



1. OPENING AND ATTENDANCE

Resolution 41-04/2024

It is moved by R.BLASKIE seconded by M.BEAN and unanimously resolved;

THAT the regular meeting of the Municipality of Thorne held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Thorne Township, under the leadership of the Mayor, Karen Kelly is open.

CARRIED

Present is Robert Wills, Marsha Bean, Robert Blaskie, Norma Charrette, Jammie-Lee Coursol and Deborah Stafford

Also attending the meeting: Director General STACY LAFLEUR

2. VISITORS / QUESTION PERIOD

John Ward, Louise Ward, Charlie Taylor, Joe Sage, Lisane Erskine, Karen McIsaac, Sharron Hodgins, Brian Langemeyer

Mrs. Hodgins asked who was responsible to clean the remaining of the burnt property on Route 303. She was advised that it was the owners responsibility. She also asked if the flower boxes would be maintained. It was stated that the municipal employee will be maintaining them.

Mrs. Erskine inquired about the clean up of branches left on the side of Rueckwald road by Hydro-Québec. She was advised to call Hydro Quebec.

Mr. Taylor asked if the material left in back of the building was part of a grant to fix the annex. It was confirmed that the material was purchased through a grant. He also asked when the removal of the boats in storage will begin.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Resolution 42-04/2024

It is moved by J. COURSOL seconded by N. CHARETTE and unanimously resolved;

THAT the agenda be adopted with the following modifications:

- 19) 1) *Annex*
- 2) *Municipal Truck*

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2024, MEETING

Resolution 43-04/2024

It is moved by R. WILLS seconded by D. STAFFORD and unanimously resolved;

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 12, 2024, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

5. BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

1) Report – Charles Gallant

11 permits have been issued this month for 16 so far this year.

I have sent five permits to the MRC Evaluation department to be inspected.

We have been receiving many inquiries regarding the construction of new Residences, Cottages and Land Development within the Municipality of Thorne.

We also revised most of the CUBF 1990, 1913, 1914 and Camper permits for conformity with the Municipal Roll.

We meet with Hydro Quebec regarding some Hydro line extension within the Municipality of Thorne.

2) Cadastral plan

Resolution no 44-04/2024

It is moved by N.CHARETTE seconded by R. BLASKIE and unanimously resolved;

THAT the municipality of Thorne approve the cadastral plan for the lots as described in the technical description given by Michel Fortin, surveyor, under minutes # 35736 dated March 22, 2024.

CARRIED

6. ROAD COMMITTEE

1) Report – Councillor R.Blaskie

The stirring glitch of the grader was repaired.

The supervisor is still working on the dump truck to get it ready for his safety.

The gravel-crushing tender were sent last week.

Due to warmer temperatures, snow clearing was only possible on asphalt roads.

The road improvement grant application was sent out.

The road laborer will be returning to work on Monday, April 8.

2) Snow plowing tender

Resolution no 45-04/2024

WHEREAS the municipal snow plow contract has expired;
WHEREAS a new tender must be sent to the SEAO;
WHEREAS a copy of the tender was given to each councilor;

FOR THESE REASONS;

It is moved by J. COURSOL seconded by M. BEAN and unanimously resolved;

THAT the municipality post the tender on the SEAO website;
THAT the municipality allows the Director General to sign any pertinent documents.

CARRIED

7. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1) Report – Councillor R. Wills

There have been inquiries for a clarification of recent waste management practices. With the cooperation of our finance councilor, we have compiled this essay.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Cost of operating the dump in 2023 was | \$ 102,500. |
| Broken down as follows; | |
| Wages | \$ 39,700; |
| MRC | \$ 12,700, |
| Disposal of garbage to landfill | \$ 30,200 |
| Recycling | \$ 10,100 |
| Other expenses (CNESST, clothing allowances, maintenance supplies etc. phone) | \$ 9,800 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Projected revenue with \$100 garbage fee | \$ 66,000 |
| Stickers | \$ 12,400 |

The stickers did not come close to paying the total costs of the services, and the overage was paid by ALL Thorne taxpayers. The tags system means that owners of habitable lots, who are potential users of the waste management system, pay a large chunk (but not all) of the cost. In the end, who other than Thorne taxpayers should pay for these services?

