

Pontiac council - new fire service bylaw

Mo Laidlaw

The regular council meeting was held on the 11th April 2017, at the Luskville community centre. About 16 members of the public were present.

Public input

Robert Allard asked if council had rejected the option of door-to-door pick up for compostables. Mayor Roger Larose said that this is an expensive option and home composting will be tried first.

Bernard Marenger wanted to know why the municipality is sending him legal letters about the lack of siding on his small waterfront cottage in the Stanley beach area east of Quyon. It was like this when he bought it. He would like to enjoy his cottage. The mayor stated that he is not a lawyer or planner. The council cannot overrule the urbanist.

Rick Knox asked if the municipality was thinking about finding a private sponsor for the Quyon Community Centre.

Recovery of legal fees.

Council was required to pay former mayor and councillor Eddie McCann's legal defence costs as well as the municipality's legal costs. The Superior Court ruled that he was ineligible to be a member of council, and the Appeal court rejected his appeal. The municipal lawyer is mandated to recover all these costs, passed by a majority of council.

Fire department

A borrowing bylaw for \$750,000 for vehicles for the fire department was passed by a majority of council.

A new bylaw (01-17) on the establishment of the fire department was adopted.

Four officers of the fire department who have not passed the Officier 1 certification within the time allowed, will be demoted. However as the Fire director is satisfied with their progress, and to maintain the reporting structure, they will be given 6 more months to complete their training.

Watercourses

Although the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais is responsible for ensuring the free flow of streams in its territory, the municipality must designate competent employees to apply the bylaw and issue fines for contraventions. The director of infrastructure and public works, Alain Bourgeois; the Head of the public works division, Jean-Luc Trépanier; and an inspector, Pierre-Louis Chartrand, are designated.

Spring clean-up

A call for offers will be made to rent a mechanical sweeper and operator to sweep paved streets and intersections, to pick up sand and other debris. Contracting out will speed up the process, reduce the cost and allow municipal employees time to do other work. Residents are encouraged to clean up their communities during the May 13/14 weekend.

Day camp

\$5,000 was approved for the recreation and community life coordinator, Meghan Lewis, to plan and implement the day camp this year. In addition 5 jobs for May to August will be advertised: one camp leader, three animator posts and one assistant.

School bus safety

Some drivers are illegally passing stopped school buses particularly at each end of the four-lane highway in Luskville. The Portages-de-l'Outaouais school board is asked to ask the ministry of Transport to review their signs to improve safety for children getting on and off buses.

Planning

Pierre-Louis Chartrand is an inspector in the planning department. He is now authorized to apply the bylaw on septic systems, and to issue permits required by the planning bylaws for a trial period of 6 months.

Excavation J-F Aumont Inc has been carrying out heavy commercial business at 1656 route 148. The zoning does not permit this usage, and there are no acquired rights. A majority of council voted to mandate the municipal lawyer to take legal action against this use.

Four minor exemptions to planning bylaws were allowed: at 19 rue des Noyers, for a garage too close to side margin; 2 ch Filiou to regularize the front and side margins of the existing house; 2396 ch Kennedy to allow a garage within 10 m of the high water level; 150 ch de la Point-aux-Roches to regularize an existing garage that is too close to the side margin and too high.

New lots formed from combining three existing lots were allowed at 295 ch de la Baie, and 32 ave des Vacanciers, although in both cases the combined lot is smaller than the current bylaw allows.

Collective insurance for employees

The municipality will pay 50% of the cost of this, seen as a perk to attract and retain qualified employees. Submissions will be obtained.

Expenses approved:

Invoices amounting to \$45,365 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$392,856 for March, and incurred expenses for April of \$17,686.

Entreprise MK (8110123 Canada Inc) was awarded the contract for maintenance of green space in the municipality for 2017 to 2019, for a total of \$96,924.

\$45,740 to Construction Pontiac to re-do part of the town hall roof.

\$41,540 plus taxes to Multi-Route to deliver and spread 155,000 litres of calcium to reduce dust on gravel roads.

Offers for an external auditor will be called for as the expected cost is over \$25,000.

\$6,400 plus taxes to Médiation Hub (André Lacaille) for "Assessment of the maintenance of pay equity."

The revised budget of the Office municipal d'habitation (OMH, social housing) for 2017 was accepted, with the 10% share payable by the municipality now being \$4,144, up from \$3,794.

Minutes of council meetings contain the full text of bylaws and are posted on the municipal website: www.municipalitepontiac.com

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