Pontiac council - new council deciding priorities
Mo Laidlaw

The first regular meeting of Pontiac's new council was held on 21 November 2017 at the Marcel Lavigne community centre in Luskville, with over 30 members of the public in attendance.

Public input
Diane Lacasse is concerned about the poor shape of the Luskville community centre. Some of the chairs are low quality and rip when stacked, the floor is filthy and there are mice. Renters expect better, in particular "the kitchen is disgusting and often has to be cleaned before it is usable". The electrical panel is faulty and perhaps dangerous. "We want to use it, not demolish it." (The contract to upgrade the washrooms was put out to a second tender by the previous council as the quotes were too high).

Ms Lacasse also mentioned speeding drivers and the state of ch Westbrook, used as the main link between Steele Line and route 148. "The same holes appear every time it rains." Benedikt Kuhn, the Director General, replied that the work on the 148 in Breckenridge meant that ch Terry-Fox had to be frequently re-graded, and record rainfall affected many roads. Holes that reappear indicate that foundation work is needed. Mayor Joanne Labadie said she is aware of the problems and is discussing priorities with Mr Kuhn.

Sue Birt, treasurer of FRAPP, the umbrella organisation of road associations, would like to work with the municipality to find a solution to the tolerance road problem. Ms Labadie agreed and mentioned that the provincial government is not satisfied with the way tolerance roads have been handled in the past.

Carol Carpentier asked council to help improve river access for McKay subdivision residents. (A new owner found that the original pedestrian right-of-way for residents was on her land. Mr Carpentier organized construction of a new access in the correct location, but it is very steep.) Ms Labadie said she would like to look at the situation.

Questions were asked about the boat launch to replace the one on ch Tremblay, that does not conform to Ministry of Environment rules (results of the study should be available soon), and when the domestic composting project will start (soon for Quyon and the beaches - areas with small lots).

Seven more flooded lots acquired by municipality
The owners of seven more properties have accepted the Québec Ministry of Public Security compensation to abandon their homes. Six are in Plage Bélisle (71, 84 and 113 ch Bord-de-l'Éau and 108, 112 and 122 ch Bélisle) and the seventh is 11 ch Terry-Fox. This brings the total to 13 so far, with 10 in Plage Bélisle.

Rink maintenance
Ice rink contracts for the Luskville recreation park and Soulière-Davis Park will be extended by one year if the contractors agree, as there isn't time to tender. The Quyon rink, recently acquired by the municipality will also need to be maintained. The recreation and community life coordinator is mandated to propose contracts for this winter season, up to a maximum of $27,000 for the three contracts.

Garbage container
Council agreed to assume the costs of a 2 cubic yard garbage container for the Quyon Family Centre, for one year. Donors are asked not to donate unusable clothing that has to be thrown out as this adds to the Centre's costs. It is suggested that for future years the Centre adds the cost of renting the container to their request for a grant from the province.
Other business
Philippe Charette, the developer of Domaine des Chutes, has suggested naming the new road ch de l'Aventure. The Commission de toponymie du Québec will be asked to make this name official.

The Pontiac Snowmobile Drivers Association Inc is authorized to put up “Snowmobile crossing” signs on various municipal roads, and to use part of the former Quyon Ensemble grounds on rue Ferry.

Council agreed to add insurance coverage for the Observatoire Pontiac project located at the Lusk Falls picnic grounds, to the municipal insurance policy, for three years.

Expenses approved recently
Invoices amounting to $162,077 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of $1,723,965 for September and October, and incurred expenses for November of $54,760, including the purchase of a new grit spreader for municipal property (sander) for about $9,000.
$145,000 for emergency repairs to Alary road after heavy rain overwhelmed the culvert and washed out the road. (After a provincial grant, the municipal contribution may be only $18,000.) Two streams from the Eardley escarpment cross Alary road, Cree Chartrand, and Cree Alarie (sic) coming from Luskville Falls.
A maximum of $30,000 for R.H. Nugent Ltée for extra costs incurred removing three times the estimated amount of rock for phase 2, lot 1 of rebuilding ch de la Montagne.
Transition allowance for the former mayor, Roger Larose, will be paid in two instalments. The payment amounts to about $25,000. (Former councillors do not receive transition payments in municipalities with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants.)

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