

Pontiac council - Mayor vetoes water tax

Mo Laidlaw

A special council meeting was held on the 16th May 2017, at the Luskville community centre, replacing the regular meeting which came during the flood emergency. About 16 members of the public were present.

Public input

Jude Gervais and André Gervais spoke against allowing a minor variance at 82 ch des Tourterelles. (None of the minor variances were discussed by council as the change of date of the meeting required new official notices to be issued.)

William Kovacs felt that he and an elderly neighbour were overlooked for help during the flood.

Jeff Campbell asked if Kilroy road could be sold to the neighbouring farmer. There are no houses along the road and it is not a priority to maintain it. (It runs north to 5th Concession from MacKechnie Rd, in the far west of Pontiac).

Line Martineau asked for additional investment in the Luskville Recreation Park.

Dates of meetings

The August 8 meeting will be held in Luskville, not Quyon. Because of the council election there will be no October meeting, and the November meeting will be held on November 21.

Drinking water deficit

Council passed an amended motion to replenish the deficit of the drinking water department by charging a special tax to users (those with mains water supply in Quyon), rather than from the non-appropriated surplus (which would mean that all residents pay for it). Councillor Nancy Draper-Maxsom voted against. This resolution was later vetoed by Mayor Roger Larose, so it will be on the agenda at the next council meeting. (Clarification: Quyon residents are already paying a special tax in 2017 to repay the 2016 water deficit.)

Flood recovery

The Director General is authorized to find an external contractor to coordinate flood recovery measures for a maximum of 6 months, and a maximum amount of \$25,000. The major part of this salary will be funded by the Ministry of Public Safety's recovery program. This will allow the administration to continue to provide the same level of service to all residents.

To maintain infrastructure given the extra work because of the flood, one or more contracts for help with technical work will be awarded, for a maximum of \$25,000, for road and drainage work, and building rehabilitation. This was passed by 3:2 votes.

Rental of heavy equipment

Four companies made acceptable proposals for renting various equipment, with or without an operator. The resulting information table will be used to retain the most appropriate services as required. The companies are Équipements Saint-Germain Inc, Robert Erwin Transport Inc, Nugent Construction Inc and Raymond Bélisle.

Terry-Fox road is the boundary between Pontiac and the City of Gatineau. Council authorized the Director General and Infrastructure Director to sign a Memorandum of understanding proposed by Gatineau.

The roof repairs at the Luskville library cost \$5,643, much less than the expected \$20,000, so the balance will be returned to the non-appropriated surplus.

Expenses approved:

Invoices amounting to \$59,687 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$409,312 for April, and incurred expenses for May of \$32,647.

\$15,000 was transferred to the reserved fund for asphalt repairs for 2016 and \$15,000 for 2017, from the non-appropriated surplus.

\$10,000 to proceed with rehabilitation of Lusville Recreation Park, to improve safety.

\$7,457.80 plus tax to Quadrivium who supervised phase 1 of the Mountain road reconstruction, to analyse Excavasphalte's claim for extra costs.

\$2,150.70 of bad debts are written off.

\$1,000 to the Lusville Golden Age Club (Les Blés d'or de Lusville) for the Cercle Socio-culturel.

\$600 to the Lusville Golden Age Club (Les Blés d'or de Lusville) and volunteers led by Patricia Lusk, to organize a traditional dance evening on September 30, to underline International Seniors Day and the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation..

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