

Pontiac Council meeting - Elections Canada will be first user of Quyon community centre

Mo Laidlaw

About 20 residents attended the regular meeting of Pontiac municipal council on Wednesday the 11th September 2019, held at the Luskville community centre. Unfortunately, following a rental, the projector and sound system were not working, with parts missing or broken.

Quyon community centre

Jean Côté asked for an update on the community centre in Quyon. Mayor Joanne Labadie said, "We are very close to finalizing, we have possession. Because it is in the flood zone the Ministry of the Environment has to give permission for a wheelchair ramp and steps, not in the originally agreed plans. The gas hook-up for the kitchen needs to be done. The first renter will be Elections Canada who will install temporary steps and ramp for one month. It is the only place large enough in Quyon."

Denis Papineau asked about the cost of the centre and why it is in the flood zone. The mayor replied, "The decision on location was made by the previous council and the cost is \$1.7 million, as budgeted. Because the flood delayed sewer and water work this year, the TECQ grant for infrastructure (\$1.5 million) will be used to pay off some of the loan for the Quyon centre, and repairs to the roof of the Luskville community centre, rather than being lost. We are trying to get a balanced budget this year as we don't want to raise taxes."

Ditch cleaning

Ray Curley asked about the poor drainage and need for ditching in the ch Curley/ch Duffy area. Trees are growing in the ditches and need to be cut.

Henry Steiner on ch Murray has the same problem with trees in ditches, making it hard to see traffic when emerging from a field with a tractor, which he does several times a day. Some of the trees near the power line are live when wet. He'd also like to recycle plastic bale-wrap. Labadie said Hydro Québec should be contacted. Public works will be informed about ditch cleaning. Unfortunately the MRC des Collines doesn't have a program for recycling bale-wrap plastic and considers it garbage, but the UPA (Farmers' union) is working on a pilot program. Meanwhile Steiner needs a dumpster.

More public input

Pierre Pratte asked about the updates to zoning laws, that were reversed at the beginning of the previous council mandate. His shed is too close to the river. Labadie said he should ask for a minor exemption. Pontiac has the minimum distance from shoreline allowed in Québec, the shortest distance in the MRC. Pratte would also like to put in a ditch from his private road to the river to protect his garage. This too needs permission from the Urbanism department. He also asked about composting, as he sees bears, skunks and raccoons at the brown bins on ch de la Montagne (Gatineau). The provincial deadline is now 2022.

Diane Lacasse suggested that grants to social groups should depend on the number of members. A group with 9 members received the same amount (\$1000) as the Blés d'Or with 135 members. She was also concerned about fallen trees on ch Westbrook. Labadie said that Public Works are aware of the situation.

Sue Lamont again asked about the cost of the flood. "We have now paid \$661,000 for flood expenses. Not all the invoices are in, and some will be reimbursed," said the mayor.

Approved:

Invoices amounting to \$353,359, and fixed expenses, \$541,130 for August. Incurred expenses for September, \$11,043 including tax.

\$2,759,483 to Service sanitaire Lanthier R.L. for garbage and recycling pickup for 3 years with the option for one more year.

\$496,145.88 to Mountainview Turf for a 3-year snow removal contract with the option for 2 more years, for sector C.

\$11,500 for a new compressor at the Quyon filtration plant (drinking water treatment).

\$10,800 for six individual sets of protective clothing for firefighters.

Less than \$4,000 to provide a second pair of cargo pants, a T-shirt and a pair of safety shoes for firefighters.

\$10,000 maximum for the Pontiac Country Fair at Luskville falls, with the National Capital Commission.

\$500 to Quyon Library for an Open doors event to celebrate its 20th anniversary. There will be cake, activities for children and adults, and a book sale to raise funds.

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The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com