

MUNICIPALITY OF LITCHFIELD

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on January 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. held at the Municipal office located at 1362 route 148, Campbell's Bay, Qc.

Present: Mayor Lariviere, councilors Denis Dubeau, John Stitt, Terry Racine, Courtney Harris and Rick Frost.

Councilor Emile Morin motivated his absence.

Also present: Director General, Julie Bertrand

Quorum is met and Mayor Lariviere presides the meeting.

*There are no declarations of conflict of interest by members of council.

Adoption of Agenda

2025-01-001 It is moved by John Stitt and unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda for January 7, 2025.

Carried

Adoption of Minutes

2025-01-002 It is moved by Rick Frost and unanimously resolved to adopt the meeting minutes from December 2, 2024 and December 12, 2024.

Carried

URBANISM

Municipal Inspector

Director General, Julie Bertrand, has given a report on behalf of Mr. Carle, to council regarding permits, urbanism issues and certificates.

Approval of subdivision plans for lot Mathieu Gagne and Mike Vehlo

2025-01-003 It is moved by Courtney Harris and unanimously resolve to approve the subdivision plans prepared by Amélie Chabiague from her minutes #62746 dated June 4, 2024 for new lots #6659362 and #6659382 originating from lot #3546168 on behalf of Mathieu Gagne and Mike Vehlo.

Carried

ROADS AND EQUIPMENT

Offer of prolongation from MultiRoute for the 2025 supply of dust control product.

2025-01-004 It is moved by Terry Racine and unanimously resolved to accept the offer of extension from MultiRoute for the 2025 supply and application of dust control product at the cost of .378/litre plus taxes.

Carried

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

Payment of accounts

2025-01-005

It is moved by Denis Dubeau and unanimously resolved to authorize payment of invoices to be paid and to accept the payment of invoices paid prior to this meeting.

Carried

Monthly Invoices

Invoices paid: \$2655.01

Invoices to be paid: \$46 310.36

Certificate of availability

I, Julie Bertrand, Director General of the Municipality of Litchfield, certify that there are sufficient credits available to pay the approved amount of bills totaling \$48 965.37 for the month of January 2025

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Julie Bertrand, Director General

2025-01-006

Invoicing of municipalities served by Sûreté du Québec Services

WHEREAS that the municipalities served by the Sûreté du Québec have just received their invoices for 2025;

WHEREAS the average increase announced is 6.47%, but the increases for several municipalities are much higher, even considerable;

WHEREAS the 2025 bill marks the end of the transitional period leading to a 50-50 sharing of the bill for Sûreté du Québec services between the government and the municipalities. A period characterised by the establishment of a ceiling for increases of 7% and a floor of 2%;

WHEREAS, during negotiations on the new formula in 2019, the Ministère de la Sécurité publique had assured its municipal partners that increases would be around 3% per year once the transitional period was over, and that this formula would protect the municipal world from increases of the kind announced for 2025;

WHEREAS the inflation rate is now less than 2%;

WHEREAS the media have recently reported on the management of police overtime in the regions, which is causing significant pressure on the overall cost of the Sûreté du Québec service billed to municipalities;

WHEREAS the legitimate questions raised by a number of elected officials concerning the real impact of the number of unfilled police positions and the significant use of overtime, when an effective police service requires stability and a long-term community presence;

WHEREAS the indiscriminate increase in the costs of the Sûreté du Québec and their impact on the bill imposed on municipalities;

Considering that the municipal world is not involved in determining the working conditions of police officers and the management of the Sûreté du Québec;

Considering that the total amount billed to municipalities for 2025 is more than \$444.8 million, a considerable amount that should give municipalities a say in the management of these services.

THEREFORE,

It is proposed by Courtney Harris and unanimously resolved that the Municipality of Litchfield ask the Minister of Public Security, François Bonnardel:

1. To mandate an outside firm to analyse the management of the Sûreté du Québec, following the example of the approach taken with municipal transport companies, which identified possible solutions to save several hundred million dollars;
2. To maintain a ceiling and a floor for bill increases in both the permanent and transitional formulas until such time as the analysis identifies ways to control the uncontrolled rise in the cost of Sûreté du Québec services.

*That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Public Security, François Bonnardel, the MNA for the riding of Pontiac, Andre Fortin MNA), the Director General of the Sûreté du Québec, Johanne Beausoleil, and the President of the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM), Jacques Demers.

Carried

**It is noted that Director General, Julie Bertrand has deposited the 2024 Contractual Management Annual Report.*

**Notice of motion and the presentation of the Draft By-Law 2025-257 To determine the general tax rate, garbage disposal rate and interest rate on arrears for the 2025 fiscal year*

Draft By-law 2025-257 - To determine the general tax rate, garbage disposal rate and interest rate on arrears for the 2025 fiscal year

2025-01-007

Whereas the content of article 252 of the Act respecting municipal taxation;

Whereas a notice of motion is given by Rick Frost at a session of council held on January 7, 2025 to the effect that the present by-law would be presented for adoption;

Whereas a project by-law 2025-257 was presented by Rick Frost at a special meeting of council on January 7, 2025;

Therefore, it is moved by Rick Frost and unanimously resolved and ruled by the municipal council of the municipality of Litchfield to adopt the present project by-law as follows:

SECTION 1 GENERAL TAX RATE 2025

ARTICLE 1-1

That the general mill rate of .42\$ for 100\$ value stated in the evaluation role, be implemented for the 2025 fiscal year on all taxable immovables situated in the municipality of Litchfield.

SECTION 2 INTEREST RATE ON TAX ARREARS 2025

ARTICLE 2-1

From the time that the taxes are in arrears, the unpaid balances will incur interest at the annual rate of 5%.

To determine the rate for garbage disposal for the 2025 fiscal year

SECTION 3 GARBAGE DISPOSAL RATE 2025

ARTICLE 3-1

The rate for garbage disposal will be a flat rate of 120\$/unit, to include all residences, cottages, camps and/or all domiciles situated within the territory of the Municipality of Litchfield.

SECTION 4 COMING IN TO EFFECT

This By-Law will come into force in conformity with the law.

Carried

Renewal of the 2025 ADMQ membership for Director General, Julie Bertrand

2025-01-008

It is moved by Terry Racine and unanimously resolved to approve the 2025 ADMQ membership renewal. This expense of \$1125.87 is authorized from the budgetary item "Association Fees" from the 2025 provisional budget.

Carried

Renewal of the CHIP Radio membership

2025-01-009

It is moved by Rick Frost and unanimously resolved to authorize a payment of \$50 to CHIP Radio for the 2025 membership renewal. This expense authorized from the budgetary item "Association Fees" from the 2025 provisional budget.

Carried

Salary increases for employees

2025-01-010

It is moved by Rick Frost and unanimously resolved to authorize the Director General, Julie Bertrand, to proceed with the wage increases for employees as allowed for in the 2025 provisional budget.

Carried

Authorization to Director General

2025-01-011

It is moved by John Stitt and unanimously resolved to authorize the Director General, Julie Bertrand to proceed with expenditures regarding 2025 remuneration expenses and the office administration and operational costs.

Carried

*Mayor Lariviere reads the correspondence.

ADJOURNMENT

2025-01-012

It is moved by Rick Frost and unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Carried

Colleen Larivière
Mayor

Julie Bertrand
Director General and Clerk Treasurer

