

MUNICIPALITY OF LITCHFIELD

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on March 6th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. held at the Municipal office located at 1362 route 148, Campbell's Bay, Qc.

Present: Mayor Lariviere, councilors Denis Dubeau, Emile Morin, Rick Frost, Terry Racine, John Stitt and Courtney Harris

Also present: Director General, Julie Bertrand

Quorum is met and Mayor Lariviere presides the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

2023-03-463 It is moved by Emile Morin and unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda for March 6th, 2023.

Carried

Adoption of Minutes

2023-03-464 It is moved by Rick Frost and unanimously resolved to adopt the meeting minutes from the February 6th, 2023 meeting.

Carried

URBANISM

By-law 2023-250

2023-03-465 WHEREAS the Quebec provincial government's Bill 69 requires the implementation of a by-law governing the demolition of heritage buildings that applies to the entire municipal territory CONSIDERING the provisions of Bill 69, An Act to amend the Cultural Heritage Act and other legislative provisions; CONSIDERING the provisions of the Act respecting land use planning and development (R.S.Q., c. A-19.1), particularly sections 148.0.1 to 148.0.26

WHEREAS the notice of motion of this by-law was duly given at the regular meeting of January 9,2023 and that the draft by-law was tabled at the meeting of February 6, 2023

Whereas a public consultation meeting was held on March 3, 2023; THEREFORE,

It is proposed by Emile Morin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the project demolition by-law number 2023-250 is adopted. Carried

*It is noted that members of council received a copy of the by-law in advance, therefore reading of the said by-law is dispensed of.

Committee for the application of By-Law 2023-250.

2023-03-466 It is moved by Denis Dubeau and unanimously resolved that the following members be appointed to the committee:

Courtney Harris

Terry Racine

Emile Morin

It is also resolved that Director General, Julie Bertrand, is appointed as chair and administrative resource to the committee.

Carried

ROADS/EQUIPMENT

Purchase of 4 used truck rims

2023-03-467

It is moved by Courtney Harris and unanimously resolved to authorize the purchase of 4 used rims for the plow trucks. This expense of \$380 plus taxes is authorized from the budgetary item "equipment repairs and maintenance" from the 2023 provisional budget.

Carried

FINANCE

Payment of accounts

2023-03-468

It is moved by Terry Racine and unanimously resolved to authorize payment of invoices to be paid and to accept the payment of invoices paid prior to this meeting.

Carried

Monthly Invoices

Invoices paid: \$

Invoices to be paid: \$150 772.70

Certificate of availability

I, Julie Bertrand, Director General of the Municipality of Litchfield, certify that there are sufficient credits available to pay the approved amount of bill totaling \$150 772.70 for the month of March 2023.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Julie Bertrand, Director General

Motion to approve expenditures related to administration and employees for the year 2023.

2023-03-469

It is moved by Courtney Harris and unanimously resolved to authorize the Director General to proceed with expenditures related to office, administration and employee salaries for the year 2023.

Carried

Request for tender for the supply of propane for 2023-2025

2023-03-470

Whereas the municipality put out a second call for tender for the 2023-2025 supply of propane;

Whereas the municipality did receive 2 submissions;

Budget Propane markup: .106/litre

MacEwan Petroleum markup: .224/litre

Therefore,

It is moved by Denis Dubeau and unanimously resolved to accept the submission price from Budget Propane.

Carried

Authentication of the DG -Mutation training expense

2023-03-471

It is moved by Emile Morin and unanimously resolved to authenticate the expense of \$250 for DG training. This expense is authorized from the budgetary item "travel and conventions-financial management" from the 2023 provisional budget.

Carried

- 2023-03-472** **Donation to Bourse Pontiac**
 It is moved by Courtney Harris and unanimously resolved to donate \$200. This expense of \$200 is authorized from the budgetary item "charitable donations" from the 2023 provisional budget.
 Carried
- 2023-03-473** **Annual renewal fee for Global Star satellite phone**
 It is moved by Rick Frost and unanimously resolve to authorize the annual renewal fee for Global Star. This expense of \$1500 plus taxes is authorized from the budgetary item "civil protection -satellite phone" from the 2023 provisional budget.
 Carried
- *It is noted that the Litchfield Leisure Committee has donated the amount of \$591.27 towards the Halte/park.
- 2023-03-474** **Call for tender for the 2023 supply of 03/4 gravel**
 It is moved by Emile Morin and unanimously resolved to put out a call for tender to 3 suppliers for the 2023 03/4 gravel supply.
 Carried
- 2023-03-475** **Call for tender for the paving of Lawless Lake road**
 Whereas the municipality had plans prepared for the paving of Lawless Lake Road;
 Whereas the municipality has submitted a programming #6 to the TECQ for funding approval;
 Whereas upon TECQ programming #6 has been approved;
 Therefore,
 It is moved by Denis Dubeau and unanimously resolved to authorize the Director General to proceed with the tendering process on the SEAO.
 Carried
- 2023-03-476** **Preparation of plans for patch paving on chemin Hayes and Church**
 It is moved by Courtney Harris and unanimously resolved to hire Kim Lesage, MRC engineer to prepare plans and cost estimate for the patch/paving on chemin Hayes and Church. This expense authorized from line 400- TECQ funds of the 2023 provisional budget.
 Carried
- 2023-03-477** **SECURITY**
ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022
REVISED FIRE SAFETY COVER PLAN
 WHEREAS the revised fire safety cover plan came into effect on May 1st 2017;
 WHEREAS year 5 of the revised fire safety cover plan ended on April 30th 2022;

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WHEREAS article 35 of the Fire safety act states that an activity report for the previous year must be prepared, adopted by resolution and sent to the minister each year.

