

CANADA
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
MUNICIPALITY OF WEST BOLTON

A regular Council meeting of the Municipality of West Bolton, held on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall located at 9 Town Hall Road, West Bolton, with interactive webcast.

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

Eddy Whitcher, Councillor No. 4
Nancy Lanteigne, Councillor No. 6
Margarita Lafontaine, Councillor No. 1
Marie-Blanche Richer, Councillor No. 2
Loren Allen, Councillor No. 3

THE FOLLOWING WAS ABSENT:

Gilles Asselin, Councillor No. 5

The councillors present formed a quorum, and the sitting was chaired by Mr. Denis Vaillancourt, Mayor. The Director General and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Léa Laplante, was also present, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Code of Quebec.

7 other individuals were present during the session.

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
 - 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
 - 3. FIRST QUESTION PERIOD**
 - 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 5. CORRESPONDENCE**
 - 5.1.** School Perseverance Day
 - 5.2.** Volunteer Support Program
 - 6. TOWN PLANNING**
 - 6.1.** Municipal Building and Environmental Officer's Report
 - 6.2.** File #447695 – Recommendation of the RCM
 - 7. ADMINISTRATION**
 - 7.1.** Account Approval and Transfers
 - 7.2.** File No.: VUG67379 – 46065 (5) – 20240418-002 - Local Road Assistance Program – Special Improvement Projects Component – Accountability
 - 7.3.** Sale of Immovables for Non-payment of Taxes
 - 7.4.** Denunciation to the Government of Quebec Regarding Lack of Financial Adjustment of Certain Programs Intended for Municipalities due to the Current Economic Situation and the Changes they May Experience
 - 7.5.** SPA – Mandate for the Application of the Provincial By-law Concerning Dogs
 - 7.6.** Appointment for the Creation of Municipal Committees
 - 8. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
 - 8.1.** Roads Report
 - 8.2.** Financial Assistance Agreement – PAVL Grant - Glen
 - 9. ENVIRONMENT**
 - 10. PUBLIC SECURITY**
 - 11. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
 - 12. LEISURE AND CULTURE**
 - 13. VARIA**
 - 14. SECOND QUESTION PERIOD**
 - 15. ADJOURNMENT**
-

1. CALL TO ORDER

With the councillors participating at the start of the meeting forming a quorum, the meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:31 p.m.

The mayor addresses those present.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-02-011**

IT WAS MOVED BY: Marie-Blanche Richer
SECONDED BY: Nancy Lanteigne
AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

TO ADOPT the proposed agenda by adding item 11.1 – Proclamation of School Perseverance Day **AND** to amend the description of item 6.2 as follows: File 447695 – Recommendation of the MRC to the CPTAQ for the land acquisition by the Municipality.

ADOPTED

3. FIRST QUESTION PERIOD

Council held a first question period.

**4. RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-02-012
APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2025**

IT WAS MOVED BY: Eddy Whitcher
SECONDED BY: Nancy Lanteigne

AND RESOLVED THAT the English and French versions of the minutes of the regular meeting of **January 13, 2025**, be **approved as presented**.

Votes cast:
For: Eddy Whitcher; Nancy Lanteigne; Denis Vaillancourt
Against: 0

The following members abstained as they were not present at the January 13, 2025, meeting: Margarita Lafontaine, Marie-Blanche Richer and Loren Allen.

ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1** School Perseverance Day
- 5.2** Volunteer Support Program

6. TOWN PLANNING

**6.1 MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND ENVIRONMENT OFFICER’S
TOWN PLANNING REPORT**

The Director General and Clerk-Treasurer tabled the activity report of the Building and Environment Department for the month.

January 2025
Number of permits issued: 7
Value of the work: \$292,00.00

Billing for services: \$1,540.00

0 site visits
No permits sent to the MRC

**6.2. FILE 447695 – MRC’S RECOMMENDATION TO THE CPTAQ
REGARDING LAND ACQUISITION BY THE MUNICIPALITY**

At the regular meeting of the Brome-Missisquoi Regional County Municipality held on January 21, 2025, the MRC adopted and resolved as follows:

To inform the CPTAQ that the application for the acquisition and use of part of lot 6 374 889 of the cadastre of Québec (0.528 hectares) for non-agricultural purposes is in accordance with the land use and development plan in force.

