

Pontiac Council - more speed radars near schools

Mo Laidlaw

The regular monthly meeting of Pontiac municipal council was held on 9 March 2021 at 7:30 pm, by teleconference. About 10 members of the public joined council and director general Pierre Said.

Public input

Michel Poulin pointed out problems with road markings and signage for drivers entering the 148. At one place the stop line should be closer to the highway. From ch du Cartel, which exits onto the four-lane, there is no indication to turn right. Mayor Joanne Labadie said this whole area is waiting for redesign by the ministry of Transport and she will make sure they are aware of these problems.

Diane Lacasse asked why the skating rinks were not open during the school break. Labadie said the forecast predicted warmer weather than occurred, and the NCC had also closed the Rideau canal to skaters.

Public works

Two speed indication radars were installed near Notre Dame de la Joie school in Luskville and Onslow school in Quyon, resulting in a significant speed reduction. Council agreed to buy four more radars, two for the opposite directions near the schools, and two for the paved part of Crégheur. A mobile traffic counter will also be purchased from Traffic Logix for a total of \$15,437.

An engineering firm is needed to supervise the ch Tremblay repairs and provide plans and specifications. Équipe Laurence is awarded this contract for \$29,400 plus tax.

Engineers EXP produced a plan to renew water mains, sewers and roads which was presented to Municipal Affairs (MAMH) in October 2019. This was approved by MAMH in July 2020. Council approved this plan.

Municipal workers have had two work accidents linked to installing road signs. A road sign “post planter” (Big Max TC-160) that can be mounted on a truck will improve the situation, along with a vibrating plate for compacting gravel. Magneto Laval can supply the post planter for \$30,003, and Location Loupro has the best offer for a 1000 lb diesel vibrating compacter, \$12,072. Previously equipment has been rented. Councillor Draper-Maxsom said that training would be needed, and the municipality needs a plan for maintenance of equipment and vehicles. She voted against, along with Councillors McDonald and Howard. Mayor Labadie voted for the purchase to break the tie.

An existing dump truck has done more than 1.2 million km and has exceeded its useful life, the cost of maintenance is now excessive. Public works is authorized to ask for tenders for a new truck. Councillor Draper-Maxsom asked “What about a good used one, it’s only used for 6 months of the year and there’s no municipal maintenance program.” Labadie explained that the municipality has to go to tender and is required to accept the lowest offer, which could be [a lemon]. “There’s no guarantee on a used truck.” Councillors Draper-Maxsom, McDonald and Howard voted against, and again Mayor Labadie voted to break the tie and pass the resolution. Labadie said, “This received a majority at caucus, that’s why it’s on the agenda,” implying that some opposing councillors had changed their decision.

Public works had a backhoe assessed by the manufacturer to determine the total cost of repairs needed (\$45,000) and the cost of essential repairs (\$15,000). Since the municipality expects to replace the backhoe in 9-18 months, repairs amounting to a maximum of \$15,000 were authorized by a majority for repairs essential to functioning. Councillor Draper-Maxsom repeated, "...if we had a preventive maintenance program..." and voted against, along with Councillor Howard.

Fire department

The report of the municipal fire department for 2020 was adopted and will be sent to the Ministry of Public Security (MSP).

Financial assistance for training voluntary or part time fire fighters in 2021-22 is requested from MSP, with a copy sent to the MRC. This is for five Firefighter 1 and/or ten Firefighter 2 training courses.

A firefighter who was unable to complete Officer 1 training before the end of 2020 because no course was available during the pandemic, is given one more year to complete the course.

Planning

Owners of three lots at 109, 148 and 153 ch de l'Aventure (Domaine des Chutes, off ch Hôtel-de-Ville), requested approval for their plans to build single family homes. This new subdivision has a PIIA (an architectural integration plan), and building plans are analyzed by the planning committee (CCU) before a permit is issued by the Planning department. All three plans were approved.

The offer by an adjacent lot owner to buy a 254 m² municipal lot (evaluated at \$900) at 1747 route 148, for \$1000 plus taxes and fees was approved.

The owner of 1080 Smith-Leonard, 47 ha in the agricultural zone, has asked for council to support a request to the CPTAQ to construct a residence linked to farm activity. This was approved.

Overtime for managers in case of spring flood

If there is a flood between 1 April and 15 June, managers who work more than 5 hours a week over their regular hours will be paid overtime at their normal hourly rate. Councillor Draper-Maxsom asked if this would impact volunteers, ("No"). She and Councillor McDonald voted against this.

The MRC des Collines mayors adopted a resolution to ask for financial assistance from the program for road safety in municipalities (PAVL, PISRMM). This aims to optimize investments on the municipal road network by targeting the main problems and the most efficient solutions, by carrying out road safety diagnostics and action plans. Council supported this request.

Other expenses approved:

\$29,706 plus tax to PG Solutions for purchase, installation and training for the application Voilà!, which facilitates online communication between residents and the municipality. A grant from the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative will be applied for.

Incurred expenses of \$23,153 for March and some late invoices for December 2020, amounting to \$14,828.

\$500 to the Pontiac scholarship fund, for a municipal resident.

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

The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com