

Pontiac council - “municipalizing” roads

Mo Laidlaw

The regular council meeting was held on the 8th August 2017, at the Luskville community centre. Over 20 members of the public were present, as well as the Director General.

Public input

Patricia Lusk invited seniors (age 50+) to a dance (square and round) on September 30th, 7:30 to 11:30 pm at the Luskville Community Centre, to celebrate Senior Citizens’ Day and Canada 150, with music by the Brysonaires. A bus will provide transport from Quyon. Tickets are free, but required, as the hall is only licenced for 250 people, and may be obtained from municipal councillors as well as the municipality, and from Nicole Touchette at the Blés d’Or (819-455-9613). “Bring a sandwich or half a cake” and your own drinks.

Alain Tanguay, asked if the community centre in Quyon is within the flood zone. Apparently not, although it is surrounded by low land. Mayor Roger Larose spoke about the possibility of protecting the whole area, with a permanent dyke or embankment, which will require provincial approval.

Tolerance roads

Adopting the bylaw on taking over tolerance roads was on the agenda, and there were questions on this from Alain Tanguay, Rock Fillion, Josée Pagé, Pierre Pratte and Susan Birt, particularly about the short notice of the bylaw (it was reported in the July 19 Pontiac Journal council report, and associations were informed), and even some queries as to why the current system of subsidies is illegal, although this has been discussed for over 3 years. Ms Pagé asked why roads have to be adapted to large garbage trucks rather than using smaller vehicles that can manage narrow roads.

Mr Larose explained that the municipality will take over maintenance (snow clearing, grading, drainage, and clearing vegetation) only if requested by a road association, provided that minimum standards are met.

The bylaw on taking over maintenance of “tolerance roads” was passed by 3 votes to 2, producing applause from the audience. The minimum allowed width is reduced to 4.5 m. For drainage, only work affecting the life-span of the road and reducing future maintenance costs will be carried out. Grading will be done if there is enough gravel and as often as determined by the municipality. Work to bring roads up to minimum standards will be charged to the residents. After takeover by the municipality, costs will be paid by the municipality. Evaluations may go up, but home insurance may go down.

Provincial assistance for road maintenance

The Québec government passed responsibility for maintaining local roads to the municipalities in April 1993, but set up a program (PAEERL) to compensate municipalities for some of these costs. From 2016, expenses for winter maintenance are no longer eligible for PAEERL. Since winter maintenance is a large part of municipal budgets, the Ministry of Transport will be asked to reconsider this decision. MNA André Fortin and the regional office of Municipal Affairs will be sent a copy of this resolution.

Fire department

Chris Davis, Serge Laforest and Kevin Mansey are named as captains in the fire brigade, having completed the training.

One of the fire department vehicles that was due to be replaced soon, was damaged during operations linked to the spring floods. It will be replaced rather than repaired, for a maximum of \$25,000.

Continuing flood assistance

Council accepted to collaborate with the Gatineau Office of Municipal Housing to continue to assist flood victims with short, medium and long term relocation, and other assistance. Nearly 150 main

residences and 95 secondary residences (cottages) are in zones that were evacuated during the spring flood.

Meeting dates in 2018

The calendar of regular meetings for 2018 was adopted so that the dates can be included in a calendar to be sent to all residents. Apart from January (16th), meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday in the month. The May meeting will be held at the Breckenridge community centre, 1491 route 148, all the others in Luskville.

Friends of the Chats Falls Park

Tom Howard was named as the municipal representative on the board of this new organisation.

Expenses approved at this and the special meeting of July 25

Invoices amounting to \$85,342 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$416,055 for July, and incurred expenses for August of \$25,490.

Nugent Construction Ltd, \$465,193.45 for preparation work and paving of ch Crégheur and the Lusk project.

Franroc division of Sintra, \$103,477.50 for “double surface treatment” of Lusk project.

WSP Canada Inc. \$39,492.76 for engineering services for reconstruction of 2 km of ch des Pères Dominicains, west from the 148.

Magazine du Fermier Inc, \$33,124.70, for pipes, drains, accessories and geotextile to repair old culverts.

Groupe ABS, \$10,127.23 for professional services for the Pères Dominicains rehabilitation project;

\$9,532.58 for quality control of materials for the preparation and paving of ch Crégheur and the Lusk project; and \$9,180.75 for quality control of materials in reconstruction of ch de la Montagne “phase 2 lot 1”.

\$250 to the Pontiac Artists’ Association for their “Celebrating our volunteers” event (Célébrons nos bénévoles).

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