

Pontiac Council meeting - Two new fire stations to be built

Mo Laidlaw

The November regular meeting of the Pontiac municipal council was held on the 13th at the Luskville Community centre, with about 20 members of the public in attendance. In the absence of the Director general and Secretary treasurer, Crystal Deschambault was named as the secretary of the meeting.

Public input.

Denis Papineau said, "I compost at home so have little garbage". Sheila McCrindle wanted to know how the budget for compost pick up could be settled without a cost-benefit analysis (not yet done). She also clarified that food waste is only 15% of the total "waste stream", the figure often quoted that 40% of garbage is organic matter includes yard waste. Susan Lamont said she has put vegetable leftovers in the freezer to add to her garbage to "help it decompose". (This organic material that turns into compost will in future not be allowed in garbage, perhaps there needs to be more education about this.) Mayor Joanne Labadie explained that council is still talking about compost, no decisions have been made yet. Pontiac has not yet gone out to tender for door to door pickup. Garbage costs should go down when organic material is removed, reducing the tonnage that has to be trucked to Lachute as well as the dumping fees.

Ms Lamont wondered how Pontiac will attract new residents with "our high taxes". Ms Labadie said that Pontiac has the lowest taxes in the MRC des Collines, as well as the lowest debt. However tax revenue will be reduced in 2019 by about \$500,000 with the loss of houses due to flood, fire and tornado, which is a challenge.

Joan Belsher is concerned about the many contracts for outside engineering expertise, when the municipality has engineers and technicians on staff. Ms Labadie explained that this is partly due to MoT's requirement for specialist engineers to sign off highway work, and that if the director of Public works were not an engineer, even more outside contracts would be required.

Mike Graveline insisted that repairing Alary road should have been done by public works last year to avoid delay and the ballooning cost, using the existing culvert. Ms Labadie replied that the Ministry of Public Security is paying ¾ of the cost and this repair should cope with future high rainfall events, expected to occur more frequently in future, so that this can be a detour route for the next 50 years. This year public works changed 18 culverts, starting to catch up on 40 years of neglected infrastructure.

Legalization of cannabis

Section 7.16 of the MRC bylaw on maintaining public peace and good order is amended to take account of this. In addition a policy was approved on the use of alcohol, cannabis, drugs and prescription medication to ensure a safe workplace for municipal employees.

Transcollines

Pontiac contributes \$15,623 (6% of total) for one year to the public bus service from Isle-aux-Allumettes to Ottawa and back on route 148. (See <http://transcollines.ca/intercity-148/> for schedule and fares.)

New fire stations

Geotechnical studies will be carried out by Les services EXP for \$21,260 + tax, at 4449 route 148 (at Murray) for a new Quyon fire hall #3, and at 2024 route 148 for a new Luskville fire hall #2. These are municipal properties. The existing fire stations do not meet current safety standards.

A maximum of \$26,500 before tax was approved for an ATV, trailer and caterpillar tracks, for use in emergencies (\$19,000 to be reimbursed from the Ministry for Public Security as part of the \$205,000 to be received for setting up a local emergency response team).

Other expenses approved:

Invoices for September amounting to \$75,043 and October, \$96,399, as well as fixed expenses for October of \$483,920 and incurred expenses for November of \$44,045.

Additional shares of unbudgeted MRC costs for public safety and municipal court of \$259,079, and "other", \$75,921, requiring an additional payment of \$39,036 to the MRC.

\$16,191 for extra asphalt required for ch Crégheur.

\$10,253 plus tax to renew the pest control contract with Nature for one year.

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