MAYOR'S INITIALS

SEC.-TREA.'S INITIALS

Resolution or Notation No.

Minutes of the Council of the Municipality of Bonne-Espérance

A Regular sitting of the Council was held on April 28th, 2026 at 7:30 pm under the chairmanship of the Mayor, Dale Roberts Keats.

Present:	Mayor:	Dale Roberts Keats
	The following councilors:	Angela Spingle Clara Buckle Chelsey Thomas Joseph Bilodeau
Absent:		Robbie Thomas Ashley Roberts

Public Attendance: 0

Also present is the General Director, Leslie Woodland, quorum is verified by the Mayor, Dale Roberts-Keats

2026-4665 **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

1. Opening of the sitting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of the minutes from the regular sitting of March 24th, 2026
4. Adoption of the accounts payable for April 2026
5. Adoption of the financial commitments for May 2026
6. Resolution to amend the TECQ 2024-2028 Guide regarding granular replenishment
7. Resolution to support the nomination of Greenly Island as a National Historic Site of Canada
8. Resolution to donate four (4) gift certificates valued at $25.00 each
9. Resolution to request a consultation process for protected areas
10. Resolution for the maintenance of wildlife protection offices in the Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent RCM (La Tabatiere and Lourdes de Blanc Sablon)
11. Resolution to request for renewal of the subsidized satellite program
12. Adoption of by-law R0132, The code of ethics and good conduct of the Municipality of Bonne Esperance elected members
13. Adoption of by-law R0133, The code of ethics and good conduct of the Municipality of Bonne Esperance municipal employees
14. Resolution to accept the service proposal by Avizo (flow meter services)
15. Resolution to continue of the lawsuit filed by bilingual municipalities contesting certain provisions of an act respecting French, the official and common language of Quebec
16. Resolution for land request by Amanda Griffin
17. Resolution to invest $700,000.00 with Desjardins at 2.85% for an eight (8) month term
18. Question Period
19. Closing of the sitting

It was proposed by Angela Spingle, seconded by Chelsey Thomas and unanimously resolved that the agenda be accepted as presented.

Formules Municipales - No 5614-MyST

MAYOR'S INITIALS

SEC.-TREA.'S INITIALS

Resolution or Notation No.

2026-4666 **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR SITTING OF MARCH 24TH, 2026**

It was proposed by Clara Buckle, seconded by Angela Spingle and unanimously resolved to adopt the minutes from the regular sitting of March 24th, 2026.

2026-4667 **PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR APRIL 2026 AT $100,000.00**

It is proposed by Chelsey Thomas, seconded by Joseph Bilodeau and unanimously resolved the presentation of accounts payable for April 2026 at $100,000.00.

2026-4668 **ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FOR MAY 2026 AT $120,000.00**

It is proposed by Angela Spingle, seconded by Chelsey Thomas and unanimously resolved to adopt the financial commitments for May 2026 at $120,000.00.

2026-4669 **RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TECQ 2024-2028 GUIDE REGARDING GRANULAR REPLENISHMENT**

WHEREAS the guide regarding the terms and conditions for the disbursement of government contributions under the 2024–2028 Quebec Water and Community Infrastructure Transfer Program (TECQ), published in July 2024, provided that granular surfacing of local roads was considered eligible work, without specifying a thickness;

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

WHEREAS this thickness represents a considerable amount, which is more akin to a complete
reconstruction of a gravel road than to traditional granular surfacing;

WHEREAS no standard prescribes a mandatory minimum thickness for granular backfill in the documents of the Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility or in standard BNQ 2560-114/2014 r 2024. However, the Ministry's documents—notably Volume VI, Chapter 2, Standard 2024—specify a maximum thickness of 300 mm (30 cm);

WHEREAS granular overlay normally performed on the local road network generally varies between 4 and 6 inches (100 to 150 mm), which is standard practice for rural road maintenance;

WHEREAS applying a thickness of 300 mm results in several major drawbacks, including:

