

## Municipality of Waltham

This public sitting of the Council is recorded.

Minutes of a regular meeting held at the usual place and time on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2026, under the chairmanship of Mayor Jordan Evans with the presence of the following councillors # 1 Mrs. Chantal Fortin, #2 Mr. Francis Turner, #3 Mrs. Holli Lair #4 Mr. Brendan Adam, #5 Mr. Elwood Allard and # 6 Mr. Tyler Rochon

Mrs. Annik Plante Director General is also present.

### **Opening of the meeting**

Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Statement by the mayor (Decorum)

### **01-18-03-26 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was proposed to move the question period to the end of the meeting.  
**Moved by Councillor Allard, seconded by Councillor Rochon,**  
**THAT** the agenda be adopted as presented.

**ADOPTED**

### **02-18-03-26 — ACCEPTANCE OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES**

**Moved by Councillor Adam and seconded by Councillor Lair** that the minutes of the last months be accepted as presented.

**ADOPTED**

**VISITORS:** Four (4) visitors were present.

Mr. Godin asked council about the MRC intermunicipal fire department agreement. It was explained that the agreement is still under discussion and review, that nothing has been finalized, and that additional information will be provided once available. The project is currently at the draft stage.

Mr. Godin also asked why residents were not receiving any follow-up from MRC committees. No response was provided to this question.

Mr. Dempsey asked whether the maps had been approved. It was confirmed that they have been approved.

### **COMMITTEES REPORT**

- **Roads:** Everything is in order; no issues were reported. 1
- **Transfer Site:** Everything is in order; no issues were reported.
- **Arena:** Mayor Evans advised that she has stepped down from the Arena Board. She is currently training the new treasurer in a limited capacity, but is no longer serving as a board member.
- **Committee Mandates:**  
Mayor Evans indicated that draft committee mandates are to be developed and expressed hope that Council can meet to prepare these mandates.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Mayor Evans reported attending several meetings and events, including a revitalization meeting, an HR Committee meeting at the MRC, a flood prevention meeting, and a plenary session of mayors.

She also attended a tour of the nuclear plant in Chalk River, noting that it was her first visit and that she found it very interesting.

In addition, Mayor Evans attended a CSI Committee meeting at the MRC, as well as a Résidence Meilleur meeting, where the 2026 budget was presented. She also advised that the Annual General Assembly (AGA) for Résidence Meilleur will be held on March 26 at 7:00 p.m.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Item raised by Councillor Adam last meeting:

Councillor Adam reported receiving complaints regarding snowmobiles operating near the Hydro dam on Rochon Street in Waltham. Some drivers were reportedly traveling on the ice. This situation constitutes both a nuisance and a significant safety risk, and it is important to prevent any accidents.

The Director General indicated that she would look into the matter and report back to Council.

**Follow-up:**

The Director General advised that she contacted the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), who confirmed that they will increase patrols in the area near the dam. The SQ also indicated that residents should continue to call 911 to report such incidents. When possible, individuals involved should be identified, as this would assist the SQ in taking appropriate action, as they are not always able to intercept offenders in the act.

It was also suggested that, for next season, the Municipality consider installing appropriate signage in mutual agreement with Brookfield.

**03-18-03-26 – ADOPTION OF THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT – REVISED FIRE SAFETY COVER PLAN**

- WHEREAS** section 35 of the Fire Safety Act requires that an activity report for the previous fiscal year be prepared, adopted by resolution, and submitted to the Minister annually;
- WHEREAS** the MRC is responsible for collecting this information in order to produce a regional activity report;
- WHEREAS** the 2025 annual report of the Revised Fire Safety Cover Plan was submitted by the **Fire Chief**;
- WHEREAS** Council has reviewed the report and agrees with its content;

2

**Moved by Councillor Rochon and Seconded by Councillor Adam AND RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Council of the Municipality of Waltham adopt the **2025 Annual Report of the Revised Fire Safety Cover Plan**, as submitted by the Fire Chief, and authorize its transmission to the **MRC Pontiac**.

