Province of Quebec

Municipality of Chichester

Regular meeting of the Chichester Municipal Council held February 6th, 2023 at 7:00pm, held at the Municipal Office.

At which were present, in-person, his Councillors Corey Bissonnette, Chrissy Ann Payne, Louis Schryer, Dustin Denault, and Jacques Fleury.

Mayor Donald Gagnon and Councillor Neil Maloney are absent.

Director General, Alicia Jones, is present.

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

014-23/02 *Pro-Mayor*

Moved by Chrissy Ann Payne to name Councillor Jacques Fleury as pro-Mayor for the February Council meeting, in the absence of Mayor Gagnon and Councillor Maloney.

Adopted

Pro-Mayor Fleury welcomes everyone and declares the meeting to be open.

**2.Adoption of agenda**

015-23/02 Moved by Dustin Denault to accept the agenda as presented and amended.

Adopted

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

None.

**4.Adoption of minutes**

016-23/02 Moved by Corey Bissonnette that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9th, 2023 be adopted.

Adopted

**5.** **Visitors**

None.

**6.** **Mayor’s MRC report**

None.

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

***Public Security***

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

017-23/02 *Hydro Outages*

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;

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 Chrissy Ann Payne to support the resolution put forward by the Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes and to make a 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; the Minister of Public Security, Francois Bonnardel; and a that formal complaint be made to the Regie de L’Energie concerning the above.

Adopted

018-23/02 *Snowbanks Intersections*

Moved by Corey Bissonnette to make a formal request to the MTQ to have the snowbanks removed at the intersections, to improve visibility and to ensure safety.

Adopted

***Roads & Environment***

Mayor Gagnon, Chair of the Roads & Environment committee, being absent, Pro-Mayor Fleury gives a verbal report.

***Planning & Development***

Councillor Maloney, Chair of the Planning & Development committee, being absent, the Dorector General gives a verbal report.

The Municipal Inspector’s report is received and read.

*Notice of Motion – ByLaw Demolition Heritage building*

A Notice of Motion is given by Dustin Denault and a Draft Bylaw is presented regarding the Demolition for Heritage buildings.

*Notice of Motion – ByLaw Short Term seasonal rentals*

A Notice of Motion is given by Louis Schryer and a Draft Bylaw is presented regarding the Short term rentals of seasonal dwellings.

***Administration & Finance***

Councillor Schryer, Chair of the Administration & Finance committee, gives a verbal report.

019-23/02 *Taxation ByLaw*

Moved by Louis Schryer to adopt ByLaw 2023-001 regarding the annual municipal taxation conditions, as discussed.

Adopted

***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**

020-23/02 Moved by Corey Bissonnette 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**

021-23/02 Moved by Chrissy Ann Payne that the next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 13th, 2023.

Adopted

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

022-23/02 Moved by Corey Bissonnette that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 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*