- A significant elevation of the road surface, creating problematic height differences with private driveways and property access points;
- Instability of the road surface due to an excessive amount of material, even if it is
  compacted;
- An increased risk of material dispersing into ditches, leading to blockages and poor stormwater drainage;
- A significant increase in material, transportation, and labor costs, making these projects difficult for rural municipalities to sustain;

- Accelerated deterioration of roads due to a longer consolidation period and lower loadbearing capacity during the stabilization phase;

- Additional work required to adapt and extend culverts and inlets private driveways, generating additional costs for residents and the municipality;

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

WHEREAS maintaining granular backfill without a mandatory minimum thickness, as was previously the case, would allow municipalities to better adapt their interventions to the realities of soil conditions, weather conditions, and municipal budgets;

It is proposed by Councilor Joseph Bilodeau

Seconded by Councilor Clara Buckle

And unanimously resolved:

THAT the council formally request the Government of Quebec to amend the TECQ 2024–2028 guide, published in January 2026, to remove the requirement for a minimum thickness of 300 mm for granular backfill and to revert to a formulation without quantitative specifications, leaving it to municipalities to determine the necessary thickness based on their local context;

THAT the municipal council seek the support of the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM), the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ), and all municipalities in Quebec to support this joint request to amend the guide;

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:
- The FQM
- The UMQ
- All municipalities in Quebec

The Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Abitibi-Ouest
The federal Member of Parliament for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue riding
The Abitibi RCM

2026-4670 **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NOMINATION OF GREENLY ISLAND AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA**

It is proposed by Angela Spingle, seconded by Chelsey Thomas and unanimously resolved to support the nomination of Greenly Island as a National Historic Site of Canada.

WHEREAS Greenly Island, located near Blanc-Sablon in the Strait of Belle Isle, is recognized as the landing site of the aircraft *Bremen*, which in April 1928 completed the first successful east-to-west transatlantic flight;

WHEREAS this event represents a significant milestone in aviation history and marks the point where the transatlantic crossing concluded in the Strait of Belle Isle;

WHEREAS Greenly Island also holds historical and cultural significance for the region through its longstanding role as a maritime navigation point and its connection to both maritime and aviation history;

WHEREAS the designation of Greenly Island as a National Historic Site of Canada would contribute to the recognition, preservation, and promotion of the heritage of the Lower North Shore;

Formules Municipales - No 5614-MyST

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Bonne Esperance formally supports the nomination of Greenly Island as a National Historic Site of Canada;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded in support of the submission to Parks Canada.

2026-4671 RESOLUTION TO DONATE FOUR (4) GIFT CERTIFICATES VALUED AT $25.00 EACH

It is proposed by Clara Bukcle, seconded by Angela Spingle and unanimously resolved to donate four (4) gift certificates valued at $25.00 each to CFBS Mother`s Day radiothon.

2025-4672 RESOLUTION TO REQUEST A CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR PROTECTED AREAS

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Government of Quebec adopted the Act respecting the conservation of natural heritage, which aims to safeguard the character, diversity, and integrity of Quebec's natural heritage;

WHEREAS, a protected area is "a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated, and managed, by any effective means, legal or otherwise, to ensure the long-term conservation of nature as well as the ecosystem services and cultural values associated with it";

WHEREAS, following the adoption of the Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework in Montreal, the Government of Quebec developed the Nature Plan 2030, a framework policy aimed at conserving biodiversity and achieving the majority of global targets, notably to conserve 30% of its terrestrial habitats and 30% of its marine habitats by 2030, by focusing on the effective management, representativeness, and ecological connectivity of conserved sites, while improving access to nature;

WHEREAS, in 2025, the network of protected areas in Quebec covered more than 250,000 km^2, representing approximately 17% of the land area and just over 10% of marine and coastal environments;

WHEREAS, in order to achieve the 30% target, in June 2024 the Government of Quebec launched a call for proposals for protected areas on public land open to all;

WHEREAS, following the submission of protected area proposals, a given proposal required a resolution of support from the regional county municipality (RCM) where it was located in order to proceed to the analysis phase;

