

Pontiac Council - Quyon mill to be sold

Mo Laidlaw

The regular meeting of Pontiac municipal council was on Tuesday, 7 July 2020 at 7 pm, by Zoom videoconference. Director general Pierre Said took part. There were many questions from the public.

Susan Stanley and Stéphane Fortin asked about the ch Tremblay boat ramp. Mayor Joanne Labadie explained that an engineering study was done in 2018. The estimated cost of a compliant ramp is \$300,000. Following the 2019 floods repairing road infrastructure was a higher priority for limited funds. The ramp will be in the fall budget planning process.

Stanley continued, asking about the washout on Bronson-Bryant. Labadie said that replacing this culvert is a larger job than the ch Alary one. It is still to be determined whether the Ministry of Public Security (MSP) will contribute to the cost and how much.

Would the SQ police be less expensive than the MRC des Collines police? Labadie explained that the municipality has no say in which police force we have, it is decided by the MRC and provincial government. MSP has denied earlier requests, as the SQ has no jurisdiction in "metro Gatineau", which includes the MRC des Collines. However the MRC is looking at ways to reduce costs.

Is the Agriculture building in Quyon ("Elvis" building) compliant to codes since the floods? It suffered no damage and therefore complies. Other questions were answered later in the meeting.

Carl Hager also had several questions, on ch Steele Line and ch de la Montagne repairs, and yet again about derelict buildings. Heavy goods vehicles are not allowed on Steele Line except for local deliveries. Public works are advertising for new tenders for ch de la Montagne on the seao.ca website now the modified plans are available. The urbanism department has a backlog, with no building inspector last year and inspections not allowed for much of this year. Derelict buildings will be dealt with when the backlog is gone.

Valerie Miller asked whether there are restrictions on use of well water to water lawns during the current drought and high temperatures. Labadie explained that the municipality has no jurisdiction over private wells, it is up to individuals to reduce their water consumption. Well owners are not breaking the law. However her well ran dry in the 2012 drought so she understands the issue.

Joan Belsher asked why some people with wells received a notice from the municipality about the municipal water being cut off, around July 1st. Labadie answered that 450 Quyon residents are on mains water, and 500 letters were sent out, to make sure that everyone concerned was notified. Belsher also mentioned that 100% of people polled about council remuneration were against the new bylaw. Labadie said that council didn't receive the survey. The bylaw has gone to committee, so is not on the agenda.

Mark German asked about the new ch de l'Aventure, the Domaine des Chutes development near the town hall. Will there be street lights? One has been installed by the developer as required. Are there plans to connect these lots to a water and sewer network? No, there are only 32 properties, and water and sewer would cost "multimillions". Why are the lot sizes all different? These were proposed by the developer and the plan was approved by the previous council.

German also asked what are the requirements to run for council. He should contact Pierre Said, Pontiac's director general, who is also president of elections.

Quyon Mill for sale

Since the municipality is not allowed to own a building for leasing purposes, the Mill and garage on ch Egan will be transferred to the private domain and put up for auction to the highest bidder (reserve price \$80,000).

Regional transport proposal

The four MRCs of West Québec are discussing a proposal for regional transport with TransCollines. This would include transport to Ottawa and Gatineau and leverage development along route 148, and also include transport between MRCs. It should provide solutions for students in the region. It is hoped that the Ministry of Transport would finance this.

Other matters

\$80,000 is approved for public works to rent a compactor, buy granular material and hire a paving contractor, to repair 200 m of ch Steele Line, 600 m east of ch Lac des Loups. Public works will do the excavation.

The municipality takes over the Domaine des Chutes project (ch de l'Aventure), on the recommendation of Public works, now that deficiencies have been corrected. Approval was also given for a single family home complying to the PIA (architectural integration) to be built there.

Evan Prest is rehired as a firefighter as he has returned to the municipality. He has 14 years previous experience with the Pontiac fire department.

The regulation committee suggested that the bylaw on a pilot project on backyard chickens should not include zoning, so a new bylaw was tabled.

Now that day camps are allowed, several summer students were hired for the day camp, at between \$14 and \$15 per hour depending on position.

Incurred expenses of \$60,854 for June were approved.

Mayor Labadie ended the meeting by saying she hoped to meet some of the new residents who attended the Zoom meeting, in person at the August council meeting.

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