**ADOPTED**

**04-18-03-26 RESOLUTION – SUPPORT FOR THE CHAPEAU BOWLING ALLEY PROJECT AND AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT**

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes is submitting a funding request under the *Fonds Régions et Ruralité (FRR) – Volet 4* for the project to replace bowling equipment and resurface the alleys at the Chapeau Bowling Alley located in the Harrington Community Centre;

**WHEREAS** the Chapeau Bowling Alley serves residents of several municipalities in the Upper Pontiac region, including L’Isle-aux-Allumettes, Chichester, Sheenboro, Waltham and neighbouring communities;

**WHEREAS** this facility provides an important recreational opportunity for youth, families, seniors and community groups and contributes to the social vitality of the region;

**WHEREAS** Council recognizes the importance of maintaining and improving recreational infrastructure that benefits residents of the Municipality of Waltham and the surrounding region;

**Moved by Councillor Allard and Seconded by Councillor Rochon AND RESOLVED**

**THAT** Council of the Municipality of Waltham expresses its support for the Chapeau Bowling Alley Project submitted by the Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes under the *Fonds Régions et Ruralité (FRR) – Volet 4*;

**THAT** Council mandates the Director General to sign and transmit the letter of support on behalf of the Municipality of Waltham.

**ADOPTED**

**05-18-03-26 REGIONS AND RURALITY FUND (FRR) – COMPONENT 4 "INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION" – ENHANCEMENT OF THE INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MRC PONTIAC AND THE MRC DES COLLINES-DE-L'OUTAOUAIS FOR THE PROVISION OF PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS** the municipality of Waltham acknowledges that it has read and read the Applicant's guide concerning the Municipal Cooperation and Governance component of the Regions and Rurality Fund, Intermunicipal Cooperation sub-component;

**WHEREAS** the municipal bodies of Alleyn-et-Cawood, Bristol, Bryson, Campbell's Bay, Chichester, Clarendon, Fort-Coulonge, L’Île-du-Grand-Calumet, L’Isle-aux-Allumettes, Litchfield, Mansfield-et-Pontefract, Otter Lake, Portage-du-Fort, Rapides-des-Joachims, Shawville, Sheenboro, Thorne, Waltham, Cantley, Chelsea, L’Ange-Gardien, La Pêche, Pontiac, Val-des-Monts and the MRC des Collines-de-l’Outaouais wish to present a project to improve the transportation service of persons who are the subject of an intermunicipal agreement between the MRC Pontiac and the MRC des Collines-de-l’Outaouais as part of the Cooperation and Municipal Governance component of the Regions and Rurality Fund. <sup>3</sup>

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is moved by **Councillor Adam**, and seconded by **Councillor Rochon** and resolved that this resolution be adopted and that it rules and enact as follows:

- The council of The Municipality of Waltham undertakes to participate in the project to improve the intermunicipal agreement between the MRC Pontiac and the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais for the provision of passenger transportation services;
- The **MRC Council** agrees to pay a portion of the costs, namely the minimum contribution required under the program;
- Council appoints the MRC Pontiac as the organization responsible for the project and authorizes the submission of the project under the Municipal Cooperation and Governance component of the Regions and Rurality Fund, Intermunicipal Cooperation sub-component;
- Council designates **The Pontiac MRC** to sign any document that is necessary or useful or requested by the municipal body responsible for the project for the purposes of this grant application.

**ADOPTED**

**06-18-03-26 INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA**

**WHEREAS** the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms recognize that no discrimination may be exercised based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;

**WHEREAS** Quebec is a society open to all individuals, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ+) people and all others who identify with sexual diversity and the plurality of gender identities and expressions;

**WHEREAS** despite recent efforts to improve inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals, homophobia and transphobia are still present in society;

**CONSIDERING** that May 17 is the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, that it is celebrated in fact in many countries and that it resulted from a Quebec initiative led by the Émergence Foundation since 2003.

**CONSIDERING** that there is a need to support the efforts of the Émergence Foundation in holding this day;

**Moved by Councillor Rochon and Seconded by Councillor Lair  
AND RESOLVED**

**THAT** the municipality to proclaim May 17 as the INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA and to recognize and highlight this day accordingly.

