Province of Quebec

Municipality of Chichester

Regular meeting of the Chichester Municipal Council held March 13th, 2023 at 7:00pm, held at the Municipal Office.

At which were present, in-person, Mayor Donald Gagnon and Councillors Neil Maloney, Corey Bissonnette, Chrissy Ann Payne, Dustin Denault, and Jacques Fleury.

Councillor Louis Schryer is absent.

Director General, Alicia Jones, is present.

**1.** **Opening of meeting**

Mayor Gagnon welcomes everyone and declares the meeting to be open.

**2.Adoption of agenda**

023-23/03 Moved by Chrissy Ann Payne to accept the agenda as presented and amended.

Adopted

**3. Conflict of interest (if applicable)**

None.

**4.Adoption of minutes**

024-23/03 Moved by Corey Bissonnette that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 6th, 2023 be adopted.

Adopted

**5.** **Visitors**

 - Ms. Jennifer Valentine:

 - questions regarding her property at # 1 chemin de l’Église

 - would like to be considered for a minor derogation

 The Mayor informs regarding the process for Minor Derogation request, which will need to be reviewed by the Land-use planning committee (CCU) and return to Council at a later date.

**6.** **Mayor’s MRC report**

Councillor Maloney presents to Council, since he was at the last MRC Pontiac meeting on behalf of the Mayor.

**7.** **Committee reports**

***Public Security***

Councillor Fleury, Chair of the Public Security committee, gives a verbal report.

025-23/03 *Cell phone Services*

 WHEREAS the Municipality of Chichester and its surrounding areas are isolated and therefore are poorly served or not served by an efficient cellular network;

 WHEREAS during a power outage on February 4-5, 2023, the length of the power outage had direct cause in the failure of telephone (landline) and internet services, leaving the residents without means of communication for emergency services in potential life-threatening circumstance;

 WHEREAS cellular coverage is now an essential service and a determining issue in rural Quebec and Canada to ensure the safety and development of rural communities;

 WHEREAS the absence of complete cellular coverage is, not only a public safety issue, but a hindrance to the attraction of visitors and businesses and hinders the retention of families in communities with poor or no cellular coverage;

 WHEREAS communications, public safety and economic development are jurisdictions shared between the federal and provincial governments;

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor Chrissy Ann Payne, that the Municipality of Chichester support the Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes’ resolution to make the following formal requests:

* To ask the federal government and the ministers of the departments concerned to make a financial commitment to guarantee sufficient cellular coverage in all rural communities, including the Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes and others in the Pontiac;
* To ask the Quebec government and the ministries concerned, notably the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, to coordinate with the federal government and to quickly commit to ensuring complete cellular coverage for all rural communities, as it has committed to do to complete the High-speed internet network;

AND, that this resolution be forwarded and sent to ALL Municipalities within the MRC Pontiac, Warden Jane Toller and MNA André Fortin and MP Sophie Chatel for their support; as well as to the Minister responsible for the Outaouais, Mathieu Lacombe; the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy Pierre Fitzgibbon; the Minister of Public Security, Francois Bonnardel; and a that formal complaint be made to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications (CRTC) concerning the above.

Adopted

026-23/03 *Bell Canada – Telephone & Internet infrastructure*

 WHEREAS there is an ongoing and increased number of recent complaints from ratepayers regarding recurring problems experienced with Bell Canada’s services (telephone and/or internet);

WHEREAS Bell Canada has failed to provide proper maintenance to their landline infrastructure in our area;

WHEREAS the lack of maintenance by Bell Canada has created a serious number of outages to their services;

WHEREAS the Bell Canada station on L’Isle-aux-Allumettes, which services several municipalities landlines, telephone and internet services, including Chichester, can only operate for a maximum of 6-8 hours without power to their building;

WHEREAS during a power outage on February 4-5, 2023, the length of the power outage had direct cause in the failure of telephone (landline) and internet services, leaving the residents without means of communication for emergency services in potential life-threatening circumstance;

WHEREAS it is recognized that numerous Bell Canada clients do not have cellular phone service as there is no or very restricted reception service;

WHEREAS the outages have created a serious public security issue where residents do not have access to 911 or internet services during the outages;

WHEREAS it is recognized that Bell Canada has conducted some maintenance to their service lines over the past few months, however, the problem continues to persist;

WHEREAS Bell Canada continues to collect their full rate of their monthly service charges despite the numerous outages.

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor Corey Bissonnette, that the Municipality of Chichester support the Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes’ resolution to make a formal request to Bell Canada for the following:

* A Formal Plan, with timelines, to improve their infrastructure to ensuring appropriate back-up power to their stations to maintain telephone and internet services in our area during an outage;
* Improvements to communications with the residents of and with the Municipality directly; before, during and after an event;
* A public meeting hosted by the Municipalities, where Bell Canada can respond to the concerns above;

AND, that this resolution be forwarded and sent to ALL Municipalities within the MRC Pontiac, Warden Jane Toller and MNA André Fortin and MP Sophie Chatel for their support; as well as to the Minister responsible for the Outaouais, Mathieu Lacombe; the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy Pierre Fitzgibbon; the Minister of Public Security, Francois Bonnardel; and a that formal complaint be made to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications (CRTC) concerning the above.

