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Township of Bonnechere Valley is hereby proudly declared the **"Halloween Capital of Renfrew County."**

Carried

CLOSED SESSION – NONE

BY-LAWS

25.153 MOVED BY Tracey Sanderson
SECONDED BY John Epps

THAT:

By-Law 2025-053 being a by-law to amend By-law Number 2022-042 – Raddatz

By-Law 2025-054 Being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of council

BE READ A FIRST TIME, BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME, BE DEEMED READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

25.154 MOVED BY Meredith Caplan Jamaieson
SECONDED BY Merv Buckwald

THAT: This Council meeting be adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Carried

Jennifer Murphy

Jennifer Murphy, Mayor

Annette Gilchrist

Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk