

Pontiac Council - new policy on non-municipal roads soon?

Mo Laidlaw

Pontiac municipal council met on Tuesday, 11th February 2020, at the Luskville community centre. Director general Pierre Said was present and only 8 members of the public.

Non-municipal roads

Marie-Ève Coupal, president of FRAPP, the umbrella organization for private (or tolerance) road associations, asked about the status of these “non-municipal” roads. It would be more efficient for the municipality to carry out maintenance such as snow ploughing, with a service fee on the tax bill, instead of giving associations a grant. Mayor Joanne Labadie replied that the municipality is working on a policy that will be fair and equitable for people on these roads, and conforms to provincial laws. It should be available in the next four weeks. Austin in Estrie (the Eastern Townships) could provide a model bylaw that works. Pierre Said has experience with Municipal Affairs and will be working on this. Access for fire trucks and other standards for public safety have to be complied with. Many of these roads are in flood zones and already compromised.

Office computer renewal

The municipal computers are too old to run current software, so \$12,000 was approved to buy eight computers running Windows 10, \$3,200 for Microsoft Office and \$9,000 for technical assistance in carrying out the upgrade.

New bylaw

A new bylaw on running council meetings was adopted. Residents should note that question periods and answers will not be recorded in the minutes. There is a maximum of three minutes to ask a question, which must be addressed to the chair of the meeting (usually the mayor). The question period may be ended after 30 minutes. Members of the public must avoid “coarse language or indecent behaviour” towards anyone. Photos, video or audio recordings may only be made of council, staff, and people asking questions.

An interim control bylaw was tabled prohibiting new construction on private roads or next to a right-of-way until the urbanism plan has been revised. There’s an exception for previously occupied residences which have to be rebuilt following a disaster or demolition.

Municipal committees

Council membership of municipal committees has been reviewed. A list is available from the municipality. Committees dealing with the boat ramp, the Country Fair, and Quyon community centre have been transferred to the Recreation committee. The Agriculture committee is asking interested members of the public to join the committee that meets monthly.

The electoral map is expected to be unchanged, but must be sent to the Electoral Commission by March 15 of the year before an election for confirmation. The number of electors in each district has to be within a certain percentage of the average.

A list of surplus items sold by the municipality was read. Unsold items will be entered in the next sale.

Public works

Requests were made for several assistance programs from Québec to improve local roads, including \$219,285 for ch Pères-Dominicains.

The culvert repair work on ch Alary was not done in time. The penalties will be applied to the payment of \$11,000 to QEI for supervision of the work.

Owners of farmland at 465 ch de la Baie, have made a request to the CPTAQ to alienate two lots, on the north side of de la Baie, and on the south side extending to ch Tremblay; they will continue as farmland.

Community life

The Recreation director is authorized to start planning the 2020 summer camp program and use funds budgeted for this.

A gift of \$5,612 was received from B'nai Brith to reimburse families affected by the floods for 2019 day camp fees for up to 4 weeks. Many thanks go to B'nai Brith.

Since tenders for contracts for janitor and maintenance of municipal buildings were not within the amount allowed, a new unionized post will be created for a two-year trial period, reporting to the Recreation director.

Approved:

Fixed expenses of \$712,615 for January and incurred expenses of \$24,524 for February.

\$23,814 as the municipality of Pontiac's contribution to the Transcollines' transport service on route 148 into the city. There has been a drop in user revenue.

\$4,500 to Lynn Régimbal for providing access to the gym at Notre Dame de la Joie school, and locking up, for 50 weeks.

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

The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com