

Province of Québec  
Municipality of Sheenboro

Regular meeting of the Municipal Council of Sheenboro held February 6th 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

In-person are present Pro-Mayor Lorna Agnesi, Councillors John Brennan, Karen Shea, Richard Bradshaw, Shamus Morris and Dick Edwards are in attendance.

Mayor Doris Ranger is absent

Simon Tessier, Interim Director General, and Victoria Vickers, Administrative Assistant are in attendance.

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The pro-mayor notes that there is quorum and calls the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

019-2023 Moved by Councillor Bradshaw to adopt the agenda as presented.

**3. Conflict of Interest**

None

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

020-2023 Moved by Councillor Karen Shea that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be accepted.

Adopted

**5. Questions from the Public**

None

**6. Municipal Inspectors Report**

**7. Administration**

A. Payment of the Bills

021-2023 Moved by Councillor Karen Shea to pay the monthly bills as listed.

Adopted

B. NCC contract – Final Draft

022-2023

Moved by Councillor Bradshaw to accept the final draft of the contract between the NCC and the Municipality of Sheenboro for the continued use of the trails on NCC land, with the understanding that all trails be undertaken by the volunteer committee.

Adopted

C. 2021 Financial Statements

The Interim Director General has received and reviewed the results of the Audit for the year 2021 and agrees with these findings.

D. Pontiac Journal Agricultural Add

023-2023

Moved by Councillor Morris to approve the Agricultural Ad in the Pontiac Journal.

Adopted

E. Power Outages

024-2023

- WHEREAS there is an Electrical power transmission grid owned by Hydro Quebec (HQ) where residents of Upper Pontiac (Sheenboro, Chichester, L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, Waltham) and some residents of Mansfield-Pontefract are clients;
- WHEREAS this said grid is not integrated into Hydro Quebec's Power Transmission Network;
- WHEREAS this said grid has no meaningful redundancy in the event of equipment failure leading to unnecessary and lengthy power outages;
- WHEREAS this said grid relies solely on Ontario for surplus electricity during peak demand;
- WHEREAS in the event of a power outage, without timely and an accurate information from Hydro Quebec, residents cannot fully prepare for the situation;
- WHEREAS a power outage on February 4-5th, 2023 left many residents of Upper Pontiac without power for a period of more than 36 hours in dangerously cold temperatures (-39 degrees Celsius);
- WHEREAS during the outage on February 4-5th, 2023, communications from Hydro Quebec to residents through the HQ App, Website or otherwise was false and misleading;
- WHEREAS during this outage HQ failed to have 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 cause in the failure of telephone and internet services, leaving the residents without means of communication for emergency services in potential life-threatening circumstance;
- WHEREAS the Municipality and its residents suffered undue expenses, loss and damages, during this outage;
- WHEREAS this outage is the only the latest in a series of lengthy outages over the past several decades;
- WHEREAS with the provincial & federal incentives and programs for further electrification of heating systems, vehicles, etc.; the demand for power and the load on the grid will only increase exponentially;

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor Dick Edwards, that the Municipality of Sheenboro make a formal request to Hydro Quebec for the following:

- A Formal Plan, with timelines, to improve their infrastructure to fully integrate the Upper Pontiac into 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, that this resolution be forwarded and sent to ALL Municipalities within the MRC Pontiac, Warden Jane Toller and MNA 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; the Minister of Public Security, Francois Bonnardel; and a that formal complaint be made to the Regie de L'Energie concerning the above.

Adopted

#### F. Cellphone Services

025-2023

- WHEREAS the Municipality of Sheenboro and its surrounding areas are isolated and therefore are poorly served or not served by an efficient cellular network;
- WHEREAS during a power outage on February 4-5, 2023, the length of the power outage had direct cause in the failure of telephone (landline) and internet services, leaving the residents without means of communication for emergency services in potential life-threatening circumstance;
- WHEREAS cellular coverage is now an essential service and a determining issue in rural Quebec and Canada to ensure the safety and development of rural communities;
- WHEREAS the absence of complete cellular coverage is, not only a public safety issue, but a hindrance to the attraction of visitors and businesses and hinders the retention of families in communities with poor or no cellular coverage;
- WHEREAS improved cellular coverage has been a priority identified by this Municipality in their recent Family & Seniors action plan; for all the reasons indicated above;
- WHEREAS communications, public safety and economic development are jurisdictions shared between the federal and provincial governments;

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor Richard Bradshaw that the Municipality of Sheenboro make the following formal request:

- To ask the federal government and the ministers of the departments concerned to make a financial commitment to guarantee sufficient cellular coverage in all rural communities, including the Municipality of Sheenboro and others in the Pontiac;
- To ask the Quebec government and the ministries concerned, notably the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, to coordinate with the federal government and to quickly commit to ensuring complete cellular coverage for all rural

communities, as it has committed to do to complete the High-speed internet network;

AND, that this resolution be forwarded and sent to ALL Municipalities within the MRC Pontiac, Warden Jane Toller and MNA André Fortin and MP Sophie Chatel for their support; as well as to the Minister responsible for the Outaouais, Mathieu Lacombe; the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy Pierre Fitzgibbon; the Minister of Public Security, Francois Bonnardel; and a that formal complaint be made to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications (CRTC) concerning the above.

