



Summer Newsletter 2024

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Events in Bonfield

- ✓ **Bonfield Summer Camp**
August 12th - 16th, 2024
- ✓ **Bonfield Fall Fair**
August 16th - 18th, 2024
- ✓ **Labour Day Event**
Saturday August 31st, 2024



Greetings from the Mayor

Happy Summer!! To all our residents from the office of the Mayor, Council and Staff of the Township of Bonfield. Our second year has passed and Staff and Council have been very busy in our Township.

Council is working hard to find alternatives to raising taxes, looking at user fees and seeking additional funds from the Province. As you may be aware, there are no easy answers.

In the Public Works Department once again Development Road has been our main project and the remainder of the road from Trout Pond Road to Mount Pleasant Road has been pulverized. Although pavement is not an option at this time, the removal of the cold

patching has improved the condition of the road. It is in the long-term plans of Council to have Development Road re-surfaced from end to end when the funds become available. Public Works continues to maintain all the roads throughout our Municipality. Calcium has been applied keeping the dust down. I see that the sides of the roads have been brushed back giving better vision for driving.

We see the Bonfield Public Library is very active in the community reaching out to our residents. They not only provide Library services but are always reaching out to the community with various events. Thank you to the Library Staff and Library Board for the many good things they bring to our Township.

As always, I would like to thank all of our committee members and our volunteers who work to bring many special events to our Township. In particular, I would like to thank our Fire Department for keeping our community safe.

I would like to send Congratulations out to the Bonfield Seniors Housing Board as their project is nearing completion. What a beautiful facility offering housing to our Seniors.

The Township operations are very busy for 2024 and Council is pleased with the Community's support as we continue moving our Township forward. Enjoy the remaining summer months and if you are travelling please be safe. **-Mayor Narry Paquette**

Stay Connected



BonfieldTownship.com



[Bonfield Township - Municipal Page](#)



[Citizen Alert App Town App](#)

PROPERTY TAXES

How does the municipal budget & property taxes work?

The Province of Ontario sets out the rules for property assessment through the Assessment Act. The provincial agency known as the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) uses the Assessment Act to review all lands (vacant or developed) within the province on behalf of the 444 municipalities. MPAC receives all building permits issued by the Chief Building Official in the Bonfield Office that triggers the initial assessment. Assessment is based on the Current Market Value for the region. The current values are based on the market of 2016. It was due to be updated in 2020 but COVID delayed the process and the province announced last year there will be a total review of the system prior to market updates. There was no timeline provided for their project.

The Township sets an annual budget for operations and capital work needed. There are other revenues that the Township receives besides taxes. These include allocated provincial funding, user fees and investment income which collectively in 2024 totaled \$1,406,993.

Next Council and staff prepare the operating budget which is the cost of running the municipal business. There are several departments included; General Government, Fire and Emergency Services, Police and Bylaw/Animal Enforcement, Public Works, Environmental Services (landfill), Cultural Services (Recreation and Library), Land Use Planning, and Health Care. Operating costs are staffing, building operations, fleet management, office administration, community projects and events. For 2024 Operating costs total \$3,748,043.76.

Also included in the budget are the levies the municipality is mandated to pay for more regional services such as Social Services, the Property Assessment Corporation, the OPP, Health Unit, Cassellholme, and the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority. These Agencies provide services to residents of Bonfield as well as our neighbouring communities. These levies total \$1,295,212 for 2024. School board levies are also included in any tax the municipality issues and in 2024 approximately, \$643,100 of the funds collected are divided between the four local school boards.

TOWNSHIP OF BONFIELD BUDGET FOR 2024

Revenues = \$1,406,993

Expenses = \$5,188,255.76

For a tax levy of \$3,781,262 or a 4.9% tax rate increase

01.

Property Assessment Values

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) sets an assessment value for all lands (vacant or developed).

02.

Municipal Revenues

Township revenues include property taxes, allocated provincial funding, user fees and investment income which in 2024 means that non-tax revenue equals \$1,406,993.

03.

Setting the Budgets

Council and staff prepare the operating and capital budgets which is the cost of running the municipal business. In 2024 Operating costs total \$3,748,043.76.

04.

Levies

Included in the budget are the levies the municipality is mandated to pay for regional services such as Social Services, the OPP, and the Health Unit. These levies total \$1,295,212 for 2024.

05.

