

Pontiac Council meeting - new Director General / concern about the ZIS map

Mo Laidlaw

About 25 residents attended the regular meeting of Pontiac municipal council on the 9th July 2019, held at the Luskville community centre. Pierre Said, recently hired as Executive Assistant and at this meeting promoted to Director General, and Geneviève Latulippe, Assistant Director General, were present in addition to Mayor Joanne Labadie and all councillors.

Most of the meeting concerned questions from residents.

ZIS (special intervention zone)

Rock Fillion and Francine Chartrand had questions about the ZIS which does not correspond to existing 0-20 or 0-100 year flood zones. Labadie explained that the ZIS is not a flood zone map, but designates an area in which no building or renovation can be carried out and no building permits issued until up-to-date flood zone maps are produced. It is a moratorium, the government "pressing the pause button." Because it is not a flood zone map it should not affect property insurance.

In response to a comment on the ZIS map the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing replied:

"In the framework of the draft decree establishing a special intervention zone (ZIS), an adjustment of the map of the areas flooded by the spring floods of 2017 and 2019 is underway so that it reflects more accurately the reality. The adjusted version of this map will be made public at the time of the publication of the ZIS decree by the Government of Quebec.

Homeowners whose buildings are not located in 0-20 year flooded areas and have not been flooded in 2017 or 2019 will not be subject to the ZIS.

Following the publication of the adjusted version, citizens will be invited to send their comments to their municipality. The municipality will have until August 19, 2019 to send comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for processing."

Louis Garneau suggested that in areas where cottages have lost more than 50% of their value due to flood damage, people should be allowed to have trailers this summer. Flooded secondary residences (cottages, rental properties) receive no compensation. Labadie said "we will look at the bylaw" (on trailers).

Road maintenance

Pierre Pratte asked when roads will be swept to remove winter grit, and ditches and verges cut to improve visibility and reduce invasive weeds such as wild parsnip (panais sauvage).

Labadie replied that most roads have been swept and cutting weeds and tall grass on verges will be carried out in the next three weeks.

He also asked why the municipality could not help with raising private roads during the flood.

Labadie replied that both ministries, Municipal Affairs and Public Security, have informed the municipality that they can save lives, but not private property, even though raising roads would be cheaper than evacuating people and 90% of flood victims live on private roads.

Joan Belsher asked why the draft minutes are no longer posted on the municipal website.

Labadie replied that some people continually phone and email the administration with "corrections" to the draft minutes which is a waste of valuable time.

Approved:

Invoices for June amounting to \$316,039, and fixed expenses, \$806,813; and incurred expenses for July, \$859.32 including tax.

About \$70,000 (but not more than \$100,000) for 80 culverts and geotextile for Public works, who will ask for offers.

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

The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com

French original of MAMH reply (edited above):

Par ailleurs, nous souhaitons vous informer que dans le cadre du projet de décret instituant une zone d'intervention spéciale (ZIS), un ajustement de la cartographie des territoires inondés par les crues printanières de 2017 et de 2019 est en cours afin qu'elle reflète plus fidèlement la réalité. La version ajustée de cette cartographie sera rendue publique au moment de la publication du décret de la ZIS par le gouvernement du Québec.

À noter que les propriétaires dont les bâtiments ne sont pas situés dans les zones inondables cartographiées 0-20 ans et qui n'ont pas été inondés en 2017 ni en 2019 ne seront pas assujettis par la ZIS.

À la suite de la publication de la version ajustée, les citoyens seront invités à transmettre leurs commentaires à leur municipalité. Ces dernières auront jusqu'au 19 août 2019 pour les acheminer au ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation, pour traitement.

Cette démarche vise à faire suite aux commentaires émis par certaines municipalités et MRC ainsi que par certains citoyens en lien avec l'exactitude des cartes représentant les territoires inondés.