

# Pontiac council - \$8 million budget

Mo Laidlaw

The December 2017 regular meeting of Pontiac's new council was held on the 12th at the Marcel Lavigne community centre in Luskville, with about 15 members of the public in attendance.

## **Public input**

Denis Papineau asked if properties acquired by the municipality following the floods are free from contamination. This is one of the conditions that must be fulfilled before Québec pays the indemnity.

Roy Dagenais spoke as a representative of residents of Eardley-Masham road, asking for a lower speed limit. Council approved a request to the Ministry of Transport (MTQ) to reduce the speed limit to 70 km/h from 80 km/h and to install a solar powered light "at the guardrail", by spring 2018. J-C Carisse would like more speed limit signs.

Rick Knox would like a summary of answers to the public's questions to appear in the official minutes. He questioned the process for awarding rink-maintenance contracts, which was not done before the election.

Jean-Claude Carisse is concerned about rising costs of snow ploughing, in light of the delay in finalizing a contract for Quyon (sector E). This was awarded to Mountainview Turf Farm Ltd at a special meeting on the 14th December. A four year contract for maintenance and snow removal for \$160,390 per year, with possibility of a one year extension, was awarded.

Guy Desrosiers wants more help for maintenance of tolerance roads, following the recent floods. Alain Goulet would like the municipality to better coordinate with the Pontiac Snowmobile Drivers Association Inc before (for example) removing a culvert on the trail.

## **Expenses approved**

Invoices amounting to \$138,857 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$952,608 for November, and incurred expenses for December of \$52,137 (Clr Draper-Maxsom voted against the December expenses).

Three contracts for \$8,945 each including taxes for this winter for rinks at Soulière-Davis Park (Christian Lauzon), Luskville Recreation Park (Brent Mainville) and Quyon Recreation Park (David Scully).

\$4,500 to Groupe Action Jeunesse for providing access to the gym at the school in Luskville. The municipality can end this agreement unilaterally with two months notice.

Management staff at the municipality worked a lot of unpaid over-time related to the 2017 spring floods, so for this year they will be allowed the same leave as unionized employees during the office closure from December 25 to January 3, without losing personal leave time.

## **Planning and zoning**

The contract for Maria Sahagun, an inspector in the planning department, was extended for 3 months, to continue work on files related to flood compensation and rehabilitation, for a maximum of 286 hours at \$36/h. The Ministry of Public Security may pay for some extra costs due to disaster recovery.

Minor variances were approved for 3 properties as recommended by the planning committee (CCU): 51 Pères Dominicains, where the existing porch and veranda are closer to the side margins than the current norms.

123 Tourterelles, to join two lots into one, although the combined lot is smaller than the bylaw allows.

1125 Clarendon, to allow a side margin of 0.4 metres for a garage.

### **Day camps and rink safety**

Meghan Lewis, the Coordinator of Recreation and Community Life is authorized to apply for a grant of \$15,000 from the Ministry of Families, Child care support program, for school break and summer 2018 programs. She has also proposed safety rules and schedules for use of the skating rinks.

A Cégep student has asked to carry out an unpaid internship at the water treatment plant, as part of his program. Pierre Boran Prum will be working as an intern for three weeks in January.

### **2018 budget**

The budget of \$8 million was approved by a majority of council at a meeting on 21 December, with Councillor Nancy Draper-Maxsom voting against the three year program of capital expenditures. The largest capital item for 2018 is \$1.95 million for repairs to 2.4 km of Pères Dominicains (some of which will be paid for by a grant from the gas tax). Several items for Quyon's water and sewage systems add up to \$1.12 million in 2018, eligible in full for a TECQ (gas tax) grant.

Residents should receive detailed information on the municipal budget in the new year, and there is also information on the municipal web site, see "Taxation & finances" (in both languages) for the summary of expenses and revenues, and the three year program of capital expenditures.

Minutes of council meetings contain the full text of bylaws and are posted on the municipal website: [www.municipalitepontiac.com](http://www.municipalitepontiac.com)

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