

Pontiac council - compost pick-up soon

Mo Laidlaw

The regular meeting of Pontiac's council was held on the 13th February 2018 at the Marcel Lavigne community centre in Luskville, with about 17 members of the public in attendance.

Public input

Joanne Simard invited council members and seniors to the Luskville Blés d'Or monthly suppers. Contact Diane Lacasse, the President, for the date of the next supper, in March. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for guests.

Carl Hager would like the municipality to distribute a printed list of volunteers and other citizens who will help seniors with tasks such as snow clearing, or grass cutting, to allow seniors to remain in their homes. Many vulnerable elderly may not use computers.

Stéphane Alary asked if repairs to ch Alary, damaged by floods in October, would start soon. Answer, not before the ground thaws.

Nominations of council members to various advisory and other committees were made:

Strategic planning: All members of council

Town planning (CCU): Isabelle Patry, Scott McDonald

Public security: Nancy Draper Maxsom, Thomas Howard

Public works: Isabelle Patry, Nancy Draper Maxsom

Bylaws: Leslie-Anne Barber, Scott McDonald

Leisure, sports, culture and community life: Susan McKay, Leslie-Anne Barber

Administration and finance: Leslie-Anne Barber, Nancy Draper Maxsom

Agriculture: Joanne Labadie, Thomas Howard

Quyong community centre project: Joanne Labadie, Susan McKay

Pontiac Country Fair (Foire Champêtre): Joanne Labadie, Susan McKay

Boat launch project: Leslie-Anne Barber, Scott McDonald

Quyong-Mohr's Landing port authority: Nancy Draper Maxsom, Joanne Labadie

TransCollines: Leslie-Anne Barber

TransporAction Pontiac: Susan McKay

Municipal Housing Office: Susan McKay, Joanne Labadie

Friends of Chats Falls: Thomas Howard

Pontiac Observatory: Nancy Draper Maxsom, Joanne Labadie

Reseau Biblio representative: Joanne Labadie

Composting action plan

The program adopted in July 2017 to make composting obligatory does not comply with the Québec policy, because home composting doesn't include composting of all organic materials, including meat. Apparently 360 Quebec municipalities have now opted for compost collection. A resolution was passed by a majority to implement door-to-door pick-up of compost by 1 June 2019 at the latest. Offers to supply compost bins and provide a collection service will be requested. Each tonne of organic matter not sent to the dump, saves the municipality \$114. The Director General will review the bylaw to maximize the value of compost produced while minimizing costs for taxpayers.

Community life

The community life employee, Meghan Lewis, is authorized to use \$10,000 to implement the day camp program. The following jobs will be advertised: camp coordinator, head animator, three animators, and if necessary, an aide for a handicapped child. Registration costs will be \$125 per week per child.

Lewis is also authorized to apply for a grant from the Ministry of Education to cover part of the cost of bringing the Luskville and Quyon recreation parks up to standard. Up to \$8000 is authorized to carry out a geotechnical study at the Luskville park before lamp posts are replaced.

The rink maintenance contract for Quyon has been cancelled from 1 February, as the contractor did not respect the contract. A municipal worker has taken over maintenance of this rink for the end of the season.

Two borrowing bylaws were up for refinancing, for which Québec sent out tenders. The Royal Bank's offer of 2.96% interest over five years was the lowest and was therefore accepted. The loan of \$1.847 million will be reduced to \$812,000 by 2023, when it is next up for renewal.

Three more properties affected by the spring floods of 2017 will be acquired by the municipality, 110 and 119 ch Bord de l'Eau, and 1061 ch de la Pointe-Indienne.

As required following an election, a bylaw laying down the code of ethics and professional conduct required from members of council was tabled, although there is no change from the previous bylaw.

John Gibeault is retiring from many years with Public works. He was thanked for his years of loyal service.

New posts of civil engineering technician and operator of the water treatment and sewage plants were created. Both will work under the Director of Infrastructures and Public works, and will be advertised.

Fire Department

RPGL, the firm of lawyers, is mandated to negotiate a collective agreement with the municipality's firefighters union, CSN - Syndicat des pompières et pompiers de la Municipalité de Pontiac.

Council authorized a maximum of \$25,000 to buy the 1999 Freightliner from Battlefield Industries Limited, which has been rented since October 2016, with an option to buy.

Council supported the following **requests to the CPTAQ**:

François Vachon, the owner of adjacent residential lots in the agricultural zone, requests the CPTAQ to allow part of 1486 route 148 to be used for "residential accessory purposes" and for an existing residence on part of 155 ch Terry-Fox to be authorized. Neither have acquired rights. Another part of 155 ch Terry Fox has an auto mechanic shop as part of a business with acquired rights. (The business existed before the law on protection of farm land came into effect). This request is to authorize this existing usage.

Another request was for 6 farm lots totalling about 265 ha, belonging to Gérard Martin, on ch des Pères-Dominicains to be subdivided. They will continue to be farmed .

Expenses approved

Invoices amounting to \$46,925 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$1,103,312 for January 2018, and incurred expenses for February of \$69,739.

\$7,500 to CIMA+ as cost of supervising extra work required on ch de la Montagne, phase 2, because three times the amount of rock anticipated had to be removed.

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