

Pontiac council report - new ward boundaries for next election

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The regular council meeting on 9 February 2016 in Luskville, was attended by about 14 members of the public. Perhaps more people will come to the 8 March meeting in Quyon?

Administration

Invoices amounting to \$70,349 for January were approved by a majority of council. Councillors Pontiroli and Amyotte wanted more information on certain invoices and voted against. Fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$403,691 were approved unanimously. Incurred expenses for February 2016 of \$12,003 were approved by a majority with Councillor McCann voting against.

Dr Amyotte and Ms Pontiroli voted against a resolution naming Councillors Draper-Maxsom and Middlemiss, Mayor Larose, the Director General, and the Finance and Human resources Director to sit on the negotiation committee for the collective agreement of white and blue-collar employees of the municipality. The resolution was passed by a majority.

The municipalities of the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau have agreed to join the MRC-des-Collines municipal court. Each municipality will pay \$2.67 per capita (2014 population). Sharing costs will save money.

New electoral map

Pontiac has been divided into 6 wards since 2008, used in the 2009 and 2013 council elections as well as by-elections. (Map here: www.heritagepontiac.ca/carteE.gif) Québec law requires that each ward has within 25% of the mean number of voters, which was 749 in 2013, which is a minimum of 562 and a maximum of 936 electors in each ward. All three wards in the eastern half of the municipality in 2013 had above average numbers of electors, with ward 6 (suburban Breckenridge) having 973, 30% more than the mean. The three wards in the west half all had below average numbers of electors, with ward 3, South Onslow, having 556, or 26% less than the mean (and only 57% of the number in ward 6). A mandate to produce a new electoral map and legal description was given to Innovision Inc for \$10,500. Dr Amyotte, Ms Pontiroli and Mr McCann voted against, considering that the procedure could be carried out by the administration, but Mayor Larose voted to break the tied vote.

Disaster preparedness

An Emergency Response Team (Organisation Municipale de Sécurité Civile) will be created, formed from municipal management and employees, together with provincial representatives, to deal with emergency preparedness for disasters. The Director General, Benedikt Kuhn, is the coordinator and spokesperson. Phase 1 of the municipal civil security plan was adopted.

CPTAQ request

Michel Guilbeault, the owner of 12.39 hectares (30.6 acres) at 1591 ch Proven, (lot 14B-3 range 5, Onslow) has asked the CPTAQ for permission to build a house on the land, "to prevent its use as an illegal dump while not restricting its use as farmland." The CPTAQ asked for more information and council confirmed that there are few properties that can be used for new housing, and council's support of the request.

Legal action

Two “infringement files“ were transferred to the municipal lawyer for proceedings. The municipality has failed to persuade the owners to comply with standards. 1569 route 148 (local zoning bylaw) and 2101 ch Beaudoin (nuisance and public safety bylaws).

Library

The Luskville library is open 5 hours per week. A group has suggested that a story time is held on the last Sunday of each month from 9 am to 11 am, with the library open to all citizens for borrowing books at this time. This will be tried as a one year pilot project.

Expenses approved:

\$21,255 to Battleshield Industries Limited for a replacement plastic Brayneck tank for tanker-truck #907, guaranteed for life. This tender was over \$4000 lower than one received from Dependable Emergency Vehicles.

\$6,000 towards relaunching the summer day camp. Pontiac Youth Centres are coordinating several projects for this.

Philippe Beaudoin, a civil engineering student is given a contract of 250 hours at \$19 per hour (\$4,750) to continue work on the water and sewer networks in Quyon, and improving ch de la Montagne.

\$1,500 for new benches at the Bocce Ball field in Luskville, as well as restoration of the field to be carried out by municipal employees.

\$423.30 for a half-page advertising space in the 2016 Pontiac Travel Guide.

Annual compensation of \$355 (indexed) to Ian MacKechnie for land and electricity for a communications repeater system for the north part of the municipality, for a further 5 years. This communications system is used by Public Works and the Fire Department.

Public “question” period

Debbie Cloutier-Tremblay said she didn’t approve of her taxes supporting a day camp. Mr Larose clarified that parents will be paying fees, this is start-up costs. On redrawing the electoral boundaries, Ms Cloutier-Tremblay approved hiring an external firm, stating, “councillors are underhanded and sneaky, keep them out of it”.

James Eggleton asked how much it costs to have the municipal lawyer attend the Tolerance roads meeting (postponed from 16 February due to weather conditions). Mayor Larose replied with a little smile, “\$150 per hour, keep your comments to two minutes!”

Minutes of council meetings are posted on the municipal website:

www.municipalitepontiac.com.

Mo’s reports are archived at: www.heritagepontiac.ca/Municipality