

Pontiac council - ch. Alary repair imminent

Mo Laidlaw

Again there were very few members of the public at the regular Pontiac council meeting on the 9th October 2018 at the community centre in Luskville, peaking at 12 people.

Public input

Maxim and Tianna and their parents invited council members to the Parents of Municipality of Pontiac / PMP 0-5 ans, Breakfast with Santa, on December 1st.

Kevin Brady had several questions on how Pontiac proposes to introduce composting, starting with the wisdom of door-to-door collection with our low population density, closer to that of La Pêche (if you include Gatineau Park) or Val des Monts (when Gatineau Park excluded), both of which have opted for home composting, than the higher densities of Chelsea and Cantley, which have chosen pickup. Mayor Joanne Labadie confirmed that no final decision has been made on door-to-door collection, despite the February 2018 vote by council. She said, we “have to look at the long term, and consider the constraints from the provincial government,” and welcomes input from Kevin and other residents. (see also Composting in municipality of Pontiac <http://www.heritagepontiac.ca/compost181005.pdf>).

Sheila McCrindle also asked about promoting home composting. If people who compost at home have to also “pay for door-to-door pick up, it’s not fair.” Ms Labadie said that the aim is to reduce organic matter in the garbage, including meat and pet wastes, which even some home-composters put in the garbage. The full cost analysis has not been done, but it’s possible that we can reduce the amount of garbage enough that waste disposal costs will go down. Ms McCrindle added that education will be required as compost in a bin will be frozen in winter and stinky in summer. (This could also be said of garbage containing wet organic matter.)

Jean-Claude Carisse pointed out that many road signs are hidden by vegetation which needs to be cut. Also at the junction of Damas-Perrier and du Village there are only 2 stop signs, which is confusing for a T junction. He also suggested that it is a bad idea to combine the Pontiac Country Fair with the NCC’s Fall Rhapsody, because of the large number of people and traffic jams.

Tornado update

Ms Labadie gave a summary of the situation eighteen days after the September 21 tornado. 25-30 houses are a total loss, and 100 have been affected to some extent. Ten local companies, councillors and public works helped clean up trees (work not covered by insurance). Volunteers helped with private roads. The brush piles still on the sides of route 148 will be cleaned up when MTQ gives the go-ahead, as a flagman is required, but the contractor is ready. The emergency plan will be updated. She reminded us that this was the 4th major emergency in 16 months.

Alary road repairs

The plans and tender for the culvert replacement on Alary road have been accepted by the Ministry of Public Security, who will reimburse up to 75% of costs, as the washout was due to the heavy rain of October 29/30 2017. MPS requires a “type 3 membrane” or prefabricated lining which Gauvreau can supply and install.

Gauvreau Terre de surface, \$612,394.
Prefabricated lining, \$10,523 plus tax.
Quadrivium to supervise work, \$22,857 plus tax.
(To be awarded by Pontiac Public works), analysis and quality control of material, \$10,000.

The Federation of Quebec Municipalities (FQM) will be asked to review the structure of the municipal administration and recommend what areas need staffing, for a maximum of \$11,700. There are two open posts, the Communications director and Assistant director general.

Glenda Nitschke (a volunteer) is now in charge of Quyon library as Suzanne Lyndon-Makins is leaving.

Bylaws

The first reading of an updated MRC bylaw on the maintenance of public peace and good order was passed.

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

Expenses approved since last regular meeting

Invoices amounting to \$32,924 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$541,629 for September 2018, and incurred expenses for October of \$21,609.

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