WHEREAS, only one terrestrial project received the support of the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent, and no marine project received the support of the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent;

WHEREAS, the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks nevertheless made proposals for marine areas within the Gulf of St. Lawrence RCM;

WHEREAS, consultative roundtables are currently in place to determine which areas should be prioritized for the creation of new protected areas;

WHEREAS, these consultation tables in the Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent RCM are not in favor of establishing marine or terrestrial protected areas in the territories suggested by the Government of Quebec;

WHEREAS, a recommendation from each consultation table must be officially submitted to the Ministry;

WHEREAS, the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent wishes to receive these recommendations;

WHEREAS, after several consultations, many local partners have still not been consulted and, as a result, have not expressed their opinion regarding the establishment of protected areas;

THEREFORE

IT IS PROPOSED by Chelsey Thomas

SECONDED by Angela Spingle

AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

TO CONSULT the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent and the municipalities within its territory once the consultation process on the selected proposals has been completed, prior to the government's decision;

TO SEND a copy of this resolution to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks, Mr. Benoit Charette, and to the Minister of Families and Minister responsible for the Côte-Nord region, Ms. Kateri Champgane Jourdain.

2026-4673 **RESOLUTION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION OFFICES IN THE GOLFE-DU-SAINT-LAURENT RCM (LA TABATIERE AND LOURDES DE BLANC SABLON)**

WHEREAS, there are seasonal provincial wildlife protection offices in La Tabatière and Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon for the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent;

WHEREAS, these service points must be recognized by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks (MELCCFP) as strategic for the Côte-Nord region;

WHEREAS, the closure of these offices would have significant consequences for land monitoring, complaint handling, and the fight against poaching;

WHEREAS, these two offices are located in a remote and isolated region, and the nearest office is in Havre-Saint-Pierre, more than 350 kilometers from La Tabatière and approximately 500 kilometers from Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon, with no road connection to reach them;

WHEREAS, the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent is a region known for its rich wildlife, consequently requiring an increased presence to ensure the protection of resources, support management organizations, and prevent violations;

WHEREAS, the offices in La Tabatière and Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon play strategic roles in wildlife management and protection, and it is essential that this role be confirmed by the Ministry, notably through the maintenance of a local office with sufficient human resources;

WHEREAS, there are no longer any staff members assigned to the La Tabatière office following retirements;

WHEREAS, this situation is causing serious concern among the elected officials of the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent;

Formules Municipales - No 5614-MyST

THEREFORE

IT IS PROPOSED by Joseph Bilodeau

SECONDED by Clara Buckle

AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

TO REQUEST that the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks, Mr. Benoit Charette, confirm the retention and addition of resources at the Wildlife Protection offices in La Tabatière and Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon;

TO FORWARD a copy of this resolution to Kateri Champagne-Jourdain, Minister of Family Affairs and Minister responsible for the Côte-Nord region, and to Mr. Martin Perreault, Provincial President of the Syndicat des Agents de Protection de la Faune du Québec.

2025-4674 RESOLUTION TO REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF THE SUBSIDIZED SATELLITE PROGRAM

WHEREAS Operation High Speed, which concluded in March 2024, aimed to provide high-speed Internet access to all households in Quebec;

WHEREAS thanks to this initiative, more than 348,000 households now have access to high-speed Internet service, whereas the initial goal was to reach 250,000 unserved households;

WHEREAS regardless of the technology used, the service must offer at least 50 Mbps download speed and 10 Mbps upload speed, with no data transfer limits;

WHEREAS the Starlink service provides high-speed Internet access in areas where a wired connection is not available, particularly due to geographical constraints or the absence of an electrical grid;

WHEREAS in 2022, the Government of Quebec announced $50 million to connect an additional 10,200 Quebec households to high-speed Internet through the Starlink satellite service;

WHEREAS an additional $9.5 million is being added to the $50 million announced and will cover the costs of acquiring reception equipment for households that do not have access to wired Internet networks;

WHEREAS the Subsidized Satellite Program (Starlink) has now ended as of March 31, 2026;

WHEREAS for the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent, the Starlink solution is the only one offering at least 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload speeds;

THEREFORE

IT IS PROPOSED by Angela Spingle

SECONDED by Joseph Bilodeau

AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

TO REQUEST the Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Affairs, Mr. Gilles Bélanger, to extend the subsidized satellite program as it existed prior to March 31, 2026;

TO FORWARD a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Families and Minister responsible for the Côte-Nord region, Ms. Kateri Champagne-Jourdain.