To support the application for authorization filed by the Municipality of West Bolton and encourage the CPTAQ to accept it in the interest of the local community.

All under resolution 30-0125

**7. ADMINISTRATION
7.1 ADMINISTRATION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-02-013
ACCOUNTS PAID AND PAYABLE**

IT WAS MOVED BY: Margarita Lafontaine
SECONDED BY: Loren Allen
AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

TO APPROVE the list of accounts and transfers as of February 3, 2025, in the amount of \$330,480.23 and salaries in the amount of \$11,504.43 for a total of \$341,984.66.

THAT COUNCIL AUTHORIZES the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer to make payment of these accounts to such persons as may be due.

ADOPTED

**7.2 ADMINISTRATION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-02-014
FILE NO.: VUG67379 – 46065 (5) – 20240418-002 – LOCAL ROAD
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
COMPONENT – ACCOUNTING**

WHEREAS the Municipality of West Bolton has taken note of the terms and conditions for the application of the Special Improvement Projects (PPA) component of the Local Road Assistance Program (PAVL) and undertakes to comply with them;

WHEREAS the road network for which financial assistance has been granted is under municipal jurisdiction and is eligible for the PAVL;

WHEREAS the work was carried out in the calendar year during which the Minister authorised them;

WHEREAS the work carried out or the costs associated with it are eligible for the Local Road Assistance Program (PAVL);

WHEREAS the V-0321 Accountability Form has been duly completed;

WHEREAS the transmission of the project accounts was made at the end of the work or, at the latest, by January 31, 2025, following the Minister's authorization to file after December 31, 2024, i.e., beyond the deadline of the calendar year during which the Minister authorized the projects;

CONSIDERING THAT payment is conditional on acceptance by the Minister of the accounting required for the project;

WHEREAS, if the reporting is deemed to be in order, the Minister makes a payment to the municipalities on the basis of the list of works approved by the Minister, without, however, exceeding the maximum amount of assistance as it appears in the letter of announcement;

CONSIDERING THAT the other sources of financing for the work have been declared;

ACCORDINGLY

IT WAS MOVED BY: Eddy Whitcher

SECONDED BY: Loren Allen

AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT the Council of the Municipality of West Bolton approves the expenses in the amount of twenty-three thousand two hundred and seventy-nine dollars (\$23,279) for the improvement work to be carried out and the eligible related costs mentioned on Form V-0321, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministère des Transports du Québec, and recognizes that in the event of non-compliance with these requirements, the financial assistance will be terminated.

ADOPTED

7.3 ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-02-015

SALE OF IMMOVABLES FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES

CONSIDERING the tabling of the list of immovables in default of payment of municipal taxes on February 3, 2025, at this Council meeting;

CONSIDERING the recommendations of the Treasurer, Mrs. Léa Laplante, concerning the immovables on the territory of the Municipality of West Bolton for which the municipal taxes due for the years 2023 and prior have not been paid, in whole or in part;

CONSIDERING the steps already taken with the owners of the said immovables, the need for the Municipality to avoid any prescription of the tax bill and the powers conferred on Council by applicable law regarding the sale of immovables for non-payment of municipal taxes;

ACCORDINGLY

IT WAS MOVED BY: Nancy Lanteigne

SECONDED BY: Marie-Blanche Richer

AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of sections 1022 to 1060 of the Municipal Code of Québec, RLRQ, c. C-27.1, Council authorizes the sale, in whole or in part, of immovables in default of payment of municipal and/or school taxes for the years 2023 and earlier, on June 12, 2025, or on another date to be set by the Brome-Missisquoi RCM as per applicable standards. However, during the process and at the request of the RCM, through a written authorization by Mrs. Léa Laplante, Director General, Clerk-Treasurer, the Municipality may

reduce the amount due by agreeing to subtract the current year's taxes or others.