Adopted

G. Bell Canada – Telephone & Internet infrastructure

026-2023

WHEREAS there is an ongoing and increased number of recent complaints from ratepayers regarding recurring problems experienced with Bell Canada's services (telephone and/or internet);

WHEREAS Bell Canada has failed to provide proper maintenance to their landline infrastructure in Sheenboro;

WHEREAS the lack of maintenance by Bell Canada has created a serious number of outages to their services;

WHEREAS the Bell Canada station on L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, which services several municipalities landlines, telephone and internet services, can only operate for a maximum of 6-8 hours without power to their building;

WHEREAS during a power outage on February 4-5, 2023, the length of the power outage had direct cause in the failure of telephone (landline) and internet services, leaving the residents without means of communication for emergency services in potential life-threatening circumstance;

WHEREAS it is recognized that numerous Bell Canada clients do not have cellular phone service as there is no or very restricted reception service;

WHEREAS the outages have created a serious public security issue where residents do not have access to 911 or internet services during the outages;

WHEREAS it is recognized that Bell Canada has conducted some maintenance to their service lines on Sheenboro over the past few months, however, the problem continues to persist;

WHEREAS Bell Canada continues to collect their full rate of their monthly service charges despite the numerous outages.

THEREFORE, it is moved by Councillor Dick Edwards that the Municipality of Sheenboro make a formal request to Bell Canada for the following:

- A Formal Plan, with timelines, to improve their infrastructure to ensuring appropriate back-up power to their stations to maintain telephone and internet services in our area during an outage;
- Improvements to communications with the residents of and with the Municipality directly; before, during and after an event;
- A public meeting hosted by the Municipalities, where Bell Canada can respond to the concerns above;

AND, that this resolution be forwarded and sent to ALL Municipalities within the MRC Pontiac, Warden Jane Toller and MNA André Fortin and MP Sophie Chatel for their support; as well as to the Minister responsible for the Outaouais, Mathieu Lacombe; the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy Pierre Fitzgibbon; the Minister of Public Security, Francois Bonnardel; and a that formal complaint be made to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications (CRTC) concerning the above.

Adopted

## **8. Public Works**

### **A. Double Vocation Grant**

027-2023

WHEREAS the request for additional assistance for the maintenance of dual- purpose roads is renewable annually.

WHEREAS the criteria for additional assistance for the maintenance of these roads are respected.

WHEREAS the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks or the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, and carriers have already provided, at the request of the Municipality of Sheenboro, the appropriate information regarding the type of volume of the resource transported as well as the number of annual trucks that use the road (s) of the municipal network to be compensated.

WHEREAS this resolution must be accompanied by a municipal plan showing the roads taken by the carriers in the case of a compensation request relating to a road not previously requested.

WHEREAS the information included in the table below represents the situation of heavy transport for the current year 2022.

THEREFORE, it is, Moved by Councillor Edwards

to have the Director General apply for the Double Vocation grant for 5.9 KM on Mountain and Sheen Roads at 2,000,00 \$ and 6.3 KM on Mountain and Sullivan Roads for a total of 24,400.00 \$ and to sign all pertaining paperwork. A total of 1119 loads on Mountain/Sheen Road and 1121 loads on Sullivan.

### **B. Transfer Site Summer Hours**

028-2023

Moved by Councillor John Brennan

To adopt the following schedule for Summer 2023:

Beginning Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 until Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 inclusively, the transfer site summer hours will be Wednesdays, 2:00 – 6:00 pm and Sundays, 2:00 – 6:00 pm.

Adopted

### **C. Large Item drop-off**

029-2023

Moved by Councillor Bradshaw

That the following large item drop off dates be chosen for 2023:  
**Wednesday, May 24th** and **Sunday, May 28th** from 2:00 – 6:00 pm.  
**Wednesday, October 4th** and **Sunday, October 8th** from 2:00 – 6:00 pm.

Adopted

**D. Public Security**

A. Sections of Lew-Miller improperly identified as Galligan

030-2023

WHEREAS, for public safety purposes, we request Toponymie Québec allow for a section of what is currently recognized as Galligan Road to be officially renamed Lew Miller as it has been known locally for some time.

WHEREAS, the section of Galligan to be renamed has not connected with the rest of Galligan Road for years.

WHEREAS, it is currently very difficult for fire and ambulance services to locate this section of road as it appears as Fire route 24 on some maps, Lew Miller on others and Galligan Road on others.

WHEREAS, residents on this section of road are having difficulty getting Bell High Speed internet due to the address inconsistencies caused by this improperly identified stretch of road

CONSEQUENTLY, it is moved by Councilor Shamus Morris that 0 chemin GALLIGAN roll number 4491-81-5002-0-000-0000 be renamed Chemin Lew Miller for the length of the road recognized as cadaster 6 216 646 with a length of 2 873,30 m<sup>2</sup> in its entirety.

Adopted

**E. Correspondence**

A. Follow up letter from OFWCA.

B. Letter from ratepayer David Nogas to Council.

031-2023

Moved by Councillor Karen Shea to have the Municipal Inspector have those who apply for waterfront permits sign a declaration saying they are aware of the current by-laws, as well as contractors who may be doing work on the property.

Adopted

C. Presentation from the City of Cote St-Luc concerning Bill 96.

**F. Varia**

A. Trout Lake Road – Legal Opinion

**G. In- Camera Session**

032-2023 Moved by Councillor Edwards to go in-camera at 8:36 pm.

Adopted

**H. Out of Camera**

033-2023 Moved by Councillor Edwards to go out of camera at 8:47 pm.

Adopted

**I. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

**J. Closing of meeting**

034-2023 Moved by Councillor Brennan that the meeting be adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Adopted

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director General  
/ Secretary Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

I, *Lorna Agnesi, pro-mayor*, attest that the signature of this minutes is equivalent to the signature by me of all the motions it contains within the meaning of Article 142 (2) of the Municipal Code.