2024 Tax Bills

The amount of taxes to be levied for 2024 are then \$3,781,262, which means a 4.9% tax rate increase, for a tax rate of 0.01452457.

For example:

MPAC Value: \$250,000

Tax Rate: 0.01452457

2024 Tax Bill: \$3,631.14

MUNICIPAL FINANCES



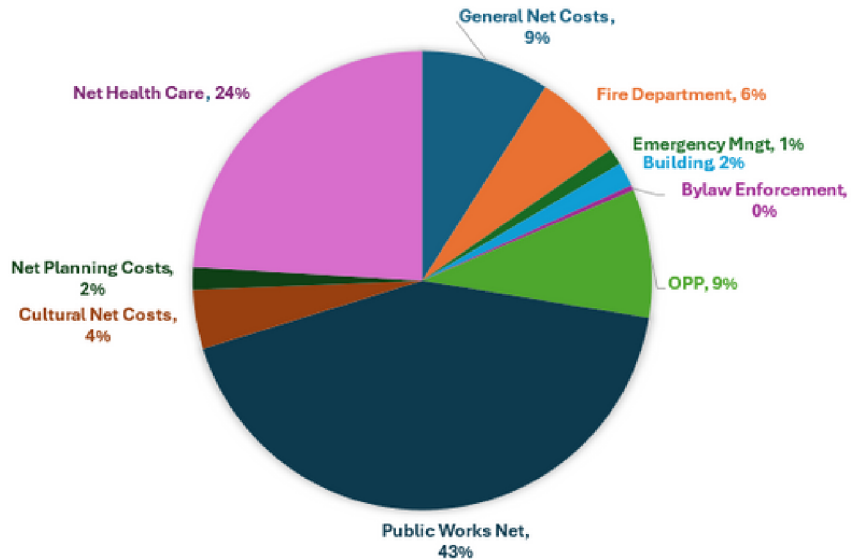
For the complete budget presentation please visit our website at: www.BonfieldTownship.com

Summary for Tax Levy

Median Residential Assessment
\$189,000 x .01452457=
\$2,745.14

Department	%	\$\$
General Net Costs	9%	\$ 221
Fire Department	6%	\$ 155
Emergency Mngt	1%	\$ 29
Building	2%	\$ 41
Bylaw Enforcement	0%	\$ 9
OPP	9%	\$ 222
Public Works Net	43%	\$ 1,046
Cultural Net Costs	4%	\$ 102
Net Planning Costs	2%	\$ 39
Net Health Care	24%	\$ 591
School Board		289
	1.00	\$ 2,745

TAX LEVY PERCENTAGE BY DEPARTMENT



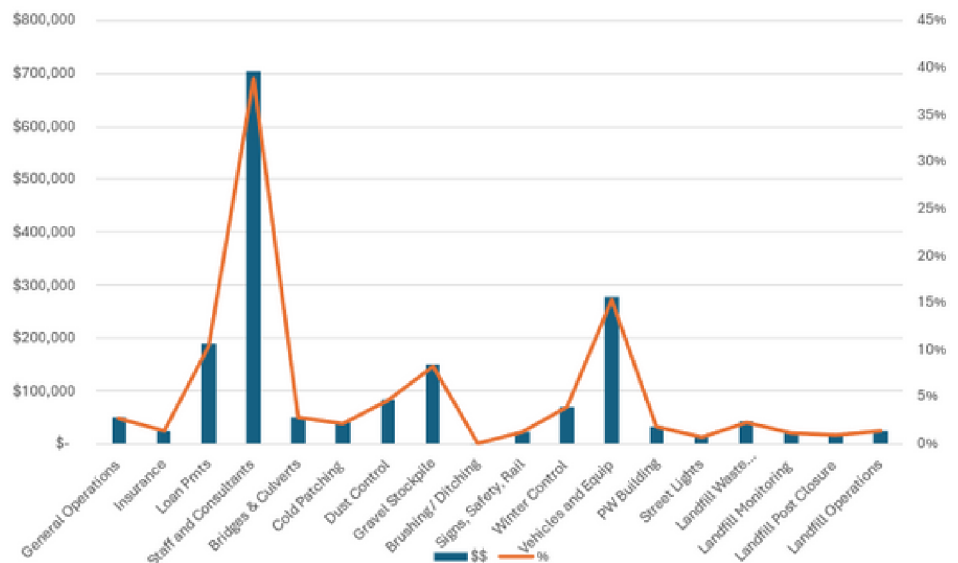
Summary for Tax Levy – Public Works

Public Works total expenses total
\$1,816,031 for 2024.

