

The regular meeting of the Bristol Council was held on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. with Mayor Brent Orr, and Crs. Valerie Twolan-Graham, Archie Greer, Meaghan McConnell, Greg Graham, Kim Crawford and Debbie Kilgour.

- (23-05-52) Motion Cr. Greer that the minutes from the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting be adopted as presented. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.
- (23-05-53) Motion Cr. McConnell to adopt the agenda with the additions. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.
- (23-05-54) Motion Cr. Greer to not grant the permit for My Way Chip Stand in the previous years' location on Lot 5 800 114, due to an ongoing dispute with the owner of the property pertaining to the continued unsecured state of the building and potential liability issue. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting. Cr. Twolan-Graham registers her dissidence.

Cr. Crawford deposits the First Draft of Zoning By-Law # 312A.1, to amend Articles 4.1.6 and 4.3.6. pertaining to main residential buildings and secondary buildings.

(23-05-55) **Land Sale**

Motion Cr. Kilgour that the Director General has submitted to Council, for review and consideration, a statement of property taxes in excess of \$1000 due to the municipality, as of September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in order to meet the requirements of Article 1022 of the Municipal Code of the Province of Quebec. This statement is approved by Council and the Director General is authorized to undertake the necessary procedures for the purpose of enabling the MRC Pontiac to sell these properties for which taxes remain unpaid at the payment deadline. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

(23-05-56) **Land Sale Authorization**

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of Bristol may bid and acquire properties offered for sale for unpaid municipal taxes, in accordance with Article 1038 of the Municipal Code;

**WHEREAS** properties will be put up for sale for non-payment of taxes according to Resolution # 23-05-55;

**WHEREAS** Council believes it is appropriate to authorize the Director General or a representative to bid on and potentially acquire these properties on the list for non-payment of taxes;

**THEREFORE** Motion Cr. Crawford that in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Code, Council authorizes the Director General, Christina Peck, to bid for on behalf of the Municipality of Bristol, properties that are the object of the sale for non-payment of taxes schedules for September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the amount of the taxes in capital, interest and costs. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

**(23-05-57) Hydro Quebec Power Outages**

**WHEREAS** there is an Electrical power transmission grid owned by Hydro Quebec (HQ) where residents of the Upper Pontiac (Sheenboro, Chichester, L' Isle-aux-Allumettes, and Waltham) and some residents of Mansfield-Pontefract are clients;

**WHEREAS** this grid is not integrated into Hydro Quebec's Power Transmission Network;

**WHEREAS** this grid has no meaningful redundancy in the event of equipment failure leading to unnecessary and lengthy power outages;

**WHEREAS** this grid relies solely on Ontario for surplus electricity during peak demand;

**WHEREAS** in the event of a power outage, without timely and accurate information from Hydro Quebec, residents cannot fully prepare for the situation;

**WHEREAS** a power outage on February 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, left many residents of Upper Pontiac without power for a time frame of more than 36 hours in dangerously cold temperatures (-39 degrees Celsius);

**WHEREAS** during the outage on February 4<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, communications from Hydro Quebec to residents through the HQ App, website or otherwise were false and misleading;

**WHEREAS** during this outage HQ failed to provide 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 implications such as the failure of telephone and internet services, leaving the residents without means of communication for emergency services in potential life-threatening circumstances;

**THEREFORE** It is moved by Councillor Twolan-Graham, and unanimously resolved that the Municipality of Bristol support the Municipality of L' Isle-aux-Allumettes regarding their formal request to Hydro Quebec for the following:

A Formal Plan, with timelines, to improve their infrastructure to fully integrate the Upper Pontiac into the 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 RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be forwarded to ALL municipalities within the MRC Pontiac, Warden Jane Toller and 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 and that a formal complaint be files with the Regie de L' Energie concerning the above. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

**(23-05-58) Grant for the Maintenance of Local Roads**

**WHEREAS** the Ministry of Transport, of Sustainable Mobility and Electrification of Transport paid a compensation of \$804 897.00 for maintenance of local roads for the civil year 2022;

**WHEREAS** the distributed compensation to the municipality is for current and preventative maintenance of local roads 1 and 2 and includes bridges for which the municipality is responsible that are situated on these roads;

## FOR THESE REASONS

It is proposed by Cr. Greer and seconded by Cr Graham and unanimously resolved and adopted and the Municipality of Bristol inform the Ministry of Transport, Sustainable Mobility and Electrification of Transport of the use of the compensation for routine and preventative maintenance of locale roads 1 and 2, including bridges on these roads for which the municipality is responsible in accordance with the objectives of the Program for the Maintenance of Local Roads. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

**(23-05-59)** Motion Cr. McConnell that the municipality accepts the Winter Road Maintenance contract presented by the Ministry of Transport, for a 2.8 km section on River Road between Bristol Village and Norway Bay, and the 4.79 km length of Bristol Road, in the amount of \$33 250, including a fuel clause. This contract is valid for a 3 year duration with an indexation clause for annual cost adjustment according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and Christina Peck, Director General is authorized to sign. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

**(23-05-60)** Motion Cr. Greer to donate \$350 to the McDowell Home & School Spring Fair fundraiser. Crd. The Mayor and Cr. Graham abstain from voting.

I, Christina Peck, Director General of the Municipality of Bristol, certify that there are credits available to pay the expenses below.

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Christina Peck, Director General

**(23-05-61)** Motion Cr. Greer that invoices totalling \$122 449.29 be paid for the month of April. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

**(23-05-62)** Motion Cr. Crawford to accept the financial statements for the month of March. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

**(23-05-63)** Motion Cr. Greer to close the meeting. Crd. The Mayor abstains from voting.

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Mayor Brent Orr

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Director General Christina Peck