THAT Council authorizes the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer, Léa Laplante, on behalf of the Municipality of West Bolton, to attend the sale and to make the first offer in the amount sufficient to satisfy any priority or hypothecary debt of a priority or equal to that of the municipal taxes, as well as any subsequent investments to acquire any immovable in default of payment of the taxes of the Municipality that is the subject of this sale. However, the Municipality is not required to pay the amount of the auction immediately.

ADOPTED

7.4 ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-02-016

DENUNCIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC REGARDING THE LACK OF FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENT OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS INTENDED FOR MUNICIPALITIES DUE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE CHANGES THEY MAY EXPERIENCE

WHEREAS several Government of Quebec programs intended for municipalities are not indexed, despite the current economic situation;

WHEREAS this has a direct impact on the significant increase in the overall tax burden on taxpayers and on the financial capacities of municipalities, including the RCMs of Quebec, since they must deal with a significant increase in costs for the realization of projects and the maintenance of services to the population;

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for balanced budgets, which must take into account their citizens' ability to pay;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec must act to regularize the situation, in particular by restoring funding for municipalities to an acceptable level, given the current economic situation;

WHEREAS the funding promised to the Brome-Missisquoi RCM and the local municipalities in its territory, following the change of administrative region, has not been systematically adjusted, which has had a negative impact on their finances, despite the commitments of the Government of Quebec;

IT WAS MOVED BY: Marie-Blanche Richer

SECONDED BY: Eddy Whitcher

AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Council requests the Government of Quebec to regularize the funding of programs intended for municipalities, including the RCMs, in particular by providing adequate funding, taking into account inflation and the changes they are enduring;

THAT Council requests the Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Premier of Quebec, Mr. François Legault, as well as to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mrs. Andrée Laforest, and to the Minister and Member of the National Assembly for our territory, Mrs. Isabelle Charest.

THAT Council requests the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the RCMs of Quebec as well as to local municipalities to indicate its support.

7.5 ADMINISTRATION
SPA – MANDATE FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE BY-LAW
CONCERNING DOGS

REPORT DU POINT
The municipal council notes that additional information is needed from the SPA des Cantons before it can analyze the file.

As a result, it was agreed that this item should be deferred to a later meeting.

7.6 ADMINISTRATION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-02-017
APPOINTMENTS TO MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES

IT WAS MOVED BY: Nancy Lanteigne
SECONDED BY: Eddy Whitcher
AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

TO FORM the following committees for the year 2025 and to approve members of Council designated to serve on each of them, as described below. These committees are working groups formed to study and recommend specific issues:

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY	Nancy Lanteigne Eddy Whitcher
DEMOLITION	Marie-Blanche Richer Eddy Whitcher Gilles Asselin
PAC	Marie-Blanche Richer Eddy Whitcher
ENVIRONMENT	Nancy Lanteigne Marie-Blanche Richer
FINANCE	Gilles Asselin Margarita Lafontaine
TOWN HALL	Gilles Asselin Margarita Lafontaine
LEISURE AND CULTURE	Nancy Lanteigne Marie-Blanche Richer
HUMAN RESOURCES	Eddy Whitcher Nancy Lanteigne
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	Nancy Lanteigne Marie-Blanche Richer
PUBLIC SECURITY	Denis Vaillancourt Marie-Blanche Richer Loren Allen And any member of the council
ROADS	Loren Allen Gilles Asselin Eddy Whitcher

8. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
8.1. ROAD INFO – PRUNING ON THE TERRITORY

Information Point – Tree Branch Pruning

The municipality continues to cut tree branches on certain roads in its territory. This preventive intervention aims to reduce the risk of branches falling during storms (snow, wind) and to ensure the safety of our roads. The work will be carried out by Abroxigene, and will continue during the month of February on Stagecoach and Fuller roads. We thank citizens for their understanding and cooperation.

8. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
8.2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT – PAVL GRANT – GLEN

Information item: MTQ grant for the Glen culvert rehabilitation project

Council has taken note of the financial assistance received from the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable (MTQ) for the culvert rehabilitation project located on Glen Road. This project will receive a maximum grant of \$362,480, which will be paid based on invoices attesting to the amounts actually spent and in accordance with the criteria established by the MTQ. The repair work is scheduled for this summer.

