

Pontiac council - compost project heating up

Mo Laidlaw

About twenty citizens attended the regular meeting of Pontiac's council on the 10th April 2018 at the Marcel Lavigne community centre in Lusville.

Public input

Sheila McCrindle suggested that the municipality should first try home composting, being much more environmentally friendly than having a truck driving around picking it up and transporting it (to Lachute?). She asked if there would be an exemption to the compost fee for people already home composting. There was discussion about the target for diverting organic waste from landfill. Is it 70%, which perhaps Pontiac could achieve with home composting, or 70% by 2019 and 100% by 2020? Mayor Joanne Labadie said that composting in winter seems to be a problem, as tonnage of garbage increases in the winter. The MRC Pontiac and Gatineau are working on a waste-to-energy project, but "that is 10 years down the road". She met MNA André Fortin last week; there are no provincial subsidies available because the municipality has over 5000 population. Kevin Brady and Sheila McCrindle are happy to help the municipality on this project, having experience in environmental projects.

James Riordan has had a problem with 100 m of municipal ditch alongside his farm property on Elm Road since 2008. Trees have been allowed to grow, blocking the flow of water, which ends up flooding his farmland, making it inaccessible in the spring. He has been told several times that it is in the work plan, but despite other work being done, this ditch has not been cleared. Ms Labadie will look into this, and wondered if ownership of the ditch is in question.

Carl Hager complained about derelict properties on River Road bringing down the value of the neighbourhood. Ms. Labadie mentioned the Nuisance bylaw, but applying legal sanctions takes time. The planning department is seeking a second planning inspector.

Flooding concerns

Council asks that the Quyon river from route 148 to the Ottawa river is added to Municipal Affairs' update of maps of flood plains of the Ottawa, Gatineau, Lièvre and Blanche rivers.

JFSA, expert in drainage and environment is asked to carry out a study of the area bounded by Maple Lane, ch Terry Fox and the Ottawa river for \$21,700. There are flooding problems in this area, which may be worsened by the Ministry of Transport's proposed drainage system for the section of route 148 still to be rebuilt. The municipality cannot see MoT's study.

SNC-Lavalin is awarded a contract for \$11,028 for a geotechnical study of the soil adjacent to the washed out culvert on ch Alary. The Public Safety Ministry aid program may pay for part of this.

85 ch Bord de l'Eau will be acquired by the municipality for \$1, with the owner accepting the Public Safety Ministry's payment for properties affected by the 2017 spring floods. This is the 14th property to be acquired near that beach area in Lusville.

Fire Department

In future it will be forbidden to have an open fire when the fire risk is raised (élevé). Until now, the prohibition was when the fire risk was "extrême". For the complete bylaw see the municipal minutes (procès-verbal).

Expenses approved

Invoices amounting to \$80,514 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$563,365 for March 2018, and incurred expenses for April of \$29,030.

\$43,090 to Multi-Routes for 155,000 L of liquid dust suppressant.

\$11,268 to JUL to improve the filing system of the municipality, using existing furniture, with a budget of \$2,500 for re-filing documents.

\$9,500 for the community life director, to repair Quyon, Luskville, Soulière-Davis, Omkar and Beaudoin parks.

\$7,920 to the Shawville arena, and amounts from \$6,000 to \$1,000 for eleven community organizations, and \$5,000 for liability insurance (total \$38,655).

\$500 to the Pontiac Scholarship fund for a student living in the municipality.

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