**ADOPTED**

**07-18-03-26 RENEWAL OF MAGNESIUM ORDER WITH MULTI ROUTE**

**Moved by Councillor Allard and seconded by Councillor Fortin  
AND RESOLVED**

- THAT** the Municipality of Waltham renew its order with Multi Route for 7,500 liters of magnesium chloride for the 2026 season;
- THAT** this quantity be held and reserved for the Municipality should it be required;
- THAT** any unused quantity will not be billed to the Municipality.

**ADOPTED**

**08-18-03-26 PARTICIPATORY BUDGET**

- WHEREAS** a contract was signed between the Municipality of Waltham and the MRC of Pontiac on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2025, for the participatory budget project, which ends on March 31, 2026;
- WHEREAS** the amount of \$5000.00, comes from funds used by the MRC under Component 2 – Territorial Development of the Regions and Rurality Fund, for which an agreement has been signed with the MAMH;
- WHEREAS** the Municipality confirmed its contribution of \$5000.00 by resolution no. 07-14-01-25;
- WHEREAS** the Municipality of Waltham launched a citizen participation program, inviting the public to submit project proposals aimed at improving community life;
- WHEREAS** the eligible project is:  
*“Play Ball Waltham: New Bleachers Project”*.

**IT IS MOVED BY Councillor Lair and SECONDED BY Councillor Allard  
AND RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Municipality of Waltham formally approves the participation of the eligible project in the participatory budget program.
2. The Municipality authorizes the **Director General** to take all necessary steps to implement the project in accordance with the contract with the MRC of Pontiac and applicable funding agreements.

**ADOPTED**

**09-18-03-26 APPOINTMENT OF THREE (3) PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTER  
TO THE WALTHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT**

*Councillor Rochon and Mayor Evans have declared a conflict of interest, abstained from discussions and voting, and left the room during deliberations on this matter.* 5

- WHEREAS** the Fire Chief has submitted letters of recommendation for the appointment of three (3) individuals to the Waltham Fire Department;
- WHEREAS** the individuals have met the initial requirements and qualifications to serve as probationary firefighters;
- WHEREAS** it is in the interest of the Municipality to ensure adequate personnel for the safety and protection of the community;

**IT IS MOVED BY Councillor Fortin and SECONDED BY Councillor Adam  
AND RESOLVED**

**THAT**

- The Municipality of Waltham accepts the recommendation of the Fire Chief and approves the appointment of the following individuals as probationary firefighter with the Waltham Fire Department:
  1. Ms. Katie Rochon
  2. Ms. Leeya Lavigne
  3. Mr. Daniel Mousseau
- The appointments shall take effect immediately and remain subject to the successful completion of the probationary period as determined by the Fire Chief.

**ADOPTED**

*Councillor Rochon and Mayor Evans returned to the meeting following the conclusion of this item.*

**10-18-03-26 PURCHASE OF TICKETS – MRC PONTIAC MAYORS’ BREAKFAST BENEFITING UNITED WAY**

**WHEREAS** the MRC de Pontiac is organizing the Mayors’ Breakfast on April 1st, in support of United Way;

**WHEREAS** the cost of a ticket is \$20 per person;

**IT IS MOVED BY Councillor Adam and SECONDED BY Councillor Rochon  
AND RESOLVED**

**THAT**

1. The Municipality of Waltham authorizes the purchase of 2 tickets for the MRC Pontiac Mayors’ Breakfast.
2. The total amount of \$40 will be paid from the municipal budget to support participation in this fundraising event.

**ADOPTED**

**11-18-03-26 POSITION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF WALTHAM REGARDING CONTINUITY OF ACCESS TO MRC INSTITUTIONAL RECORDS**

**WHEREAS** the MRC maintains an internal information platform containing institutional records from previous and current terms;

**WHEREAS** access to this platform currently allows newly elected mayors to consult documents only from the date of their election forward;

**WHEREAS** returning mayors retain access to documents from previous terms;

**WHEREAS** this results in unequal access to institutional information among members of the Council of Mayors;

6

**WHEREAS** elected officials must have access to complete and relevant information in order to fulfill their governance responsibilities and make informed decisions;

