

Pontiac council - a truck route from the ferry?

Mo Laidlaw

Only about 12 residents attended the regular Pontiac council meeting on the 11th September 2018 at the community centre in Luskville,

Public input

Katherine Telfer asked what can be done about speeding vehicles on Clarendon west in Quyon which has no sidewalks, houses close to the road, and a school zone. Heavy truck traffic coming to and from the ferry is increasing. Anne Brulé has similar concerns. Mayor Joanne Labadie said she is aware of the problem. Bollards have been ordered to reduce speed as well as digital speed signs and MRC police presence is requested. Clarendon east and Murray has been suggested as a truck route from the ferry to the 148, with far fewer residences affected.

Jean-François Aumont continues to question why he cannot park heavy vehicles on his property (in the agricultural zone) while others are not pursued by the municipality. This case is before the court. Ms Labadie replied that bylaw infractions are confidential (unless brought up at a public meeting), so he cannot know if others are being pursued. Council later supported Aumont's request to the CPTAQ for a business office on his property, but refused to support allowing heavy truck parking at 1656 route 148.

Pamela Gélinas said that she hears many negative comments about municipal staff, which is worrying. Ms. Labadie used the opportunity to explain that communication is key. Resolving problems more quickly would help but there are many challenges, for example with reconstructing ch Alary after the washout in October 2017. "We have to work with other levels of government". A consultant will be hired to look at the administration and see where there are gaps, and what skills are required. "There's a shortage of people with municipal expertise, so it is a struggle to fill positions. We must invest in the careers of employees."

Bylaws

The bylaw on the functioning of the planning committee (CCU) will be modified to increase the number of members, to improve the likelihood of reaching quorum. This passed the first reading.

The MRC has modified the standard for shorelines, to a setback of 15 m from the high water line.

Council passed the first reading of a bylaw to reduce this to 10 m within Pontiac, unless the slope is more than 30%.

The bylaw to change the zoning of private residences within Gatineau Park to allow modifications to existing buildings as allowed in the rest of the municipality with a building permit, passed its second reading.

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

Yet another property on ch Bord de l'Eau (#67) 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.

Expenses approved since last regular meeting

Invoices amounting to \$94,025 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$631,290 for August 2018, and incurred expenses for September of \$4,682.

Nugent Construction, a 4 year snow ploughing contract for sector B (mostly North Onslow), \$702,371. Gauvreau Terre de surface, \$612,394 to replace the culvert on ch Alary, conditional on approval by the Ministry of Public security to pay its part of the bill.

A maximum of \$25,000 to buy necessary material to connect the community centre in Quyon to the water and sewage systems (the work will be done by Public works).

JR Brisson, \$18,971 to rent a shovel for culvert repairs for 3 months.

Mme Sahagun Huerta, on an hourly basis at \$36/h for a maximum of 180 hours, to coordinate the community centre project.

Lamarche McGuinty, supplying and delivering net stone 10-20 mm for the drainage work at the southeast end of ch Kawartha, for \$11.20 per tonne.

Mo's reports are archived at: www.heritagepontiac.ca/Municipality