This department is typically the highest in municipal operations as it encompasses the majority of the assets of the Township.

General Operations	\$ 49,793	3%
Insurance	\$ 25,200	1%
Loan Pmts	\$ 188,852	10%
Staff and Consultants	\$ 704,900	39%
Bridges & Culverts	\$ 50,900	3%
Cold Patching	\$ 40,000	2%
Dust Control	\$ 83,000	5%
Gravel Stockpile	\$ 150,000	8%
Brushing / Ditching	\$ 2,000	0%
Signs, Safety, Rail	\$ 23,000	1%
Winter Control	\$ 70,400	4%
Vehicles and Equip	\$ 277,346	15%
PW Building	\$ 32,345	2%
Street Lights	\$ 13,500	1%
Landfill Waste Remova	\$ 41,500	2%
Landfill Monitoring	\$ 21,000	1%
Landfill Post Closure	\$ 18,000	1%
Landfill Operations	\$ 24,295	1%
	\$ 1,816,031	1.00

Public Works Costs Breakdown



MUNICIPAL PROJECTS 2024

1. Purchase of new equipment for road maintenance

The Township has purchased a new backhoe and excavator, along with a brush head. These machines allow our crews more flexibility in completing ditching and brushing work along the roads. The plan includes preparing for 2025 on Development Road with brushing and then ditching. We will focus on the higher traffic rural roads to start. Council is developing a more robust gravel program and not relying on contractors' resources and schedules will help ensure Bonfield roads are maintained better. It is a multi-year plan based on the 2022/23 Roads Needs Study.



2. Pulverize Development Road

Council approved the pulverizing of Development Road from Trout Pond Road to Mount Pleasant Road. Everyone can agree the road conditions were deteriorating and, while the entire road is in need of resurfacing, the budget will not allow a complete road rehabilitation. As future budgets permit sections will be resurfaced. Calcium will be laid as deemed necessary to control the dust. Everyone's patience is appreciated.

3. Add gravel to rural roads

Council is incrementally increasing the annual budget to improve the gravel program for rural roads. Roads are Councils number one priority. There is \$100,000 allocated in the budget for gravel in 2024. The first road on the list is Line 3

4. Continue integration of new municipal software

The switch to new municipal software started in 2022 when the current provider announced his retirement and set the need for a new program. The tender was awarded to Townsuite and in 2024 staff have started to upload financial data. Full integration is not expected until spring of 2025.

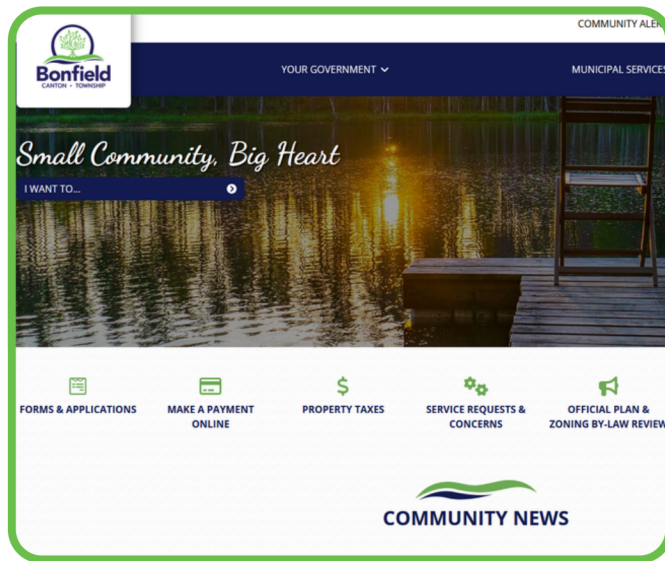
5. Save for new Fire breathing apparatus

There are new safety regulations and the equipment for the fire fighter's safety is outdated. The new guidelines come into effect in 2024 and Council has begun to save \$50,000 for the next three years to replace the breathing apparatus and air supply tanks for when the volunteers respond to emergency fire calls.

