

Pontiac council - planning for floods

Mo Laidlaw

Fourteen members of the public attended the regular meeting of Pontiac's council on the 13th March 2018 at the Marcel Lavigne community centre in Luskville.

Public input

Pierre Pratte asked again that answers to questions from the public be put in the official minutes of council meetings. Mayor Joanne Labadie replied that provincial regulations don't allow this.

Joan Belsher, like many residents, had a question about the change in the introduction of universal composting, from encouraging people to do this at home, to pick-up. She didn't get a reply to her email.

Mayor Labadie clarified that there was urgency to join the MRC-wide compost system to comply with provincial requirements. (Most queries should be sent to one's councillor or to the Director General.)

Diane Lacasse, President of the Blés d'Or, repeated her concerns about the continuing unclean state of the Luskville community centre, kitchen and washrooms.

Kim Hébert complained at length that many other businesses besides hers (J.F. Aumond), were operating in a zone where not allowed, but unlike her were not being taken to court by the municipality. (The mayor had already said that she would not discuss an issue before the court.)

Pat Lusk asked that the fire department continue to give out information cards to fire victims and notify the Lionettes when there has been a house fire.

Diane Lacasse and Denis Dubé would like Mr Eddie McCann to pay back his legal fees. Dubé asked to see electoral expense for the 2017 municipal election.

Daniel Desjardins complained about the poor drainage on ch Cochrane near 6th concession. He'd like the low spots to be marked.

Jean-Claude Carisse asked about the TerraTube project for processing sludge from septic tanks. It has ground to a halt despite being part of the provincial residual materials legislation.

Flood concerns

The MRC's request for repayment of \$190,494 expenses due to the spring 2017 floods, was rejected by the Ministry of Public Safety. Council disagrees with this, and asked the Ministry to revise its decision and pay the amount to the MRC des Collines. Copies to the Premier, Minister of Municipal Affairs etc.

A resolution was passed to allow expenses totalling \$81,754 as soon as the water level at Britannia exceeds 59.55 m above sea level. (Some sectors of the municipality start to flood when water level at Britannia is 59.8 m above sea level, that is 25 cm above the "trigger" level.)

Québec is open to studying a project to build dikes in Quyon to protect the village from future floods.

Argus Environmental will assist the municipality in deciding on the feasibility of this project and possible costs, for an hourly rate, up to a maximum of \$10,000.

Quyon

Pierre Tabet Architecte, the firm building the new Quyon Community Centre, will also coordinate planning of the interior and obtaining furniture, kitchen equipment etc. The total budget for this is \$150,000, with \$10,000 allowed for planning and management.

Two new compressors will be bought for the water filtration system from Ottawa Compressor Services Inc, who offered \$49,844 including tax.

The professional engineering resources of the MRC de la Vallée de la Haute-Gatineau will be asked to prepare the municipality's intervention plans as required by Municipal Affairs, in order to receive a gas tax rebate. The \$6000 cost will be paid from the TECQ (gas tax).

CIMA+ (engineering firm) is mandated to obtain necessary authorization from the Ministry of Environment (MDDELCC) for reconstructing the last section of ch de la Montagne, for \$5000.

Fire Department

Following a call for offers for a pumper-tanker truck, the offer of L'Arsenal of \$377,472 was accepted, being \$70,840 less than that of Battleshield for a similar vehicle.

Planning

The entrance to the Bellevue Project has been without street lighting for years. An agreement was reached with the developer to give the municipality servitudes to the street lights, the community mailbox structure and pedestals. The municipality will take over ownership of these. In future there will be lighting!

Council supported a request to the CPTAQ to subdivide the farm land on both sides of the highway at 1622 route 148 (surrounding the James Hurdman 1860s stone house). At present both lots are owned by Elizabeth Rolston. The land will continue to be farmed.

A minor derogation was approved for building a new house on a lot at 51 ch Desjardins, farther from the side lot line than the existing house, but at 2.3 m rather than the prescribed 5 m. This lot is at the end of Desjardins (off ch Tremblay) on the Ottawa River waterfront.

The developer of the Bellevue Project will sign documents to give the municipality servitudes to the street lights, the community mailbox structure and pedestals. The municipality will take over ownership of these structures. In future there will be lighting!

An amended bylaw laying down the code of ethics and professional conduct required from members of council was adopted.

Drew Nugent is hired as a truck driver and Patrice Leblond as a labourer, both filling existing posts. Pierre Boran Prum is hired as a water system operator and labourer, a new post. Stéphanie Miljour is hired as clerk in the planning department, having already worked there several months.

Expenses approved

Invoices amounting to \$49,310 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$710,517 for February 2018, and incurred expenses for March of \$18,386, plus \$19,000 before taxes for equipment required in case of flood.

\$20,500 to Quadrivium to prepare plans to install a 3 m diameter culvert on ch Alary. Repair costs may be partly covered by a Public Safety disaster program. Ch Alary is used as an emergency bypass for route 148.

\$2000 to buy a portable sound system that can be used in the Luskville community centre.

\$300 to the community project "Pontiac spelling bee" to be held at the Quyon library 14 and 15 April.

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