In the past couple, years CNESST and government mandates forced us to change our operation including new bins for collection, covers, roof with cement pad, stairs and storage for electronic goods. Some of these costs were covered by grants, (meaning that it came from Quebec taxpayers) others directly from cash flow. With these changes we decided to move location of facility to below the hill which had given some problems in past years due to icy conditions etc. We also can have an area for household items in good condition that could be passed on to others. We also could install hydro and phone to improve workers conditions.

If we consider other municipalities in the Pontiac our MIL rate has been kept reasonably low at .68 and garbage fee if 100.00 per building each year. We have made a study of other municipalities and those costs were charted and available at a previous council meeting. Our surtax charge for waste services is the second smallest of the 18 municipalities.

As for people, not using the dump we have a tonnage estimate completed by MRC showing that over winter months we generate approx. 6 tons per month, over the summer the range is 12 to high of 15 tons. Therefore, someone is using the dump.

8. LAND-USE PLANNING COMMITTEE

1) Report – Councillor N. Charette

No report this month

9. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

1) Report – Councillor M. Bean

As you all know we needed to increase our operating line from 1M to 1.3M a couple months ago. This is not an uncommon practice with municipalities due to the timing of grant payments by government.

We always ensure we have the government authorization prior to large expenditures but we do not actually know when grants will be disbursed to us.

In the case of the TECQ grant, we could have taken a separate loan to cover these expenditures to keep these amounts separate from the operating line but to simplify things we just asked for an operating line increase. Costs are the same.

Since that increased authorization, we have reduced our operating line to 276k from grants disbursed to us as well as other revenues. I will mention that we should still get 182k from the TECQ and road maintenance annual grant of 297k still to come.

Major bills paid in March were
Municipality of Otter Lake 29k, MRC 88k, SAAQ 9.5k, HKR 15k and grader payment 6k.

The Director General clarified that the request was to increase the line of credit by \$ 300 000. The bank accepted an increase of \$ 200 000 which brought the total line of credit to 1.2 million. The municipality did not borrow an extra 1.3 million.

10. RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

1) Report – Councillor J. Coursol

Councillor Coursol asked if it would be possible to purchase a badminton set and other small pieces of sports equipment and have a bin outside at the playground to keep the equipment so that it can be used by users of the park.

The mayor asked her to send an email with her suggestion and prices for the equipment.

11. PUBLIC SECURITY COMMITTEE

1) Report – Councillor D.Stafford

Now that the spring is upon us please be aware of your surroundings, If there are people around that you don't think should be there, call the police. Better to be safe than sorry.

Also, with being spring, people will begin to clean their yards. Please be aware of the bylaws for burning before you start a fire. These can be found on our website.

She asked the Mayor if there was anything new at the MRC level. She was informed that not more patrol would be done because the SQ they are in negotiations for their contracts.

12. FIRE DEPARTMENT

1) Fire chief's report – Denis Chaussé

There were (03) Calls this month from (911)

911-10 68 Lac de la Ferme Carbone monoxyde Detector

911-11 Richard and Palmer Ave Visible smoke

911-12 312 Ave Martineau Visible Smoke from the electric panel in house

There were (08) Emergency Medical calls from (Central Paramedic)

Fire and First Responder Training:

March 10, 2024 fire hall station 5 self-rescue and forcible entry

There were (04) Special Events:

SE240307-010 Assistance Hydro-Québec for information on incident on May 27, 2023.

SE240310-011 Install the Tools box on top of # 225 for Jaws of Life.

SE240318-012 Open fire Stephen Rd. and Rte.301.

SE240319-013 Requested burning permit visited site 106 Rueckwald

Burning Permit:

Station 4 / 1 until April 01, issues December 11, 2023

Station 5 / 1 until April 01, issues January 02, 2023

Since April first fire department has not issues fire permits as per Mrc By law 270-2021.

Section meeting:

This was held at station 5 on March 19, from 19:00-22:00.

Special note:

On Thursday 28, we received our new 2024 side-by-side for search and rescue.

Maintenance of vehicles

Station 4 and 5: Danny Kluge did all regular maintenance on vehicles.

Station 4 Unit # 214 Speaker siren was changed by Brent Krose

13. DEEDS

Five deeds were received in the month of March for \$ 2 220.52.