MUNICIPAL PROJECTS 2024

6. Add to Cassellholme reserve in preparations for 2027 payments

Council continues to add a 1% tax increase to the budget each year to prepare for the loan payment Bonfield will be responsible for once the new building on Olive and Cassell Streets in North Bay is completed. The loan payment will start at approximately \$130,000 a year for the first five years.



7. New septic at municipal office

The municipal office/library building septic report deemed it necessary for replacement. Staff are working with the consultants and the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority to install a new one.

8. New municipal website

Staff are excited to be developing a fresh, updated website. We are also looking for suggestions from you on what needs to be added, deleted, better organized. Please send your comments on the website to officeclerk@bonfieldtownship.com

9. Wildland Fire Training

The predictions are that climate change will be impacting our operations. It was recommended in the winter to gear up for a dry summer with conditions set for more forest fires. As evident, predictions were wrong, and we are still managing too much water and rain. However, our volunteer fire fighters have spent their time this spring training on wildland fires. A huge thank you to our Fire Department for working to keep our community safe.

10. Upgrades to Medical Centre

Earlier this year the Township received the news that a second doctor would be coming to the Bonfield Medical Centre. The Centre was renovated to accommodate another exam room. Council and staff are also working with the Medical Clinic team to bring in additional services with an expansion agreement from a neighbouring Family Health Team. While agreements are still being worked out, increasing local health care opportunities is top of mind for the community.



BONFIELD SUMMER CAMP

365 Hwy, 531 Municipal Grounds

- **Drop Off Time:** between 8:15 and 8:30 am
- **Pick Up Time:** between 4:30 and 5:00 pm

Are you searching for an engaging and enjoyable summer camp adventure for your 5 to 15-year-old? Explore the Bonfield Summer Camp. Your children can enjoy a wide range of activities including kayaking, sports, swimming, arts and crafts, and Reptile Camp Adventures!

Get your registration form online at: www.BonfieldTownship.com or at the Township Office.

Questions? Call 705-776-2641

→ **Register Now!**
www.BonfieldTownship.com



Limited spaces still available.

Sign up today!

August 12th to 16th

Bonfield residents

\$125 for one week, or
\$225 for both weeks

Non-residents

\$150 for one week, or
\$250 for both weeks.

A discount of \$25 for a second child from the same family.



BONFIELD FALL FAIR

August 17 & 18, 2024
105 Trunk Road

Check out the Kids Zone

- Pony Rides
- Games with prizes
- Face Painting
- Balloons
- Reptile Adventure Camp

With activities for everyone, come out for a weekend of family fun at the Bonfield Agricultural Society.

Don't miss these special events!

- Special Exhibits
- Western Gaming Horse Show
- Hay Toss Competition
- Lawn Tractor Obstacle Course
- Classic Car Show

Weekend wristband \$7.00
Daily wristband \$5.00

Contacts: Dee Chaput 705-776-7807 or Lorraine Hamilton 705-840-9237



LABOUR DAY EVENT

Saturday August 31st, 2024
365 Hwy 531, Bonfield Municipal Grounds
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Bid farewell to summer in style! Come along to our Labour Day Event packed with kids games, crafts, a vendors market, and the highlight – live music! It's a fantastic opportunity for the whole family to embrace the arrival of the fall season.

Live Music

Meet the Broome Turners, the dynamic duo that's sweeping the local music scene with their soulful harmonies and acoustic charm. This fierce female pair is trading in their brooms for guitars, and the result is a mesmerizing blend of pop, top 40 crowd friendly favorites, and a little sass.



LIBRARY

365 Hwy 531, Bonfield, ON P0H 1E0
Email: bonfieldlibrary@gmail.com

Telephone: 705-776-2396
Website: www.bonfieldpubliclibrary.ca



Expanding Your Horizons

Come join the program at the BPL every Monday in the month of July from 9:30am – 12:30pm.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres offer free, high-quality programs for families and children from birth to 6 years old. You can learn and play with your child.

Grab & Go Children pre-packaged craft kits will be available for pick up from July 8th to August 26st, 2024 at the Bonfield Public Library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bonfield Public Library.

The “Blue Sky Libraries Adventure Colouring Book program will run from July 2nd to 12:00 (noon) August 24th, 2024. Participants will be given a colouring book to track their visits to neighbouring public libraries programs or events. For each stamp received participants name will be entered for a one lucky draw of a Talking Robot suitable for children 3mths and up. The goal is to expand our resources and explore other libraries in our region by promoting our library’s programs and events. Library card membership is not required to attend any library program or event in the area.

