Province of Quebec

Municipality of Chichester

Regular meeting of the Chichester Municipal Council held February 12th, 2024 at 7:00pm, held at the Municipal Office.

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

Mayor Donald Gagnon is absent. Councillor Neil Maloney is acting as Pro-Mayor.

The Director General, Alicia Jones, is present.

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

Pro-Mayor Maloney welcomes everyone and declares the meeting open.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

012-24/02 Moved by Louis Schryer to accept the agenda as presented and amended.

Adopted

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

None.

**4. Adoption of the minutes**

013-24/02 Moved by Louis Schryer that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 15th, 2024 be adopted.

Adopted

**5.**  **Visitors**

None.

**6.**  **Mayor's MRC report**

There is no report.

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

***Security public***

Councilor Fleury, Chair of the public security committee, gives a verbal report.

***Roads & Environment***

Mayor Gagnon, Chair of the Roads and Environment Committee, being absent, the Pro-Mayor gives a verbal report.

014-24/02 *Tender – surface treatment*

Moved by Chrissy Ann Payne to proceed to tender, in conjunction with the Municipality of L’Isle-aux-Allumettes, for the surface treatment work required on the municipal roads planned for 2024, as discussed.

Adopted

015-24/02 *Bridge repairs request*

Moved by Corey Bissonnette to make a formal request to the MTQ to have the necessary repairs completed to the Chapeau-Chichester Bridge, as soon as possible.

Adopted

***Planning and development***

Councilor Maloney, Chair of the Planning and Development Committee, gives a verbal report.

The municipal inspector's report is received and read.

016-24/02 *Property- Lot # 6 071 710*

Moved by Jacques Fleury to provide a revised evaluation assessment to the owner of property bearing lot # 6 071 710 with a final request for their plans for the building, failure to respond will result in a formal legal notice.

Adopted

***Administration & Finance***

Councilor Schryer, Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, gave a verbal report.

017-24/02 *ByLaw #2024-001 respecting 2024 Taxation*

WHEREAS the Municipality of Chichester is subject to the conditions of section

252 of the Act respecting municipal taxation;

WHEREAS a presentation of the Draft By-Law was presented and a notice of motion was previously given by Councillor Neil Maloney at a regular meeting of Council held on January 15th, 2024;

CONSEQUENTLY, the members of the Council of having all voted in favor of the adoption of this By-Law;  
It was moved by Councillor Dustin Denault and unanimously resolved that this BY-LAW # 2024-001 entitled "By-law respecting the imposition of the rates of property tax and service taxes for the fiscal year 2024 and the conditions of tax collection" be adopted, And that it is hereby ordered and enacted.

Adopted

018-24/02 *Renewal of the gas tax program and the Quebec contribution (2024 to 2028) - negotiations between the governments of Québec and Canada*

WHEREAS the governments of Québec and Canada are currently conducting negotiations for the renewal of the Quebec Gas Tax and TECQ Contribution program for the period 2024 - 2028;

WHEREAS this program is essential to the realization of major projects in Quebec communities;

WHEREAS despite the substantial sums allocated to this program, they remain insufficient to meet the needs, and must be substantially increased due to the rising costs of carrying out projects;

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has called on the federal government to double its investment in this program and to provide for indexation of 3.5% per year;

WHEREAS the FQM and its members have been asking for several years that the gasoline tax and the Quebec contribution (TECQ) program be used to finance and implement and realize projects planned and decided by Quebec municipalities and that projects for municipal buildings (garages, town halls, fire stations, etc.) and work on retention structures (dams, dikes, etc.) are eligible for this program;

WHEREAS project accountability and reporting requirements are burdensome for municipalities;

WHEREAS negotiations should have been concluded by early fall 2023 to ensure implementation on January 1, 2024, and to enable municipalities to plan investments in their budgets;

WHEREAS the sums allocated to this program must be exempt from any new obligations or conditions to ensure its success;

THEREFORE, it is proposed by Councillor Chrissy Ann Payne and resolved that the Municipality of Chichester request the following from the governments of Québec and Canada:

* To enter into a new federal-provincial agreement as soon as possible for the renewal of the Gasoline Tax and Quebec Contribution (TECQ) program for the period from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028;
* To double the sums available to Quebec municipalities, and to provide for an annual 3.5% annual indexation of the envelope for the duration of the agreement;
* To add no additional reporting requirements, obligations or conditions to municipalities in the application of the program;
* To allow for the financing of municipal building projects and retention structures in eligible work.

AND to forward a copy of this resolution to the Quebec Minister of Finance, Mr. Éric Girard, the Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs, Andrée Laforest, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance of Canada, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, to Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada, the Hon. Sean Fraser, to the Members of Parliament Sophie Chatel, MP and Andre Fortin, MNA, the Fédération québécoise des municipalités and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Adopted

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

Councilor Payne, Chair of the Leisure, Recreation, Tourism and Marketing Committee, gives a report.

019-24/02 *Agreement – snowmobile club*

Moved by Corey Bissonnette that this Municipality approve an agreement with the Pengouin snowmobile Club for the winter use of certain municipal roads for a period of 10 years, as discussed, and to authorize the Director General to sign said agreement.

Adopted

**8. Questions from the Public**

None.

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

020-24/02 Moved by Louis Schryer that bills be paid according to the list distributed.

Adopted

**10.**  **Correspondence**

None.

**11.**  **Varia**

None.

**12. In-camera session**

Not required.

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

021-24/02 Moved by Louis Schryer that the next regular council meeting be held on Monday, March 11th, 2024.

Adopted

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

022-24/02 Moved by Dustin Denault that the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Adopted

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I, Donald Gagnon, Mayor, certify that the signing of these minutes is equivalent to my signing of all the resolutions it contains, in accordance with article 142 (2) of the Municipal Code.

*The French version is the official version - The French version is the official version*