14. PONTIAC RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY HANDICAPPED

Resolution no 46-04/2024

WHEREAS a request for financial help was received from the Pontiac Recreational Association for the intellectually handicapped;

WHEREAS ALPHI is a non-profit organization that has been in existence, albeit quietly in the Pontiac for the last 30 years;

WHEREAS their mission, for their clientele – the mentally handicapped, is to establish a place of importance and visibility in our society

FOR THESE REASONS;

It is moved by J. COURSOL seconded by R.WILLS and resolved;

THAT the municipality donates \$ 200 to support the activities of the association.

CARRIED

Councillors R. Blaskie, M. Bean and N. Charette were against

The Mayor split the vote and voted for the donation.

15. GRANTS

1) TECQ SHORTFALL IN FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING RELATIVE TO POPULATION GROWTH

Resolution no 47-04/2024

WHEREAS Canada is currently experiencing record population growth, with 1.25 million new arrivals to the country in the last year alone;

WHEREAS, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), we must build at least 3.5 million additional housing units by 2030 and municipalities must improve or provide the infrastructure to absorb this growth;

WHEREAS according to FCM estimates the cost of required municipal infrastructure averages \$107,000 per unit;

WHEREAS according to Statistics Canada, the cost associated with the rehabilitation of *existing municipal infrastructure* reaches approximately \$170 billion;

WHEREAS inflation in the non-residential construction sector has reached, 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing an increase in the cost of infrastructure projects, which is not only skyrocketing, but also disproportionate to the increase in income;

WHEREAS in recent years, unlike federal and provincial revenues, municipal tax revenues have not kept pace with inflation, economic growth, or demographic growth;

WHEREAS municipalities face insufficient federal infrastructure funding at a time when the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has ended, the Canada Community Futures Fund is being renegotiated, and where the Permanent Public Transit Fund will not be launched until 2026;

WHEREAS the Canada Community Futures Fund, formerly the Gas Tax Fund, provides over \$2.4 billion in capital annually directly to municipalities through a reliable allocation mechanism, and that

municipalities, small or large, rely on this funding to meet their commitments to the population by building and maintaining essential public infrastructure (drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, roads, public transportation, community facilities, cultural and recreational, etc.);
FOR THESE REASONS;

It is moved by J. COURSOL seconded by M. BEAN and unanimously resolved;

- THAT** the federal government collaborate with municipalities and signatories to the agreement so that the Canada Community Futures Fund remains a direct, reliable and sustainable source of revenue for local priorities in terms of infrastructure;
- THAT** the federal government commits to integrating into the 2024 budget a new wave of infrastructure programs which includes in particular a new drinking water and wastewater infrastructure program, and to increasing the Mitigation and disaster adaptation;
- THAT** the government conclude agreements with provincial governments in the coming weeks for the renewal of programs such as the Gas Tax and Quebec Contribution, commonly known as TECQ, without any new conditions and by relaxing the rules to allow the carrying out projects identified by municipalities;
- THAT** the federal government bring together the provinces, territories and municipalities to negotiate a “municipal growth framework” modernizing municipal financing and promoting the country's long-term growth.
- THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Canada, the Honorable Chrystia Freeland, to the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada, the Honorable Sean Fraser, to the Minister of Transport of Canada and political lieutenant for Quebec, the Honorable Pablo Rodriguez, to the Minister of Finance of Quebec, M Eric Girard, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs of Quebec, Ms. Andrée Laforest, to the federal and Quebec deputies of our territory, to the president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Mr. Scott Pearce and to the president of the FQM, Mr. Jacques Demers

CARRIED

2) Road improvement grant
Resolution No. 48-04/2024

- WHEREAS** every year a Municipal Road Improvement Help Program is available;
WHEREAS the municipality could use the money to improve certain roads;

FOR THESE REASONS;

It is moved by R. WILLS seconded by N. CHARETTE and unanimously resolved;

- THAT** the municipality applied for the Municipal Road Improvement Help Program of \$ 60 000 for the improvement of our municipal roads.
- THAT** the municipality gives permission to the DG to sign all documents pertaining to this grant.

