

Pontiac Council - meeting by teleconference

Mo Laidlaw

Pontiac municipal council met on Tuesday, 14 April 2020 at 6 pm, by teleconference, as required by Municipal Affairs, due to the Covid-19 situation. Director general Pierre Said also took part. There were no members of the public, although questions by phone or email would have been addressed. (Residents do not need to wait for a council meeting, they can phone or email their councillor or the municipality.)

Fire Department

Richard Groulx, the Director of the Fire department has resigned. Fire Captain Kevin Mansey will be Acting Director until a new director is hired.

Public Works contracts awarded

TGC Inc had the lowest conforming bid for the sewer project for St Andrew and St John streets in Quyon: \$1,767,185 including tax. Équipe Laurence analysed all bids and recommended TGC Inc. The contract is conditional on all required authorizations being obtained.

Energère Inc had the highest points in the bids for LED street lights. Bids were received by the Federation of Québec Municipalities (FQM) in the name of Pontiac municipality.

Multi Routes Inc had the lowest bid for spreading liquid dust suppressant on unpaved roads, \$65,000 plus taxes.

Marcel Baril Ltée will provide culverts and geotextile for installation by Public works for \$50,505 including tax.

A high hoe/ mechanical shovel/ pelle mécanique for ditch digging and culvert installation, to be operated by Public works employees, will be rented from Agritibi RH - Hyundai, for \$40,701 including taxes, the lowest offer.

Les Fermes Renaud won the contract for sweeping paved roads, \$22,000.

RM Lang won the mowing and brush cutting contract for 353 km of roads, \$12,000 including taxes.

Other Public Works

Emergency calls for Public works will be handled by the MRC des Collines Police, who will call a staff member designated for out-of-hours situations (evenings and weekends). \$35 per day bonus will be paid to the staff person managing an emergency situation.

Two existing employees applied for operator jobs and were hired. One is qualified, the second has to obtain a class 1 driver's licence. The cost of the training course (\$6,000) will be reimbursed once the permit is obtained.

There were many applicants for truck driving jobs. The administration will interview them and hire the best two candidates, from 20 April.

Legal action

Excavasphalte started legal action against the municipality in February 2017 in the Quebec Superior Court. Lawyers RPGL are mandated to hire QDI (engineers) for \$13,415, to provide expert opinion to make progress on the file.

(If you're wondering about the "legal action", mentioned, here's what I found online:

The previous council (Mayor Roger Larose) accepted Excavasphalte's tender of \$1,364,967 for repairs to 3 km of ch de la Montagne in September 2015.

Quadrivium Conseil Inc were given the contract to supervise the work.

At a special meeting on 22 May 2017, Quadrivium were authorized to assess Excavasphalte's request for supplementary costs because more excavation had been required. (If the court case started in February 2017, it may have been more of a demand than a request, Excavasphalte are suing the municipality as briefly mentioned in the linked report.)

The present council and Mayor Joanne Labadie were elected in October 2017 and the first council meeting was in November 2017.

Since then QDI was formed from the merger of Quadrivium and Dumont Groupe-conseil. It is an engineering consulting firm. Let's hope that their expert testimony is not repeating the May 2017 assessment.

(And some thought that the litigious legacy of the previous council was ended.))

Transcollines

The local public transport system is under financial pressure every spring as the contribution from the Ministry of Transport is always late. Transcollines has only one month liquidity. \$500,000 is due for 2019. An attempt is being made to improve transport for the handicapped. Transcollines would like existing programmes to be applied, ie grants to be received as intended.

Scholarship

\$500 will be given to a student from the municipality. This is a contribution to the Pontiac Scholarship fund.

Approved:

Fixed expenses of \$570,120 for March and incurred expenses of \$28,784 for April.

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

The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com