

Pontiac council report - growth centre is Quyon

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Pontiac

The regular council meeting on 8 March 2016 in Quyon was attended by about 30 members of the public and two MRC police officers, who had been requested to attend in case of disturbance (there was none). Councillors Howard and Middlemiss were called away as volunteer fire-fighters.

Public input

Laurie MacKechnie and James Eggleton had questions about the proposed Quyon community centre. Mr Eggleton congratulated Quyon on raising \$200,000 towards a new community centre but questioned whether the population of Quyon, about 13% of the municipality of Pontiac, was sufficient for an ambitious project. Mayor Roger Larose replied that according to the MRC's master plan (Schéma d'aménagement) "the town (Quyon), is the only spot that can grow."

Mr Eggleton also asked who is paying for Quyon's water and sewage systems, the users, or all Pontiac? Mr Larose replied that in order to qualify for available subsidies from the TECQ (gas tax) certain studies have to be completed and these will be paid from the surplus, general funds. The cost overrun of \$186,000, and two studies costing \$40,000 and \$8,500 on the capacity of sewage and water systems have already been paid from the surplus.

A maximum of \$8,500 was approved to VO3, which is the "only company with good knowledge of the technology of the water plant," to determine its ability to serve a new housing project.

This study is one of those required to receive a grant of \$1.7 million from TECQ for water and sewage projects. Council resolved that money from the surplus will be repaid from eventual TECQ grants. The mayor disagreed with repaying general funds from the grant as it means higher costs for Quyon property owners. He reminded councillors that they "represent their wards and the municipality, and developing Quyon will reduce owners' tax bills."

Pontiac vs. McCann

The Municipal Code stipulates that the municipality must pay for the defence of a person whose election as member of council is contested. It must therefore pay Councillor McCann's reasonable expenses in his defence of the municipality's proceedings against him. Councillor Pontiroli did not agree with the wording of the resolution, which passed by a majority. (Mr McCann had withdrawn from the table.)

[ET RÉSOLU QUE sous réserve de l'article 711.19.2 du Code municipal du Québec, de payer les frais raisonnables encourus par le conseiller Edward McCann pour sa défense dans le dossier de la Cour Supérieure de Gatineau, numéro 550-17-008771-154.

AND RESOLVED to pay the reasonable fees incurred by Mr. Edward McCann for his defence in the Gatineau Superior Court, case number 550-17-008771-154, subject to section 711.19.2 of the Quebec Municipal Code.]

Notices of motion

Borrowing bylaws to buy a grader (maximum \$400,000 but hope for \$300K) and an emergency vehicle were proposed.

Ms Pontiroli will propose a bylaw concerning waste management. This adds compostable materials. Residents must reduce the amount of compostable material in the household garbage, including garden residues and Christmas trees which are accepted at the Eco-centre. Garbage must not exceed one 360L container per collection. Anyone producing more than one wheelie bin of garbage or 4 recycling bins per two weeks, will have to make an agreement with the municipality or the contractor in order to use more bins. Bins must be removed from the side of the road within 12 hours of collection.

A modification to the bylaw on costs of permits and certificates was passed. This removes the \$50 business tax.

Police

The MRC des Collines police want to enlarge their offices. Pontiac will ask the MRC to look into establishing a satellite office in the municipality, with Pontiac's help. The MRC already has its headquarters and municipal court in Chelsea, CLD offices in Cantley, Waste transfer station in Val des Monts, and Police HQ in La Pêche.

Planning

New zoning bylaws will be translated into English by an outside contractor, before a public consultation meeting is held on the Domaine des Chutes project (housing development in Luskville).

The owners of a one acre lot at 146 ch Braun, next to the tree nursery, have asked the CPTAQ for permission to build a house on farmland.

Chemin Hurdman, at the river end of ch Elm, will be exchanged for a servitude on an access road. Houses have been built on the original right-of-way, which became a municipal road in 1902 but didn't appear correctly on land surveys.

The salaries of the members, secretary and chair of the CCU (planning committee) will be reestablished as they were in 2015.

A temporary appointment will be made to the position of clerk/secretary in the urbanism department until the incumbent returns.

Dispute about fire truck equipment

Mr McCann proposed that the purchaser of an old municipal fire truck, should return the "portable equipment" taken when it was picked up, including a pump, items totalling \$600. If not returned within 5 days the lawyer is asked to start proceedings. This resolution was passed with Councillor Draper-Maxsom away from the table.

In the public question period at the end of the meeting, Melvin Maxsom (the buyer) asked what equipment? Mr McCann: "Anything not bolted to the fire truck is portable equipment." But this equipment was apparently in the truck when it was on display to purchasers for sale "as seen". Rick Knox suggested the municipality is "getting trigger happy about taking people to court. It costs the municipality money." Mr Eggleton wondered, "is this personal, wasting employees' time and money for lawyers?" Madeleine Carpentier suggested that this is not a matter to be decided at a council meeting.

The Dowd Mill on rue Egan

Cheryl Dolan asked about the Dowd mill (former M&R feeds mill in Quyon). “Is it usable, how much will it cost to fix it?” The mayor replied, “We have no money to fix it. The foundation is in bad shape.” And in reply to Mr McCann, “It has not been evaluated in the last two years.”

Joan Belsher asked about the purchase of the mill. (From earlier reports: Council voted to pay \$80,000 in February 2010 to buy the mill and land. In 2013, then mayor Eddie McCann said that “the land required for the pumping station alone would have cost \$60,000, so it was a bargain.”)

Expenses approved:

Invoices amounting to \$62,380, fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$373,138 for February, and incurred expenses for March 2016 of \$34,776.

\$700 to an employee in the Finance department on successful completion of a course.

Two students have agreed to survey ch Pères-Dominicains as part of their academic studies, and will be refunded travel expenses up to \$400.

\$200 per season to remove snow from around the Parc Davis skating rink.

Minutes of council meetings are posted on the municipal website:

www.municipalitepontiac.com. These contain, for example, the wording of the new waste management bylaw.

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