2026-4675 **ADOPTION OF BY-LAW R0132-2026, THE CODE OF ETHICS AND GOOD CONDUCT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONNE ESPERANCE ELECTED MEMBERS**

It is proposed by Chelsey Thomas, seconded by Clara Buckle and unanimously resolved to adopt by-law R0132-2026, The code of ethics and good conduct of the Municipality of Bonne Esperance elected members. A certified copy of by-law is at the municipal office.

2026-4676 **ADOPTION OF BY-LAW R0133-2026, THE CODE OF ETHICS AND GOOD CONDUCT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONNE ESPERANCE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**

It is proposed by Joseph Bilodeau, seconded by Clara Buckle and unanimously resolved to adopt by-law R0133-2026, The code of ethics and good conduct of the Municipality of Bonne Esperance municipal employees. A certified copy of by-law is at the municipal office.

2026-4677 **RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE SERVICE PROPOSAL BY AVIZO (FLOW METER SERVICES)**

It is proposed by Angela Spingle, seconded by Chelsey Thomas and unanimously resolved to accept the service proposal by Avizo (Flow Meter Services).

2026-4678 **RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE OF THE LAWSUIT FILED BY BILINGUAL MUNICIPALITIES CONTESTING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF AN ACT RESPECTING FRENCH, THE OFFICIAL AND COMMON LANGUAGE OF QUEBEC**

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Bonne Esperance has agreed to join as co-plaintiff in a legal action contesting the provisions of Law 96 and is desirous of reiterating the mandate to the law firm Grey Casgrain s.e.n.c.;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Bonne Esperance agrees to share the legal fees and costs with the other co-plaintiffs, on a pro rata basis, established on the basis of population, said fees to be coordinated by the City and paid at the end of each quarter;

It was moved by Joseph Bilodeau, seconded by Chelsey Thomas and resolved:

THAT the Municipality of Bonne Esperance council hereby reiterates the mandate given to the Law Firm Grey Casgrain s.e.n.c. to represent the Municipality of Bonne Esperance in its application before the Superior Court to contest certain provisions of Law 96 which affect the rights and obligations of bilingual municipalities;

THAT the Municipality of Bonne Esperance commits to sharing the legal fees and costs with the other co-plaintiffs, on a pro rata basis, based on the relative size of its population;

Formules Municipales - No 5614-MyST

THAT an expenditure not exceeding $1.00 per resident of the Municipality of Bonne Esperance be reserved by each of the co-plaintiff municipalities for all necessary expenses to this end to cover the application and pleadings of said proceedings before the Superio Court;

THAT the Ville de Cote Saint-Luc will receive the payments for the Law Firm Grey Casgrain for all legal fees, from all municipalities involved in this action;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026-4679 RESOLUTION FOR THE LAND REQUEST BY AMANDA GRIFFIN

It is proposed by Angela Spingle, seconded by Joesph Bilodeau and unanimously resolved to accept the land request from Amanda Griffin.

2026-4680 RESOLUTION TO INVEST $700,000.00 WITH DESJARDINS AT 2.85% FOR AN EIGHT (8) MONTH TERM

It is proposed by Clara Buckle, seconded by Chelsey Thomas and unanimously resolved to invest $700,000.00 with Desjardins at 2.75% for an eight (8) month term.

2026-4681 CLOSING OF THE SITTING

It is proposed by Angela Spingle, seconded by Clara Buckle and unanimously resolved to close the sitting at 7:35 pm.

DALE ROBERTS KEATS **MAYOR**

LESLIE WOODLAND **GENERAL DIRECTOR**