Sammy the Rock Snake

Community members and visitors are encouraged to paint and add rocks to help Sammy make his way along our paved park paths.

To help this project along, the Library will have a painting station set up in our children’s section beginning Tuesday, July 30th and running for the month of August. Bring in a rock and decorate it while you visit our Library.

Contact the Library for further details.



HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm Tuesday 4:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday 10:00am – 8:00pm Thursday 4:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday 10:00am – 1:00pm Friday & Sunday - Closed
Website: www.bonfieldpubliclibrary.ca Follow us on Facebook

Check out the new location for the **Little Free Library** corner of Trunk Rd/Park Street, Rutherglen, entrance to St. Margaret’s Anglican Church. Take a Book, Share a Book.



READ FOR REWARDS!

You could win a Telescope along with Chris Hatfield “The Darkest Dark” book just by Reading over the summer months. Open to children 5 to 15 years old. Registration required at the library. For every 3 books read, children will receive a sticker and their name will be placed on our Wall of Fame for a chance to win, on one lucky draw these prizes donated by The Friends of the BPL Date: From July 2 to 12:00pm (noon) August 24, 2024.



Tech Help Desk 2nd Mondays a month, 10:00am - 1:00pm Get help with many of your technology needs, e-mail accounts, apps, downloading e-books, setting up devices, and more! Bring your device or use a library computer to get your questions answered. No appointments needed.



Borrow a free day use pass with your library card and plan your next outdoor adventure. **The Ontario Parks Pass** is a borrowable vehicle permit that provides day use access to over 100 provincial parks for all occupants in your vehicle.

BORROW FROM NIPPISING LIBRARY

Members of the Bonfield Public Library can receive a Nipissing University/Canadore library card by presenting their library card and identification with their current address at the Harris Learning Library.



INTERLIBRARY LOANS

If the Bonfield Public Library does not have what you are looking for, you may be able to borrow it from another library.

Learn More:

www.bonfieldpubliclibrary.com



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief: Kelly Serson
firechief@bonfieldtownship.com

Deputy Fire Chief: Dave Vieira
deputychief@bonfieldtownship.com
705-492-7684

Open Air Burning Hours - April 1st to October 31st

If Fire Rating is set to **Low or Moderate** burn from 5:00 p.m to 7:00 a.m.
If Fire Rating is set to **High or Extreme** burn from 7:00 p.m and 7:00 a.m.
Check the website, and signs at the Fire Hall for current rating.



Burn Permits Now Required

Information regarding burn permits, and regulations for open air burning can be found in By-Law 2024-27.

How to obtain a permit

Step 1: Review the By-Law 2024-27 to understand the rules and regulations concerning Open-Air Burning.

Step 2. Fill out a permit application, available online at www.BonfieldTownship.com or get a paper copy at the Township Office.

***Important note: Tenants must get a letter of permission from their landlords.**

Campfire, Incinerator Fire Permit	FREE
Special Burn Permit (Brush Pile or Windrow)	\$50.00
Penalty for Burning Without a permit	\$300.00

Tips for safe burning

- Clear a space about two metres wide for the fire.
- Ensure you have a pail of water and a shovel to control the fire.
- Keep your fire small to a maximum of one metre high and one metre wide.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- When putting out your fire, use lots of water on the campfire. A good rule is to make sure the ashes look soaked and no more smoke comes from the ashes.

Green Lights - What Do They Mean?

When the call for help comes in, our personnel may be at their regular job, at the beach with the family or sleeping in the middle of the night. They drop what they are doing and immediately respond to the fire hall to drive the fire trucks to the emergency scene.

The Green Light gives the firefighters no special privileges when responding to an emergency.

It is used only as an identifier to the drivers of other vehicles so that they may give up their right-of-way and allow the firefighter to get to the emergency unimpeded.



Interactive Fire Map

Information about the current forest fire danger, forest fire activity and fire restrictions across the province.



Learn More:

www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires



Low



Moderate



High



Extreme

The Bonfield Fire Rating is regularly updated by the Fire Department.
Visit: www.BonfieldTownship.com

Customized Emergency Preparedness Action Plan

This online tool will help you create an Emergency Preparedness Action Plan for your household.



beprepared.emergencymanagement.ontario.ca

Credit card processing fees



Dear Taxpayers,

To manage the increasing costs of credit card processing fees, we will be implementing a surcharge of 1.5% on all in-person and telephone credit card transactions beginning September 1, 2024.

