



**Village of Belledune
Committee of Whole Council Meeting
June 1, 2026**

Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Belledune Council Chambers
Mayor, Mario Lapointe
Councillor, Cynthia Robinson
Present: Councillor, Ron Bourque
Councillor, Dawn Hickey
Councillor, James Carrier
Councillor, Brenda Cormier
Absent:
Late:
Staff Present: Chief Administrative Officer, Landon Lee
Staff Absent: Clerk Treasurer, Angela Buckle
Staff Late:

Call to Order & Welcome

Mayor Lapointe called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Assistant Clerk, Landon Lee

Council Elect – Oath of Office – Clerk Administer

Local Governance Act, Section 58 – Accepting Office on a Council

Assistant Clerk, Landon Lee administered the oath of office to:

Mario Lapointe – Mayor
James Carrier – Councillor
Brenda Cormier – Councillor
Dawn Hickey – Councillor
Cynthia Robinson – Councillor

Assistant Clerk Lee explained to the public that Councillor Ron Bouque could not get sworn in this evening due to the recount, however he will be sworn in on Friday, June 5, 2026.

Filing of Conflict-of-Interest Forms

Local Governance Act, Part 8 Conflict of Interest, Sections 87-98

Council Introductory Statements (5 minutes each)

Mayor, LaPointe

"I would like to give a huge thank you to the citizens in Belledune who exercised their vote in the May election. There was a 68% turnout of voters signaling a desire for change. We have upcoming challenges with the tax base in the coming years, and significant opportunities with the Port of Belledune and businesses through out our community. I truly believe that we have an experienced team on Council to make meaningful change over the next 4 years. In the coming weeks and months we will be connecting with community members, existing businesses, and potential new business partners, even as early as this Wednesday, and my message to all is that Belledune is open for business but only the ones that have support of our citizens. In closing I would like to extend congratulations to the new Council, I look forward to working with all Village Staff as we progress in a positive way over the next 4 years with transparency, accountability, and respect to all. Thank you."

Councillor, Carrier

"Welcome everyone, I would like to thank everyone who supported me and put their trust in me during this election. I am certainly ready to put my efforts in motion to help our community any way I can. Its been 18 years since the last time I sat behind this desk, so believe me a lot has changed, laptops, cell phones, never had that back then. I am looking forward to the next 4 years working with new Mayor and Council, our staff and other communities. Thank you."

Councillor, Cormier

"Good evening, everyone. Thank you for entrusting me with a seat on your elected Council. Becoming a politician was never something I planned to do. I have never been someone who seeks the spotlight. Yet, here I am, incredibly proud to serve you as your elected Councillor. What kind of leader will I be? My goal is simple: to serve this community with respect, integrity, openness, and honesty. My priorities are straightforward. We must strengthen our governance, improve public communication, and remain completely accountable. We need to actively tap into the incredible expertise of our own residents, while keeping this Council strictly focused on real results. Belledune faces an immediate \$588,000 structural shortfall for the 2027 fiscal year due to Service New Brunswick's sudden 20% downward reassessment of the NB Power generating station. Belledune has very little revenue generating ability and Council and Administration needs to begin immediately looking at ways to offset this shortfall. Budget discussions for 2027 should begin in the very near future to investigate all options available to be fiscally viable. Additionally, I sat in on a Zoom meeting with UMNb today regard the provincial government Property Tax Reform and Bill 49). From that information session there appears to be changes coming to the property taxation system, for the 2027 budget, that will have huge impacts on local government budgeting and tax rate authority. The Provincial government will have more control over the setting of local tax rates which could undermining the local government's abilities to increase tax rates for local services and programs. This will lessen local government autonomy for raising the revenues needed to fund their communities. While this information is not completely

clear as of yet, Council and Administration will need to get up to speed very quickly about the implications this could have for Belledune.

Responsibility belongs to all of us—Council, administration, and staff alike. We will ensure the right mechanisms are in place so that accountability is clear at every level of our organization.

This is a major task. But if we work together with respect and trust, we will succeed.

We also owe a duty to the institution of our local government. We must raise our standards so that Belledune is respected both at home, across the region and beyond. Let's make our local governance exciting and professional enough that the next generation will feel inspired to step up and serve. Our job today is to secure the future of Belledune for tomorrow.

We will make mistakes along the way—we are human. When they happen, I ask for your patience, and give us the opportunity to rectify them.

Thank you again for your time, your trust, and your support."

Councillor, Hickey

"I would like to welcome everyone and to tell you that I appreciate your vote to put me back on Council. I was only here 16 months, and in those 16 months I learned a lot. I learned to use my voice. So, I am really looking forward to a new Council, a new Mayor and its so nice to see a room full of people. It is amazing so thank you for coming out. I do believe we have a good Council, I think we are all going to add in some way or another to that. I think we are going to be able to work together, respect each other, be accountable for what we are doing and make sure the public is aware as we go as to what is happening and what is coming from it. I think that if we can stick to that role and be open and honest and have that back and forth between residents and Council and staff and everybody involved, I do believe that yes, as Councillor Cormier said, it's a long road but I do think that we have what it takes to make a little difference and every little difference counts. So, I believe that we are going to go in the right direction. Thank you once again."

Councillor, Robinson

"First-of- all I would like to thank and acknowledge the citizens of Belledune who have chosen me to serve our community. We're fortunate to live in a passionate community that is committed to success. Congratulations to my fellow elected councillors as we embark on this new session. I look forward to the next 4 years as we work together to achieve our shared goal of making Belledune a better and stronger place. I firmly believe in the power of a positive collaboration and a solutions-based approach. As we move forward there is much work to be done to improve our connections with our citizens. Relationships matter and we must work respectfully with each other and the community towards a shared vision for Belledune. We face many difficult decisions and I look forward to working together under Mayor Lapointe's leadership alongside my fellow Councillors and staff to pursue the best interest of our citizens of Belledune and those of the Chaleur Region as well."

Oath of Office concluded at 7:14pm.

Mayor

Clerk Treasurer