**WHEREAS** institutional continuity requires that access to historical records attach to the office of mayor rather than to the individual mandate;

**IT IS MOVED BY Councillor Allard and SECONDED BY Councillor Rochon  
AND RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Municipality of Waltham formally request that all sitting mayors be granted access to institutional records from previous term(s), insofar as they relate to active, ongoing, or recurring files;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

**THAT** such access remains subject to all applicable confidentiality obligations and legal restrictions;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

**THAT** this resolution be transmitted to the MRC for consideration and appropriate action.

**ADOPTED BY MAJORITY**

*In favour: Councillors Rochon, Fortin, Allard, and Turner*

*Opposed: Councillors Lair and Adam*

**12-18-03-26 RESOLUTION – OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL FIREARMS BUYBACK PROGRAM FOR ASSAULT-STYLE WEAPONS**

Discussion was held. The item was deferred to a future meeting, as Council indicated that additional time is required to further review the resolution.

**13-18-03-26 REQUEST TO AMEND THE TECQ 2024–2028 GUIDE REGARDING GRANULAR RECHARGING**

**WHEREAS** section 66 of the *Municipal Powers Act* (chapter C-47.1) grants local municipalities jurisdiction over roadways on public roads whose management does not fall under the Government of Québec or the Government of Canada;

**WHEREAS** the *Guide concerning the terms and conditions for payment of the government contribution under the Québec Water and Community Infrastructure Transfer Program (TECQ) 2024–2028*, published in July 2024, provided that granular recharging of local roads was considered an eligible project, without specifying a required thickness;

**WHEREAS** the new TECQ guide, published in January 2026, now specifies that granular recharging must reach a minimum thickness of **300 mm (30 cm)** in order to be eligible;

**WHEREAS** this thickness represents a considerable quantity that more closely resembles a complete reconstruction of a gravel road rather than traditional granular recharging; 7

**WHEREAS** no standard prescribes a mandatory minimum thickness for granular recharging in the documents of the *Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable* nor in standard **BNQ 2560-114/2014 R 2024**, and the Ministry's documents—particularly **Volume VI, Chapter 2, Standard 2204**—instead provide for a **maximum thickness of 300 mm (30 cm)**;

**WHEREAS** granular recharging normally carried out on the local road network generally varies between **4 and 6 inches (100 to 150 mm)**, which constitutes the common practice for maintaining rural roads;

**WHEREAS** the application of a thickness of **300 mm** results in several major disadvantages, including:

- a significant raising of the roadway level, creating problematic elevation differences with private driveways and property access points;
- instability of the driving surface due to an excessive addition of material even when compacted;
- an increased risk of material dispersal into ditches, causing blockages and poor drainage of stormwater;
- a notable increase in material, transportation, and labour costs, making such work difficult for rural municipalities to sustain;
- accelerated deterioration of roads due to a longer consolidation period and lower load-bearing capacity during the stabilization phase;
- additional interventions required to adapt and extend culverts and private entrances, generating extra costs for citizens and the municipality;

**WHEREAS** this new requirement imposes additional administrative, financial, and operational burdens on rural municipalities that were not anticipated when the TECQ 2024–2028 program was adopted;

**WHEREAS** maintaining granular recharging **without a mandatory minimum thickness**, as previously provided, would allow municipalities to better adapt their interventions to soil conditions, climate, and municipal budgets;

**FOR THESE REASONS,  
IT IS MOVED BY Councillor Adam and SECONDED BY Councillor  
Rochon  
AND RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Municipal Council be authorized to formally request that the Government of Québec amend the **TECQ 2024–2028 guide**, published in January 2026, in order to remove the requirement for a minimum thickness of **300 mm** for granular recharging and return to wording without quantitative specification, leaving municipalities to determine the necessary thickness according to their local context;

**THAT** the Municipal Council be authorized to seek the support of the **Fédération Québécoise des Municipalités (FQM)**, the **Union des Municipalités du Québec (UMQ)**, as well as all municipalities in Québec, in order to support this joint request to amend the guide;

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the following bodies:

8

- The **Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM)**;
- The **Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ)**;
- The provincial Member of the National Assembly for the **MRC Pontiac**;
- The **MRC Pontiac**.