Our website will undergo changes to our payment collection system which will be handled by PlastiQ and fees will be imposed by PlastiQ directly.

By surcharging, we are ensuring that the cost to accept credit cards is only allocated to those who elect to pay with credit cards. There will be no surcharge on debit card transactions.

Each time a customer pays by credit card, the credit card company charges the Township a percentage of the transaction amount as a processing fee.

This can range from 1.5% to 2.5% of the transaction amount and depends on the type of card used. Generally, the more rewards your card offers (i.e., travel points, cash back, insurance), the more it costs the Township to process your transaction.

We appreciate your continued support and thank you for your understanding.

Township of Bonfield



Reminder

Final tax bills are due
August 30th, 2024



Learn about all the payment methods available at:
www.BonfieldTownship.com

View the Property Taxes page for details.

Did you know Bonfield Township offers a Pre-authorized Payment Plan?

Benefits of PAPP:

- ✓ Payments are automatically withdrawn from your bank on a schedule that works for you.
- ✓ Never miss a payment.
- ✓ Avoid interest charges.

How to enroll:

Complete the Pre-Authorized Payment Plan application form and attach a VOID cheque.

Find the PAPP application form and learn more about all your payment options at: www.BonfieldTownship.com

Notice: The Township will be gathering residents' phone numbers and email addresses for internal purposes exclusively. This data will only be utilized to reach out to you if necessary concerning municipal issues.

Your privacy is important to us, and we will not share your contact details with any third parties. Thank you.

Bonfield Medical Centre



The Bonfield Medical Centre is located at 105 Landon Street in Bonfield. The Bonfield Pharmacy is in the lower level of the building. All here, to serve the residents of Bonfield.

Dr. Feige is still accepting patients from the community who do not have a physician. You can connect with him through the Medical Center by calling 705-776-3365 or email at manager@bonfieldmedical.com. If you are on a waitlist at the office or HealthCare Connect, please call the medical center.

Tips to make the most of your doctor appointments

1. When booking your appointment explain what it is for so the doctor can be prepared to help you. If you have multiple separate concerns, it may require additional appointments.
2. Arrive early. Most appointments are a maximum of 15 minutes, then the doctor charts the discussion and documents any referrals and follow ups. A delay in your appointment affects the next person.
3. Bring a list of your medications.
4. Write down a list of your top 3 or 4 questions and your concerns (refer to #1) so you don't forget to mention something important to you.
5. Take notes at the appointment if necessary. Bring a friend if you need too. Ask for written resources.
6. Discuss risks, benefits and costs of tests and treatments. Don't be embarrassed to talk to the doctor or ask them to repeat information. Ask about options and preventive things you can do to better your health.
7. Tell the doctor if you feel rushed, worried or uncomfortable. You can offer to return for a second visit or follow up by phone or email.

How to connect with Council

1. Write an email or a letter

You can submit your comments to Council regarding municipal matters by emailing the Clerk or dropping it off at the municipal office.

Clerk's Email: cao.clerk@bonfieldtownship.com
Address: 365 Hwy 531, Bonfield ON, P0H 2E0
Phone: 705-776-2641 ex 122

2. Be a delegation at a Council Meeting

If you have a community initiative, wish to have Council support a project, or have a concern that you would like addressed, you can submit a detailed delegation request to the Clerk by 12 noon the Thursday prior to the Council meeting.

3. Submit a question for the Agenda

Written questions must be provided to the Clerk by 12 noon the Monday prior to the Council meeting. Although questions are not restricted to agenda topics, the agenda is released on Fridays prior to the meeting. Questions submitted will become public record.

4. Meet with a Member of Council

You can speak to a Council member directly. You can meet with a maximum of two members of council in any private meeting.

Contact Information: www.BonfieldTownship.com **Select:** Your Government, Municipal Directory

5. Attend a public meeting

Council will host public meetings for an array of reasons, and you are encouraged to attend and share your opinions on the topics presented. Watch agendas, our website, social media and mailed flyers when a public meeting is coming up.

6. Request a Special Meeting of Council

If you have a concern or item that is time sensitive you can request the Mayor to call a special meeting of Council. You can submit a detailed request with supporting materials for the meeting to the Clerk and/or the Mayor through email.