CARRIED

16. EMPLOYEE POLICY
Resolution no 49-04/2024

- WHEREAS** as per CNESST regulations, the municipality must provide all security equipment for the employees;
WHEREAS a sentence in section 1.15 must be added;

FOR THESE REASONS,

It is moved by J. COURSOL seconded by N. CHARETTE and unanimously resolved;

- THAT** the following sentence “**An employee is entitled to reimbursement for a high-visibility winter safety coat every two years up to a maximum of \$ 200.00 upon presentation of a receipt, for the following employees: Foreman, By-Law Enforcement Officer, Waste management attendant**” be added.

CARRIED

17. PONTIAC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
Resolution 50-04/2024

- WHEREAS** the municipality received a sponsor’s request for the 2024 Shawville Fair;
WHEREAS different sponsorship opportunities are available;

FOR THESE REASONS;

It is moved by R. BLASKIE seconded by D. STAFFORD and unanimously resolved;

THAT the municipality sponsor the Shawville Fair for the yellow ribbon in the amount of \$ 100.00.

CARRIED

18. MAYOR’S REPORT OF THE MRC MONTHLY MEETING
The mayor informed council of several employee leaving the MRC.
Contractor for land tax sales
Internet residential service via Picanoc ends April 2024
EEQ adaptations of By-Law re tenders

PPJ tractor \$2100.00
Looking into shipping garbage to Gatineau and the to Lachute

19.

VARIA

1) Annex

Councillor D. Stafford inquired about the renovation of the annex. She was informed that all work to be done was presented to council when applying for the grant.

She also asked why the material was not purchased at Bretzlaff Store. She was informed that tenders were sent to contractors. The municipality must hire licenses RBQ companies for all large renovations or construction. The municipality has no say on where the retained contractor purchases their material.

Business owners that have any questions should direct their questions to the municipal office.

2) Municipal Truck

It was decided last year that the road foreman was allowed to bring the truck home during the winter months and leave it at the garage for the summer months. The same will apply this year.

20.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES

Resolution 51-04-2024

It is moved by M. BEAN seconded by D. STAFFORD and unanimously resolved;

THAT the invoices totaling \$ 146 570.61 are paid.

I, the undersigned, STACY LAFLEUR, Director General for the Municipality of Thorne, certify that there are funds available to pay the expenses listed below.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 9828745 – Mc Grimmon Cartage | \$ 2 519.81 | Lafleur, Jean-Paul | \$ 400.00 |
| Alliance Ressources humaine | \$ 603.63 | Lafleur, Stacy | \$ 134.20 |
| Bell Mobility | \$ 13.40 | MacEwen Petroleum | \$ 3 347.55 |
| Beneva | \$ 1 874.44 | McGuire, Mickey | \$ 41 100.89 |
| Benson | \$ 598.95 | Ministre du Revenu du Québec | \$ 7 018.25 |
| BNC Trust | \$ 1 660.64 | Municipality of Otter Lake | \$ 29 000.00 |
| Canada Customs and Revenue | \$ 2 723.91 | National bank | \$ 2 010.77 |
| Deveau Avocats | \$ 1 064.96 | Payroll | \$ 21 977.40 |
| FQM Assurance | \$ 305.20 | Petty Cash | \$ 147.35 |
| Gallant, Charles | \$ 83.79 | Pièce de camions JMC | \$ 5 070.26 |
| Gerard Labelle CPA inc | \$ 2 213.27 | Port interprovincial | \$ 18 946.14 |
| Hayes Manufacturing | \$ 211.77 | SAAQ | \$ 419.23 |
| Hydro-Québec | \$ 2 146.55 | Telebec | \$ 571.32 |
| Pontiac Printshop | \$ 106.93 | Shawville Fair | \$ 100.00 |
| ALPHI | \$ 200.00 | | |

Whereof, this certificate is given in Ladysmith, this April 9, 2024.

Stacy Lafleur, Director General

CARRIED

21.

VISITORS / QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Taylor suggested having truck logs in every municipal vehicle.

22.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Resolution 52-04/2024

It is moved by D. STAFFORD seconded by J. COURSOL and unanimously resolved;

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

CARRIED

Next regular sitting of Council will be held at 7 p.m. on May 14, 2024

Karen Kelly
Mayor

Stacy Lafleur
Director General

La version française est la version officielle - The French version is the official version.