Province of Quebec

Municipality of Chichester

Regular meeting of the Chichester Municipal Council held September 11th, 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, Louis Schryer and Jacques Fleury.

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**

108-23/09 Moved by Louis Schryer to accept the agenda as presented and amended.

Adopted

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

None.

**4.Adoption of minutes**

109-23/09 Moved by Chrissy Ann Payne that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 28th, 2023 be adopted.

Adopted

**5.** **Visitors**

None.

**6.** **Mayor’s MRC report**

The Mayor gives his 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.

110-23/09 *Chapeau-Chichester Bridge*

Moved by Corey Bissonnette to make a formal request to the Ministry of Transport regarding the much-needed repairs on the Chapeau-Chichester bridge, and to express disappointment with the recent miscommunications regarding this work.

Adopted

***Planning & Development***

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

The Municipal Inspector’s report is received and read.

***Administration & Finance***

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

111-23/09 *MRC Pontiac – 2023 Budget & Shares*

WHEREAS the Municipality of Chichester saw an increase of over 48% to their Municipal Shares payable to the MRC Pontiac;

WHEREAS a Resolution requesting clarification for the increase in Municipal Shares was sent to the MRC Pontiac in December 2022;

WHEREAS the Municipality was awaiting a formal response to their concerns prior to making any required payments to the MRC Pontiac;

WHEREAS after several discussions between administrations, a response was promised to Council for their August 28th meeting and never received;

WHEREAS in return, the MRC Pontiac issued a letter from their Lawyer to the Municipality of Chichester threatening legal action if the shares were not paid in 10 days;

WHEREAS a response letter to the December 2022 request was finally received on September 7th, 2023;

WHEREAS this above response did not address the original concerns of the Municipal Council;

THEREFORE, it is proposed by Jacques Fleury, seconded by Louis Schryer, and unanimously resolved that this resolution be brought forward to the MRC Pontiac, to their Director General, the Warden and all members of the Regional Council that the Council of the Municipality of Chichester wishes:

* To express their sincere disappointment with the lack of communications and timely response to their requests for clarification sent in December 2022;
* To express their discontent and regret following the receipt of a threatening legal letter from the MRC Pontiac;
* To have further clarification on the requests from December 2022 including responses to the following questions:
  + What is the explanation for an increase of $740,106 to the overall Shares paid by the Municipality, from 2022 to 2023?
  + What was the total amount of unappropriated surplus held by the MRC Pontiac at the end of 2022? And what amount was appropriated to balance the 2023 Budget?
  + Will the surplus, if any, at the end of the 2023 fiscal year be used against the Municipal Shares required for 2024, in order to reduce the financial burden on the local taxpayers?
  + Will the Regional Council consider calculating the Municipal Shares according to the functions of each MRC Department, as most other MRCs currently have done, for example (or a combination in each):
    - Administration & Assessment – Standardized assessment values
    - Public Security – Number of dwellings/units on the territory
    - Animal Control – Population
    - Waste Management – Average tonnage of waste (ie: for last 3 years)
    - Planning & Development – Total Area size of the Municipality
  + To request that local municipalities receive, before November 1st, the proposed shares for the upcoming year in order to better plan their own budgets;
  + To recognize that discussions with the Mayors at the MRC Pontiac level does not constitute ‘consultation’ with the local Municipalities, as the Mayor is acting as a Regional Councillor, not as a local municipal council member;
  + To receive a formal response, by way of resolution(s) from the Regional Council, acknowledging and/or addressing ALL the concerns indicated in this resolution, on or before the adoption of the 2024 MRC Pontiac Budget, and that this resolution be sent directly to all municipalities within the MRC Pontiac.

Adopted

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

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

**8. Questions from the public**

None.

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

112-23/09 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**

113-23/09 Moved by Neil Maloney that the next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 16th, 2023.

Adopted

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

114-23/09 Moved by Corey Bissonnette that the meeting be adjourned at 7:15 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*