Adopted

027-23/03 *Fibre-to-Home project*

 Moved by Jacques Fleury that this Municipality make a formal complaint to Bell Canada regarding the extended delay of offering the Fiber-to-home services in the village sectors (along the Chapeau-Sheenboro Road), and to forward this to André Fortin, MNA Pontiac.

 Adopted

***Roads & Environment***

Mayor Gagnon, Chair of the Roads & Environment committee, gives a verbal report.

028-23/03 *Tender Surface Treatment*

 Moved by Chrissy Ann Payne to proceed to tender for the surface treatment required for the 2023 road work plan.

 Adopted

029-23/03 *Long-Term Loan - Mandate Ministry of Finance to receive and open bids*

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 1065 of the Municipal Code, no Municipality may enter into a long-term loan under its borrowing by-law, other than by written bid;

WHEREAS bids are filed through the Ministry of Finance's Municipal Finance Auction and Publication Service;

WHEREAS section 1066 of the Municipal Code, which provides that the council of a municipality may, by resolution, mandate the Minister of Finance to receive and open the bids provided for in section 1065, for and on behalf of that municipality;

It is therefore proposed by Councillor Neil Maloney and unanimously resolved,

THAT, in accordance with Section 1066 of the Municipal Code, Council mandates the Minister of Finance to receive and open the bids provided for in Section 1065 of the Municipal Code, for and on behalf of the Municipality.

Adopted

030-23/03 *Gas Tax projects 2023*

Moved by Corey Bissonnette to approve the 2023 projects to be funded through the gas tax program, as discussed.

Adopted

 ***Planning & Development***

Councillor Maloney, Chair of the Planning & Development committee, gives a verbal report.

The Municipal Inspector’s report is received and read.

031-23/03 *ByLaw 2023-002 - Demolition and Protection of Heritage buildings*

WHEREAS the Act to amend the Cultural Heritage Act and other legislative provisions (Bill 69) requires a Municipality to adopt a demolition bylaw that complies with the new provisions of the Act respecting land use planning and development for buildings of heritage value before April 1, 2023;

WHEREAS according to Articles 148.0.1 to 148.0.26 of the Act respecting land use planning and development as well as Article 141 of the Cultural Heritage Act, a Municipality is required, by By-law, to ensure control of the demolition of buildings of heritage value on its territory;

WHEREASthe purpose of this By-law is to control the demolition and protect any heritage building by prohibiting demolition unless the owner has otherwise first obtained a ministerial certificate of authorization to do so;

WHEREASthe Municipal Council deems it appropriate to adopt a Bylaw to control the demolition of buildings on its territory and to ensure, among other things, the protection of the building heritage and the proper reuse of the cleared land;

WHEREAS the notice of motion was given and a draft bylaw was presented at the regular council meeting held on February 6th, 2023;

WHEREAS there was a publication of a public notice and a public consultation meeting;

THEREFORE, it is moved by Neil Maloney to adopt and enact the Bylaw #2023-002 regarding the Demolition for Heritage buildings.

Adopted

032-23/03 *ByLaw 2023-003 - Short Term seasonal rentals/tourist accomodations*

WHEREAS under the Act respecting land use planning and development, Council may amend its by-laws in relation to land use planning and development;

WHEREAS according to the provisions of the Tourist Accommodation Act, the rental of residential accommodation for a period of 31 days or less in principal residences becomes permitted throughout the territory of the Province of Quebec as of March 25, 2023

WHEREAS it is in the interest of the municipality to regulate the seasonal/short- term rentals of residential accommodations;

WHEREAS a notice of motion was given and a draft by-law was presented at the regular council meeting held on February 6, 2023

THEREFORE it was moved by Jacques Fleury to adopt By-Law #2023-003 governing the Short-term tourist accomodations.

Adopted

033-23/03 *Nuisance property*

Moved by Neil Maloney to request that the municipal lawyer proceed with further legal action for the property located at 6 071 840.

Adopted

***Administration & Finance***

Councillor Schryer, Chair of the Administration & Finance committee, being absent, the Director General gives a verbal report.

***Leisure, Recreation, Tourism & Marketing***

Councillor Payne, Chair of the Leisure, Recreation, Tourism & Marketing committee, gives a report.

**8. Questions from the public**

None.

**9.** **Presentation of accounts**

034-23/03 Moved by Dustin Denault that the bills be paid according to the list distributed.

Adopted

**10.** **Reading of correspondence**

 None.

**11.** **Varia**

 None.

 **12. In camera session**

 Not required.

 **13.** **Date of next meeting**

035-23/03 Moved by Neil Maloney that the next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 11th, 2023.

Adopted

 **14.** **Closing of meeting**

036-23/03 Moved by Dustin Denault that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Adopted

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I, Donald Gagnon, Mayor, certify that the signing of these minutes is equivalent to the signature by me of all the resolutions it contains, according to section 142 (2) of the Municipal Code.

*La version française est la version officielle - The French version is the official version*