

Pontiac Council - more firefighters and a building technician hired

Mo Laidlaw

The regular meeting of Pontiac municipal council was held on 8 September 2020 at 7 pm, by Zoom teleconference.

Public input

The procedure for public questions has changed: now questioners have to attend the Zoom meeting to put their questions directly, not by email. Two members of the public were present, but had no questions. A few people had signed up to ask questions but were not present or their microphones didn't work.

Fire department

Eight new volunteer firefighters were signed up: Olivier Thibeault, Daniel Johnson, Nicolas Bastien, Jason Flint, Allan Emmerson, Damien Laderoute, Jean-Claude Beaucher and Katrina Dubeau. All except the first three will have to complete their Pompier 1 training by December 2021. (Most courses are online).

The agreement with Bristol Fire Department for mutual assistance has been updated.

Public works

Nugent Construction was the only tender received on the provincial website seao.com for snow clearing sector F for the next 4 years, and was awarded the contract for \$593,047. Sector F includes municipal roads in most of Luskville from ch Pères-Dominicains north west to ch Kennedy, but not including Kennedy. (Nugent held the last contract for sector F: \$321,010 for 4 years, awarded in 2016.)

QDI were awarded the contract to supervise the \$2 million work on ch de la Montagne for \$85,000. Municipal administration will award a contract for quality control of materials for a maximum of \$50,000.

Pavage Robillard won the contract for paving small sections of McCann, Saint-Georges, de la Baie and Dubois roads, for \$67,635 plus tax.

A branch cutter and hitch will be bought from MP Farm for \$24,725 to allow the municipal tractor to carry out better brush clearing.

Planning

Isabelle Rondeau has been hired as a building technician. Her duties will include issuing permits, inspections of septic systems, and she is the designated employee for ensuring the free flow of water in ditches, (MRC water flow bylaw) and the designated arbitrator for disagreements about common fences and ditches in the farm zone.

The municipality has been asked to support CREDDO, who with design studio Manda Works and TD Park People /Amis des Parcs propose to carry out a study to better understand flooding and adapt the future use of the shoreline, under the Ministry of Environment's Action-Climat programme. Council agreed to contribute in kind (municipal workers and equipment, not cash).

The municipality will support the local farmers' union in sensitizing the Ministries of Forestry (MFFP) and the Environment (MELCCC) about the urgency of cultivating maple sugar bushes on public land and protecting the maple potential of our forests.

Use of municipal buildings in Quyon

The regional food bank, Le Grenier des Collines needs more space because of the pandemic and local needs, so will rent the Women's Institute building for two days a week for 5 years. It hopes to increase the supply of goods including fruits and vegetables by partnering with local farms, dépanneurs and citizens.

La Maison de la Famille needs more space for fitness activities and hopes to encourage use of the park adjacent to the Quyon Community centre. A majority of council agreed that LMF could use one room in the centre for 5 years as a gym, on signing a rental agreement. There will be free access for municipal firefighters and a retired (professional?) soccer player will organize activities and provide information to visitors and locals.

A grant application will be made to the *Fonds régions et ruralité* to use the kitchen in the Quyon Community Centre to increase the local food supply and develop local food production businesses.

Culture

As part of the continuing *De Collines et d'Eau* route project, panels interpreting local heritage will be installed in Quyon and Breckenridge (Luskville already has the obelisk near the town hall). \$10,700 will come from the CLD and the municipality will contribute a minimum of \$3,000 plus tax.

Following the example of the National Assembly, the last Friday of September and the following two days each year are declared Culture Days /Journées de la culture.

As part of the municipality's support for community organizations, branch 231 of the Royal Canadian Legion, that supports local veterans, military personnel and their families, will be granted \$2,500 in emergency funding. The RCL is not eligible for federal emergency funds.

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

The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com