**ADOPTED**

**14-18-03-26 NOTICE OF MOTION BYLAW 2024-005-02**

A notice of motion is hereby given by **Councillor Adam** those modifications to **By-law 2024-055**, entitled “*By-law respecting the internal management of meetings of the Council of the Municipality of Waltham*”, **specifically to Articles 13, 14, and 34, will be presented for adoption at the next public meeting of Council on April 15th, 2026.**

Upon adoption, the **new by-law will be numbered 2024-005-02.**

A draft of the by-law was made available to Council members at the time the notice of motion was given, in accordance with the law.

**15-18-03-26 PURCHASE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLE**

**WHEREAS** the current F-150 town truck requires extensive repairs and is no longer cost-effective to maintain;

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of Waltham wishes to proceed with the purchase of a replacement truck;

**WHEREAS** the total purchase price of the new truck is **\$37,944.88**, minus GST of **\$1,644.70** and half of the QST of **\$1,640.59**, for a **net cost of \$34,659.59**;

**WHEREAS** the Municipality will finance **\$34,000.00** of the purchase price;

**WHEREAS** the Municipality will make a **down payment of \$3,944.88** to Shawville Ford, and will subsequently recover the full GST and half of the QST;

**WHEREAS** the biweekly payments of approximately \$391.44 will cover the remaining balance, totaling approximately \$11,381.67 for the remainder of the year;

**WHEREAS** Council has budgeted \$22,000.00 for vehicle maintenance in 2026, noting that \$10,000 has already been allocated toward repairs for the town truck;

**IT IS MOVED BY Councillor Adam and SECONDED BY Councillor Rochon  
AND RESOLVED**

**THAT:**

1. The Municipality of Waltham authorizes the purchase of the replacement F-150 town truck.
2. The Director General is authorized to complete the purchase and make the required down payment and financing payments to Shawville Ford. <sup>9</sup>
3. The financing arrangement and payments are approved as detailed above, in accordance with the 2026 municipal budget.
4. The Municipality will recover the applicable GST and half of the QST following the payment.

**ADOPTED**

**MUTATION:**

There are no property mutations to report for this month.

**FIRE REPORT:**

Council was advised of one (1) fire incident that occurred on March 11, 2026. The pager call was received at 9:26 p.m. for mutual aid, requesting a pumper and personnel. Waltham’s response time began at 9:56 p.m. and concluded at 11:32 p.m. A total of seven (7) firefighters responded to the scene, along with one (1) dispatcher.

**Incident Summary:**

Pontiac West Fire Department was already on scene; however, access to the driveway was limited due to the presence of their fire apparatus. Waltham personnel were instructed to remain at the end of the driveway. A small equipment shed was on fire near other buildings, but the fire had not spread. Waltham was asked to stand down.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**No items were brought forward.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Council received information regarding the MRC Pontiac Mayors’ Breakfast in support of United Way, to be held on April 1st from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20 each. Residents interested in participating may purchase tickets through the MRC website.

**INFORMATION/ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:**

No matters were brought forward.

**VARIA**

**No items were raised.**

**16-18-03-26 – PAYMENT OF THE BILLS FEBRUARY 2026**

**Moved by Councillor Fortin and seconded by Councillor Adam  
AND RESOLVED**

**THAT** Council acknowledge the payment of all bills already paid during the month of February 2026, in the total amount of \$17,638.14;

**AND THAT** Council authorizes the payment of all remaining bills for the month of February 2026, in the total amount of \$105,299.54, to be paid as presented;

FOR A TOTAL OF \$122,937.68 for all bills for the month of February 2026.

**ADOPTED**

Certificate of availability

I, Annik Plante, Director General of the Municipality of Waltham, certify that there are funds available for the expenses approved above. Given at Waltham, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

10

Annik Plante  
Director General/Secretary Treasurer

**17-18-03-26 CLOSED**

**Moved by Councillor Allard and seconded by Councillor Fortin  
to close the meeting at 8: 15 P.M.**

**ADOPTED**

Mayor Mrs. Jordan Evans

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director General/Secretary Treasure Mrs. Annik Plante

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