9. ENVIRONMENT

Nothing to discuss.

10. PUBLIC SECURITY

Nothing to discuss.

11. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-02-018
11.1. PROCLAMATION OF SCHOOL PERSEVERANCE DAYS

WHEREAS decision-makers and elected officials in the Eastern Townships have, for the past 20 years, placed **the fight against school dropout at the heart of regional development priorities**, since this problem is closely linked to other issues, including regional image and attractiveness, the succession and qualification of the workforce, unemployment and inactivity, as well as several social problems;

WHEREAS the elected officials of the Eastern Townships, through the *Table des MRCs de l'Estrie*, have made it one of the regional priorities to **contribute to the support and development of the people of the Eastern Townships**, by promoting the development of their skills, employability and economic autonomy through training, school perseverance and the continuous acquisition of knowledge that increases equal opportunity;

WHEREAS the elected officials of the Eastern Townships, via the Table des MRCs de l'Estrie, have placed, as part of a regional planning exercise carried out in 2022, among their priorities, **attraction, retention, employment and training, as well as social development**;

WHEREAS **the individual consequences of school dropout are numerous** on physical and mental health, social behaviour, employability and productivity at work;

WHEREAS **school dropout has significant negative impacts on the economy of the Eastern Townships**, namely that the economic cost of school dropout in the Eastern Townships is estimated at between \$32,949 and \$43,811 per dropout, representing a total of \$1.14 billion to \$1.54 billion for the region each year;

WHEREAS more and more young people in the Eastern Townships are persevering, but **18.2% of these young people still drop out of school annually before** obtaining a high school diploma (2021-2022 annual rate);

WHEREAS to **guarantee the vitality of our region, the prosperity of our businesses and the full participation of our citizens in the economy of the Eastern Townships**, it is crucial to continue mobilization efforts around educational success;

WHEREAS educational success is not an issue that concerns the school world exclusively, but rather a **social issue** that must be addressed collectively, from early childhood to the attainment of a diploma that opens doors to the job market, regardless of the level of education;

WHEREAS **R3USSIR** is organizing, from **February 10 to 14, 2025**, the 16th edition of **Hooked on School Days in the Eastern Townships**, under the theme "Perseverance makes all the difference!". This 2025 edition will be an opportunity to remind people that each adult can play a fundamental role in motivating young people and promoting their school perseverance;

WHEREAS **School Perseverance Days** will once again be held simultaneously this year in all regions of Quebec, and whereas a significant number of municipalities will also support this event;

IT WAS MOVED BY: Marie-Blanche Richer

SECONDED BY: Nancy Lanteigne

AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That the Council of the Municipality of West Bolton proclaims February 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2025 as **School Perseverance Days** in the municipality, and commits to:

- Support **R3USSIR** and all partners mobilized around the fight against school dropouts, in order to make **the Eastern Townships a region that values education as a real lever for development for its communities**.
- Encourage and publicly congratulate the young citizens of the Municipality of West Bolton for their academic perseverance.
- Proudly wear the green and white ribbon of school perseverance to show their support.
- Participate in PerséVERT Thursday on February 13, 2025, by wearing green clothing or accessories to demonstrate your commitment to school perseverance.
- Display the School Perseverance flag when possible.
- Send a copy of this resolution to R3USSIR, info@reussirestrie.ca.

ADOPTED

12. LEISURE AND CULTURE

Nothing to discuss.

13. VARIA

Nothing to discuss.

14. SECOND QUESTION PERIOD

Council held a second question period during which those attending the live broadcast could ask questions to members.

Council answered all questions posed by citizens.

Copies of the agenda were made available to the public before the start of the meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-02-020
ADJOURNMENT

The agenda having been exhausted;

IT WAS MOVED BY: Margarita Lafontaine
SECONDED BY: Nancy Lanteigne
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

TO ADJOURN the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Denis Vaillancourt
Mayor

Léa Laplante
Director general and
Clerk-Treasurer

I, Denis Vaillancourt, Mayor of West Bolton, certify that the signing of these minutes is equivalent to the signing of all the resolutions contained therein as per Section 142 of the Municipal Code of Québec.