

Pontiac Council - draft tax rates and fees

Mo Laidlaw

The regular meeting of Pontiac municipal council was held on 8 December 2020 at 7 pm, by teleconference. About 10 members of the public joined the council, Director general Pierre Said, and Director of finance Ginette Chevrier Bottrill.

Public input

Three members of a new road association for Plage Pierre-Tremblay were present and asked if they could hire a snow plough operator before being officially recognized by Municipal Affairs. Mayor Joanne Labadie replied that the municipality has reserved funds in its budget, but this cannot be disbursed before permission is received from MMA to use public funds on private land, expected shortly.

Blake Draper, the local UPA (farmers' union) representative said there is continuing confusion over Urbanism's inventory of farm animals. "My phone is ringing constantly". Farmers already provide this information to Stats Can, MAPAQ, and other Quebec agencies. He is worried that the building inspector may not be trained in biosecurity around animals. Mayor Labadie replied that the aim is to protect farmland when people are subdividing, by verifying where livestock buildings are located with respect to neighbours. Building inspectors have the right to go on properties. She will set up a meeting, for the Director of Urbanism, Louis Mongrain to talk to Draper.

Draft bylaw setting tax rates and service charges for 2021

The tax bylaw will be adopted at the January 8 2021 meeting, so if you have comments contact your councillor or the municipality before then. The draft bylaw was passed unanimously. Mayor Labadie thanked Ginette Chevrier Bottrill and councillors for their hard work on the budget. (Selected information, see the municipal website for complete information.)

Residential and farm tax rate per \$100 evaluation: 0.7111, up 1.9%.

Non-residential (business) tax rate: 1.1445, up 1.6%.

Garbage service fee (residence): \$170.90, up 3.9%.

Recycling fee (residence): \$62.13, down 2.8%.

For Quyon residents only:

sewer (residence): \$328.48, up 6.5%.

water infrastructure, sector tax (residence): \$159.33, up 0.3%.

water supply (residence): \$523.72, up 12.2%.

Fire department

Kevin Mansey, who has been Acting Director of the fire department since March, is hired as Director. Two new volunteer firefighters are hired, Jessica Connolly and Rejean Bérubé, who both have necessary certification. Bérubé is also qualified as an instructor with l'École national des pompiers du Québec.

Public Works

A resolution was passed to apply for local roads assistance. Labadie thanked André Fortin MNA for his \$60,000 contribution from discretionary funds that was used for Pères Dominicains. Parts of some roads are not ploughed in the winter and are therefore closed: Proven and Murray between 6th concession and Steele Line, and 5th concession between Kennedy and Taber. A section of ch du Lac-la-Pêche was washed out in spring 2019, and the road is closed to motor vehicles and off-road vehicles between ch Lac Curley and Gauvin. An agreement with Pontiac

Snowmobile Association allows members to use this trail, as they plan to build an ice and snow structure for snowmobiles to cross the stream.

Planning

Council decided not to support an application to the CPTAQ to subdivide a lot at 934 ch du Ruisseau (off the south end of Kennedy) to allow a market garden. The existing lot is only about half an acre, smaller than the minimum size allowed and the frontage is also too small.

The municipality will acquire the lot at 113 ch Bélisle for \$1, following the 2019 floods, as the owner has accepted the buy-out offer from Québec.

Other matters

Mayor Labadie voted to break a tie, to support the bus service along the 148, to the tune of \$18,736 for 2021. The Ministry of Transport subsidizes this service 75% up to \$185,000. There's been a greatly reduced service during the pandemic, but on-demand service is available. A bus pass will allow transfers to the STO and OCTranspo. The new service will have two buses and two schedules, so people will be able to take the bus from Quyon to Shawville and back as well as to Ottawa-Gatineau. Councillor Howard said he wouldn't support it as it never fit in with his hours of employment.

RPGL, the municipal lawyers' mandate was renewed for two years.

Council voted to become an Allied Municipality against domestic violence against women. (In 2015 there were 19,406 cases of violence against women in Québec.)

Expenses approved:

Incurred expenses for December, \$24,684.

Three contracts for maintenance of municipal ice rinks: Karine Cloutier for Quyon and Luskville rinks at \$9,900 each, and Christian Lauzon for the Soulière-Davis rink in Breckenridge, \$11,784.94. The total is \$32,584.94. One councillor voted against.

A \$15,000 fund dedicated to parks was approved by a majority. Hiring a student has greatly reduced costs.

Contribution to municipal housing in Quyon, 10% of the deficit, \$4,513.

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The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com