

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY
MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 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
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 **Jennifer Murphy**

THAT: the agenda be accepted, as amended, with the removal of Item 8.2 Museum Update, removal of 8.3 Annual Ratepayers Meeting, and the removal of Item 8.4 Clean-the-Lake Event, and the removal of the Closed Session; and the removal of the presentation of Annette Gilchrist's Administration report.

Carried

PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY **Jennifer Murphy**

That: The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on February 4, 2025 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DELEGATIONS

REPORTS

Recreation & Culture

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

- a) On January 24th the arena had Sledge Hockey from the Madawaska District School rented the ice time from 10am – 3pm;
- b) Foodland has sponsored public skating from 2pm to 3:15pm on Family Day and Family and Child Services are sponsoring from 3:30 – 4:20pm;
- c) Two minor hockey tournaments:
 - o U7 Tournament February 2nd.
 - o U11 Tournament February 9th.
- d) Two Varsity High Schools tournaments are booked:
 - o Girls Highschool Hockey Tournament February 5th.
 - o Boys Highschool Hockey Tournament February 19th.
- e) Eganville Public school has continued to book ice for skating 4 times a week;
- f) Adam Bernard has booked ice time every Friday morning throughout February;
- g) The Senior, Parent and Tot ice times are continuing every Monday. The attendance has been roughly 20 – 25 people;
- h) Minor Hockey teams will start playoffs the week of the 10th;
- i) EHL first round of playoffs begins February 14th;

- j) Erik Seguin will be starting with us Feb 12th until June as a high school co-op student;
- k) Eagles Nest - The hall is being used for the hockey tournaments. We continue to have the Eagles Nest open on Friday evenings for EHL;
- l) The hall is booked for four events;
- m) Centennial Park - The outdoor rink is open, and we continue to flood weekly;
- n) Taking the Bonnechere Cup Banner down along with the Christmas lights on the bridge. Working with Allen Bruce of Bruce Pole Service, and Roads Department, within the next couple of weeks, weather permitting.

Recreation Report Received.

Finance

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

- a) Staff are busy completing year end and working on the draft 2025 budget. The auditors have already started working on year end for 2024 and will be onsite February 19, 2025;
- b) The January Income Statement is in your package, the first two columns compare January 2024 to January 2025 revenues and expenses;
- c) On January 17, 2025 Sandra attended the virtual Municipal Finance Officer Association discussion forum;
- d) The financials for 2023 were reported to the Province in May 2024, once the audit was complete. The Province reviewed our financial data and sent us a Financial Indicator Review for 2023 a copy was included in your package that indicates the Financial Health of the Township, however it is a financial snapshot at a particular moment in time and should never be used in isolation.

Financial Report Received.

Administration

Annette Gilchrist, CAO/Clerk, was not present. Report submitted.

- a) Administration - Gabe Fitzmaurice will be starting a co-op position with our Administration Department starting February 10th, 2025 in the afternoons. He has a keen interest in Public Administration, and I hope to have him present to Council regarding his experience once he completes his term at the Township;
- b) ROMA Conference - Unfortunately, with the election being called right after the ROMA Conference any further follow up will have to wait. We also followed up with Ontario Waterpower and the Ministry of Energy on Eganville Generations contract which is progressing and hopefully we will have a solution from IESO. Staff will touch base with them following the provincial election. On Sunday Annette attended the Zone 6 update hosted by Mayor Murphy. She then attended the Rural Responses to Mental Health and Addictions session which explored the unique considerations around mental health and addictions in rural communities, as well as featuring successful rural responses to this crisis. Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services and Chief of the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service was part of this expert panel. Monday following our delegations, Annette was pleased to be part of an expert panel on Navigating the Future of Municipal Waste Management to explore the full implementation of the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy emphasizing the roles of producers and municipalities in managing waste and achieving targets, Take a deep dive in the status of blue box transition, as well as broader waste pressures and goals such as municipal cost and operational impacts. Her fellow panelist included Peter Hargreave, President, Policy Integrity Inc. and Betsy Varghese, Technical Group Strategist, Waste Management, Dillon Consulting.
- c) Wieland Shore - A letter was received regarding concerns about the Wieland Shore water access point. In 2003 the township did stabilization work on the shoreline. In 2004 - signage was installed regarding no parking, an easement was granted to Mr. Fillman for access over township property to access his property. In 2010 – discussions were had with MNR regarding more stabilization work. In 2012 – work was completed for erosion control and in

2023 a survey and topographical study were done in consultation with MNR for redesign work. Annually Buoys are installed at Wieland Shore and Buelow Beach. Annually maintenance is performed on Wieland Shore Road in accordance with the Townships standards and provincial regulations. Annually the parking by-law is enforced on a complaint basis through MLES. At this time there are no plans to develop the water access and keeping the status quo is recommended by staff;

- d) SPCA – Neuter Scooter - The mobile spay and neuter unit is no longer available. However the SPCA hosts a pick up for cats to have them taken to a low cost spay/neuter facility. The SPCA currently runs this program out of Pembroke and the cost is \$20 for travel plus the cost of the procedure. The SPCA is willing to host a pick up in Eganville if we provide a location. Committee provided staff direction to advise the SPCA that they can use the municipal parking lot for pick up and drop off of the cats.

Administrative Report Received.

CORRESPONDENCE

(A) Correspondence "A"

1. AMO Policy Feb 3, 2025
2. January 2025 County Council Summary
3. AMO Watchfile Feb 6, 2025

(B) Correspondence "B"

1. Women's Sexual Assault Request
2. Resolution Support 'Deposit Return Program'
3. Resolution Regarding Proposed U.S. tariffs on Canadian Goods

(C) Correspondence "C"

- B.1 Committee agreed to the request of the Women's Sexual Assault Centre and agreed that their banner be hung across the bridge for the month of May again this year, in support of both the "We Stand with Survivors Campaign" campaign and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (1)** Library Update – Brent Patrick updated Committee on the business of the Library. The Youth Night started up again on January 8th and they have an average of 16 pre-teens per night. Library visits were typical for the month of January with 1238 people coming through the doors. Their busiest days continue to be Wednesdays.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 4, 2025 at 1:30 pm.

MEDIA SESSION

CONCLUSION

MOVED BY **Brent Patrick**

THAT: the meeting adjourns at 2:00 p.m.

Carried