Province of Quebec

Municipality of Chichester

Regular meeting of the Chichester Municipal Council held December 5th, 2022 at 7:00pm, held at the Municipal Office.

At which were present, in-person, his Worship Mayor Donald Gagnon, Councillors Neil Maloney, Chrissy Ann Payne, Louis Schryer, Dustin Denault, and Jacques Fleury.

Councillor Corey Bissonnette 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**

161-22/12 Moved by Neil Maloney to accept the agenda as presented and amended.

Adopted

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

None.

**4.Adoption of minutes**

162-22/12 Moved by Louis Schryer that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 14th, 2022 be adopted.

Adopted

**5.** **Visitors**

Ms. Jennifer Valentine:

* To introduce herself following the acquisition of her property on chemin de l’Église
* Questions regarding her property, building permits, minor variances and other zoning issues

**6.** **Mayor’s MRC report**

The Mayor gives a verbal report.

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

***Public Security***

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

***Roads & Environment***

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

***Planning & Development***

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

***Administration & Finance***

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

The Council members complete and sign their annual Declaration of Pecuniary Interests as required by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

163-22/12 *Summer students*

Moved by Louis Schryer to approve the request to the Canada Student Grants program for two summers students for the 2023 season.

Adopted

164-22/12 *Council meeting schedule 2023*

Moved by Louis Schryer to approve the schedule of Council meetings for the year 2023 as follows: January 9th, February 1st (Wednesday at 7:30), March 13th, April 11th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, August 28th, September 11th, October 16th, November 13th, December 4th; all meetings are held on Monday at 7pm, unless otherwise indicated.

Adopted

165-22/12 *Council increase 2023*

Moved by Jacques Fleury that the Municipal Council will have 0% increase for the year 2023, as discussed.

Adopted

166-22/12 *Staff increase 2023*

Moved by Chrissy Ann Payne to approve a cost-of-living increase of 3% for staff wages, 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**

167-22/12 Moved by Chrissy Ann Payne that the bills be paid according to the list distributed.

Adopted

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

None.

**11.** **Varia**

168-22/12 *Increase to MRC Pontiac Shares*

WHEREAS the MRC Pontiac budget for 2023 has increased to $ 9,504,059 from $9,004,346 in 2022;

WHEREAS the MRC Pontiac shares, which are paid for by the local municipalities, have increased by $740,106, from $3,411,998 in 2022 to $4,152,104 in 2023;

WHEREAS the MRC Pontiac shares are calculated on standardized assessment values;

WHEREAS according to section 8 of the Act respecting Municipal Taxation, the MRCs may determine, by By-law, the method and criteria for distribution of local shares;

WHEREAS the local municipalities only generate tax revenue on the current assessment value, not the standardized value;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Chichester is seeing an increase of over 48% to their annual shares to the MRC Pontiac;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Chichester’s total shares to be sent to the MRC Pontiac amounts to $107,773 which represents nearly a third of their overall annual general tax revenue;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Chichester will be forced to increase the burden on their taxpayers to be able to balance their annual budget;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Chichester has not received any details regarding the MRC Pontiac budget, nor any clear justification for such a drastic increase;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Chichester feels that the services rendered by the MRC Pontiac are not worth the costs of the local shares;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Chichester will be challenged to answer the concerns of its ratepayers, given the lack of transparency regarding the MRC Pontiac shares and the MRC Pontiac’s budget in general;

WHEREAS the Mayors, when acting as Regional Councillors at the MRC Pontiac, are deciding on behalf of the regional county, not on behalf of their own municipalities;

THEREFORE, the Municipality of Chichester is making a formal request to the MRC Pontiac for the following:

* A clear and transparent breakdown of the 2023 budgeted revenues and expenses of the MRC Pontiac, with prior years comparables;
* A clear justification for the increase to the shares to the local municipalities;
* A revision of the way the shares are calculated with consideration for items other than merely the standardized assessment values; which could include, but are not limited to, population, number of dwellings and/or businesses, etc.;
* An adoption of a new MRC Pontiac ByLaw regarding calculation of shares, prior to the adoption of the next Budget;
* A formal process of consultation with the local municipalities prior to, and in preparation for, the adoption of annual budget of the MRC Pontiac;

AND that this resolution be sent directly to Warden Jane Toller and read at the December 2022 Public Meeting of the MRC Pontiac, that it be sent to all local municipalities within the MRC Pontiac for their support; and that a formal response be received regarding the above requests before the end of January 2023.

Adopted

**12. In camera session**

Not required.

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

169-22/12 Moved by Jacques Fleury that the next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 9th, 2023.

Adopted

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

170-22/12 Moved by Louis Schryer that the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 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*