THEREFORE,

It is moved by Terry Racine and resolved to adopt the annual report of the revised fire safety cover plan for 2022 and to transmit this report to the minister.

Carried

CORRESPONDANCE

Mayor Lariviere read the correspondence

MISCELLANEOUS

SUPPORT TO THE MRC OF LOTBINIÈRE - SUPERVISION OF THE USE OF MUNICIPAL BIOSOLIDS

2023-03-478

CONSIDERING that the elected officials of the council of the MRC Pontiac have received a request for support for the resolution of the MRC Lotbinière concerning the control of the use of biosolids in Quebec;

CONSIDERING that the elected officials of the MRC Pontiac, as well as those of the MRC Lotbinière, are concerned by the recent reports on the use of biosolids broadcast on Radio-Canada's La Semaine verte and Enquête ;

CONSIDERING that these reports indicate that some biosolids appear to be imported from the United States and are potentially contaminated with PFAS, also known as eternal contaminants;

CONSIDERING that the volume of these biosolids is immense and that it represents an important management challenge for the municipal world, it is necessary to initiate a serious reflection on their management in order to avoid that they are directed towards incineration or landfill;

CONSIDERING that the fertilizer value of this product is undeniable, especially in this period of political instability, with the current volatility of the cost of fertilizers that affects agricultural producers;

CONSIDERING that the safe use of biosolids in Quebec requires a good analysis of the biosolids generated and the establishment of thresholds of PFAS and any other undesirable compound not to be exceeded, or even simply to be prohibited if they present a risk;

WHEREAS the establishment of thresholds could be coupled with documentation of potential industrial sources of PFAS in the province to reduce the risk to our agricultural lands;

WHEREAS three professional associations representing chemists, agronomists and veterinarians have expressed concerns about the use of biosolids and are calling for "the utmost vigilance" and prompt action by the public and the government;

CONSIDERING that the Quebec Minister of the Environment, Mr. Benoit Charette, has confirmed that the regulations concerning biosolids will be modified in the coming weeks in order to provide a tighter framework "to ensure that the integrity of our agricultural lands is not compromised and that human health is not threatened";

Therefore,

It is proposed by Emile Morin and unanimously resolved:

to support resolution 012-01-2023 sent by the MRC de

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Lotbinière; to ask the Quebec Minister of the Environment, Mr. Benoit Charrette, to act to stop the importation of foreign biosolids and to quickly follow through on his commitments to modify the regulatory framework for the use of biosolids;

to reiterate to the Minister the importance of the safe use of biosolids produced in Quebec for RCMs of an agricultural nature so that he does not prevent the use of these products regardless of their origin;

to transmit a copy of this resolution to the MRCs of Quebec, to the local municipalities of our territory as well as to the FQM and the UMQ for support;

to transmit a copy of the present resolution to the Minister of the Environment, the Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks, Mr. Benoit Charrette, as well as to the provincial deputy for Pontiac, Mr. André Fortin.

Carried

Power Outages

2023-03-479

WHEREAS there is an Electrical power transmission grid owned by Hydro Quebec (HQ) where residents of Upper Pontiac (Sheenboro, Chichester, L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, Waltham) and some residents of Mansfield-Pontefract are clients;

WHEREAS this said grid is not integrated into Hydro Quebec's Power Transmission Network;

WHEREAS this said grid has no meaningful redundancy in the event of equipment failure leading to unnecessary and lengthy power outages;

WHEREAS this said grid relies solely on Ontario for surplus electricity during peak demand;

WHEREAS in the event of a power outage, without timely and an accurate information from Hydro Quebec, residents cannot fully prepare for the situation;

WHEREAS a power outage on February 4-5th, 2023 left many residents of Upper Pontiac without power for a period of more than 36 hours in dangerously cold temperatures (-39 degrees Celsius);

WHEREAS during the outage on February 4-5th, 2023, communications from Hydro Quebec to residents through the HQ App, Website or otherwise was false and misleading;

WHEREAS during this outage HQ failed to have timely and accurate communications with Municipal and local emergency services especially concerning the length of the outages, plans for restoration and the prioritization of areas/sectors to be restored;

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WHEREAS this length of the power outage had direct cause in the failure of telephone and internet services, leaving the residents without means of communication for emergency services in potential life-threatening circumstance;

WHEREAS the Municipality and its residents suffered undue expenses, loss and damages, during this outage;

WHEREAS this outage is the only the latest in a series of lengthy outages over the past several decades;

WHEREAS with the provincial & federal incentives and programs for further electrification of heating systems, vehicles, etc.; the demand for power and the load on the grid will only increase exponentially;

THEREFORE,

It is moved by Courtney Harris and unanimously resolved that the Municipality of Litchfield support the Municipality of L'Isle-aux-Allumettes in its formal request to Hydro Quebec for the following:

A Formal Plan, with timelines, to improve their infrastructure to fully integrate the Upper Pontiac into HQ Power Transmission Network ensuring redundancy for hydro services in our area; Improvements to communication with the Clients (residents) as well as with the Municipality, before, during and after an event; Compensation for the residents and Municipalities who may have suffered unnecessary expenses, loss or damages due to the outages;

A public meeting hosted by the Municipalities, where HQ can respond to the three items requested above;

AND, that this resolution be forwarded and sent to ALL Municipalities within the MRC Pontiac, Warden Jane Toller and MNA André Fortin for their support; as well as to the Minister responsible for the Outaouais, Mathieu Lacombe; the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy Pierre Fitzgibbon and a that formal complaint be made to the Regie de L'Energie concerning the above.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

2023-03-480

It is moved by Rick Frost and unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Carried

Colleen Larivière
Mayor

Julie Bertrand
Director General

