

Pontiac Council, details of taxes

Mo Laidlaw

Pontiac municipal council met on Tuesday, 21st January 2020, at the Lusville community centre. Finance director Ginette Chevrier Bottrill and Assistant director general Geneviève Latulippe were present, as well as 15 members of the public.

Budget 2020

The budget of \$9,001,584 is 6.1% up from last year. The bylaw setting the tax rate was adopted by a majority with Councillor Draper-Maxsom voting against. The increase is 2.4% for “residual” taxpayers (most residential property owners), and also for farm properties. For buildings of six or more apartments the increase is 2.2%, and for “non-residential” (businesses), the increase is 2.0%.

Increases in other fees:

Garbage fee for one wheelie-bin is \$164.45, up 14.5%. Recycling fee for one bin is \$63.95, up 19%. Larger containers cost more.

If you live in Quyon with mains water and sewer, not a business, the sector tax for water (infrastructure) is \$158.84, up 3.6%, the service fee for water is \$466.71, up 6.1% and sewer service is \$308.38, up 1.6%. Businesses pay more.

Re-naming municipal buildings

Council passed a resolution to change the name of the Bert Kennedy centre back to the Quyon Women’s Institute, which used the building from about 1950 to the early 2000s. A two-storey building was built in 1904 as the Quyon Model School (“Model” implying that teachers could train there), and was used as a school until 1950 when Onslow School was built. At some point the top floor was destroyed by fire.

In January 2005, Councillor Coyle “thanked Bert Kennedy for his unpaid work as caretaker of the Women’s Institute building in Quyon.” In April 2006 Council adopted a resolution that “The Quyon library will be named ‘Robert Joyce municipal library,’ and the 1904 Quyon School building at 885 Clarendon will be named ‘Bert Kennedy seniors’ hall,’ to honour two volunteers who spent many hours running the library and taking care of the seniors’ centre, respectively.”

Another flood damaged property acquired

The owner of a property at 1112 ch du Ruisseau in the Plage Charron area has accepted the Ministry of Public Security’s buy-out for residences flooded in the spring. The municipality will acquire this for \$1 and may be able to claim legal transfer fees from MSP. As usual, the building must be demolished and the lot cleared and made safe.

A statement of costs of maintaining the local road network to obtain support from the Ministry of Transport’s PAERRL program lists \$410,652 of eligible work on roads and bridges.

Questions from the public

Denis Dubé suggested that communication to citizens could be better. Mayor Labadie admitted that since the Communication director left in August 2018, it has been a problem. “We can do better.” Meanwhile to a question from Joan Belsher as to why the originally-monthly municipal Pontiac Bulletin is being reduced to every two months, Labadie replied that tough decisions had to be made and cuts made across the board to keep the tax rate down. The municipality hopes to use social media to fill the gaps. The Bulletin is on the webpage.

Dubé also complained that postings to hire clerks were inconsistent. Labadie explained that different jobs had different requirements.

Approved:

Invoices amounting to \$376,758, and fixed expenses of \$614,949 for December. There are no incurred expenses for January.

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

The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com