

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council for the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood held this **14th day of March 2026**, 10 chemin Jondee, Danford Lake, Quebec, J0X 1P0.

PRESENT:	Mayor	Sidney Squitti	
	Councillors	Jessica Cayer	Guy Bergeron
		Angela Giroux	James Giroux
		Mona Giroux	Amanda Peck

The Director General, Isabelle Cardinal, and two (2) guests were also present.

1. Opening of Meeting
Mayor Squitti acknowledges quorum and declares the meeting is officially opened at 8:30 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

042-03-2026
PROPOSED BY: Councillor Angela Giroux
And, resolved unanimously that the agenda be approved with additions.

Adopted

3. Question Period
4. 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;
- 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**;

043-03-2026

PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Giroux

And unanimously resolved by the members present on Council,

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:

- 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

5. Regions and Rurality Fund (FRR) – Component 4 “Intermunicipal Cooperation” – Enhancement of the Intermunicipal Agreement Between the MRC of Pontiac and the MRC des Collines-de-l’Outaouais for the Provision of Passenger Transportation Services

WHEREAS the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood acknowledges having read and taken note of the *Applicant’s Guide* concerning the **Cooperation and Municipal Governance component of the Regions and Rurality Fund**, sub-component *Intermunicipal Cooperation*;

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 enhance the passenger transportation service covered by an intermunicipal agreement between the **MRC of Pontiac** and the **MRC des Collines-de-l’Outaouais**, within the framework of the **Cooperation and Municipal Governance component of the Regions and Rurality Fund**;

044-03-2026

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Guy Bergeron
And resolved that this resolution be adopted and that it stipulates and decrees the following:

THAT the Council of **Alleyn and Cawood** commits to participating in the project to **enhance the intermunicipal agreement between the MRC of Pontiac and the MRC des Collines-de-l’Outaouais for the provision of passenger transportation services**;

THAT the **MRC** agrees to assume a portion of the costs, namely the **minimum contribution required under the program**;

THAT the Council appoints the **MRC of Pontiac** as the **organization responsible for the project** and authorizes the submission of the project under the **Cooperation and Municipal Governance component of the Regions and Rurality Fund**, sub-component Intermunicipal Cooperation;

THAT the Council designates the **MRC of Pontiac** to sign any document necessary, useful, or requested by the municipal organization responsible for the project for the purposes of this grant application.

Adopted

6. Request for annulment of the Federal Government’s Firearms Buyback Program

WHEREAS the federal government launched, on January 17, 2026, the federal buyback program for assault-style firearms;

WHEREAS Canadians have from January 19 to March 31, 2026, to participate in said program, which provides for the voluntary surrender of prohibited firearms in exchange for compensation;

WHEREAS the financial compensation provided under the buyback program is considered insufficient, inequitable, or not guaranteed for all affected owners;

WHEREAS the firearms targeted by the prohibition are modern civilian hunting or sporting firearms and not military assault weapons;

- WHEREAS** within Quebec territory, the Sûreté du Québec will coordinate the operation;
- WHEREAS** police resources are already limited and mobilizing them to enforce this regime diverts personnel from combating actual criminal activity;
- WHEREAS** public safety is a shared responsibility between federal, provincial, and municipal governments as well as police services;
- WHEREAS** lawful firearm owners are already subject to strict licensing, training, background checks, and safe storage requirements;
- WHEREAS** municipalities directly experience the impacts of this policy without participating in its development;
- WHEREAS** lawful firearm owners are already subject to a strict regime of licensing, training, registration, background checks, secure storage, and compliance with the law;
- WHEREAS** available data show that firearms used in violent crimes predominantly come from the black market and not from the legal market;
- WHEREAS** public safety priorities should focus on combating illegal firearms trafficking, organized criminal groups, and smuggling;
- WHEREAS** prohibition and mandatory buyback measures primarily target law-abiding citizens, without significant direct impact on crime;
- WHEREAS** the imposition of this regime represents an infringement on the legitimate property rights of these citizens;
- WHEREAS** this regime does not take into account the territorial, social, economic, and cultural realities specific to municipalities;
- WHEREAS** many rural, agricultural, and northern communities legitimately use firearms for hunting, subsistence, livestock protection, and personal safety in remote areas;
- WHEREAS** several Canadian provinces have publicly expressed their opposition to this prohibition and buyback regime, refusing to collaborate in or enforce it due to its perceived inefficiency, cost, and unfairness;
- WHEREAS** municipalities have no real authority in the development of this policy, yet directly bear its impacts;
- WHEREAS** the Municipality believes that investing in mental health services, prevention initiatives, and community support programs can help address the underlying causes of violence and contribute to safer communities;

045-03-2026

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Angela Giroux
And resolved unanimously;

- THAT** the Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood officially request that the federal government terminate its assault-style firearms buyback program;
- THAT** should the program not be repealed, the Municipality request that the Sûreté du Québec not enforce the prohibition and **mandatory buyback measures within its territory**;
- THAT** the Municipality affirms that public safety priorities must focus on combating illegal firearms trafficking, organized crime, and actual armed violence;
- THAT** the Municipality requests that the Government of Quebec intervene with the federal government to reconsider the current approach;
- THAT** the Municipality affirms its support for law-abiding citizens, hunters, farmers, rural communities, and legitimate firearm users.
- THAT** a copy of the resolution be given to:
- the Sûreté du Québec;
 - the Ministry of Public Security Quebec;
 - the Premiere of Quebec;
 - the Federal ministry of Security;
 - the Provincial and Federal deputies concerned;
 - the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM);
 - the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ).

Adopted

7. Question Period

8. Adjournment

046-03-2026

PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Giroux

And resolved unanimously that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Adopted



Sidney Squitti, Mayor



**Isabelle Cardinal, Director General
and Secretary Treasurer**