

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
MUNICIPALITY OF TOWNSHIP OF LOW

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the council of the Municipality of the township of Low held at 4C D'Amour Road (Heritage Hall) on **October 2, 2023**, at 7:00 p.m.

Chaired by the Mayor Carole Robert

Are present.
Joanne Mayer
Maureen Rice
Maureen McEvoy
Luc Thivierge
Lee Angus

Absent
Ghyslain Robert

Also present.
Sandra Martineau, Director General and Clerk-Treasurer
Valérie Lemieux, Assistant Director General and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer

	<p><u>Opening of the meeting</u></p> <p>The Mayor, Carole Robert, president of the meeting, having noted that there is a quorum, declares the meeting open; it is 7:00 p.m.</p>
2023-151	<p><u>Adoption of the agenda</u></p> <p>Meeting agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Adoption of the agenda2. 1st Question Period3. Adoption of minutes4. Administration<ul style="list-style-type: none">4.a) List of bills to be paid4.b) Modification of an employee pension plan condition5. Public safety<ul style="list-style-type: none">5.a) Resignation volunteer firefighter Renée-Pier Philippe5.b) Appointment of fire safety lieutenant5.c) Fire safety cover plan5.d) Request to MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau - Fire safety cover plan6. Public works<ul style="list-style-type: none">6.a) MRC VG support - Gens-de-Terre bridge reconstruction project on chemin Lépine-Clova - Request for emergency decree6.b) Renewal of the Gas Tax and Quebec Contribution Program (2024 to 2028) - negotiations between the governments of Quebec and Canada6.c) Mandate Survey McDonald road to Lyons road7. Environmental hygiene N/A8. Urban planning N/A9. Leisure, culture and communication<ul style="list-style-type: none">9.a) Support for authorization to apply for funding under the program to support the Municipalité amie des aînés (MADA) approach Volet 1 : Soutien à la réalisation de politiques et de plans d'action en faveur des aînés Édition 2023-2024 de la MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau (MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau)10. Correspondence, documents and information11. 2nd question period12. Adjournment <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Luc Thivierge SECONDED BY Maureen Rice</p> <p>AND resolved that this municipal council adopt the agenda.</p> <p>Adopted unanimously</p>

	<p><u>1st Questions period</u></p> <p>Questions on the topics on the agenda</p> <p>Question period started at 7:02 p.m. and ended at 7:16 p.m.</p>
2023-152	<p><u>Adoption of the Minutes</u></p> <p>Whereas each member of Council was provided with a copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 5, 2023, at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to this meeting for their review, the mayor is excused from reading them.</p> <p>Whereas each member of the Municipal Council has received a copy of the minutes of the special meeting of September 25, 2023, at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to this meeting in order to read them, the mayor is exempt from reading them;</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Luc Thivierge SECONDED BY Maureen McEvoy</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that Council adopt the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 5, 2023, and of the special meeting of September 25, 2023</p> <p>Adopted unanimously</p>
	<p>ADMINISTRATION</p>
2023-153	<p><u>List of bills to be paid</u></p> <p>Whereas the Mayor has analyzed the list of invoices for the month of September 2023, in the amount of \$399 632.44 and declares to be satisfied.</p> <p>Whereas it is necessary to authorize the payment of all the invoices on the list of accounts payable.</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Luc Thivierge SECONDED BY Joanne Mayer</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that Council approve the list of invoices number 2023-09 in the amount of \$399 632.44.</p> <p>Authorizes that the invoices be paid and credited to the concerned departments.</p> <p>Authorizes the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer to make the payments mentioned on the list.</p> <p>Vote requested <u>For</u> Joanne Mayer Maureen Rice Maureen McEvoy Luc Thivierge</p> <p><u>Against</u> Lee Angus</p> <p>Adopted on division</p>
2023-154	<p><u>Modification of an employee pension plan condition</u></p> <p>Whereas on January 1, 2008, by resolution 052-04-2008, the Municipality joined the defined contribution component of the Quebec Municipal Employees Retirement Plan (RREMQ), which is governed by the Supplemental Pension Plans Act (RLRQ chapter R-15.1).</p> <p>Whereas the employer and employee contribution rate for the defined contribution component is currently 5%.</p> <p>Whereas, in order to comply with the Director general and assistant director general contracts, it is necessary to modify the maximum contribution percentages provided for in the RREMQ.</p> <p>Whereas resolution 2023-128 adopted on August 7, 2023, modified the pension plan of the director general and assistant director general to a maximum of 6% and a modification was requested by the plan coordinator.</p>

	<p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Joanne Mayer SECONDED BY Maureen Rice</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that Municipal Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rescind resolution 2023-128 adopted August 7, 2023• Request that the terms and conditions of the Quebec Municipal Employees Retirement Plan (Group: G006608) be established as follows, effective August 1, 2023: Employer and employee contributions are set at 6% of eligible salary for the director general and 5.5% for the assistant director general. <p>To forward this resolution to the Régime de retraite des employés municipaux du Québec (RREMQ), Aon, Desjardins and Retraite Québec.</p> <p>Authorize the Mayor or Acting Mayor, as well as the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer or the Assistant Director General and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer, to sign for and in the name of the Municipality of Low, all documents required to implement the present resolution.</p> <p>Vote requested <u>For</u> Maureen Rice Maureen McEvoy Lee Angus</p> <p>Luc Thivierge abstains from voting</p> <p>Adopted on majority</p>
	<p>PUBLIC SAFETY</p>
2023-155	<p><u>Resignation volunteer firefighter Renée-Pier Philippe</u></p> <p>Whereas Miss Renée-Pier Philippe has resigned as a volunteer firefighter.</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Joanne Mayer SECONDED BY Luc Thivierge</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that this municipal council accept the resignation as a firefighter of Renée-Pier Philippe and thanks her for her services over the years.</p> <p>Adopted unanimously</p>
2023-156	<p><u>Appointment of Fire Safety Lieutenant</u></p> <p>Whereas resolution 2022-10-272, adopted on October 5, 2022, appointed Mr. Luc Rochon as Acting Lieutenant.</p> <p>Whereas the Public Security Committee, at its meeting held on September 27, 2023, recommended the appointment of Mr. Rochon as Lieutenant.</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Luc Thivierge SECONDED BY Lee Angus</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that Council appoint Mr. Luc Rochon as Lieutenant of the Municipality's Fire Department and congratulate him on his dedication.</p> <p>Adopted unanimously</p>
2023-157	<p><u>Fire safety cover plan</u></p> <p>Whereas, pursuant to article 29 of the Fire Safety Act, a Fire Safety Cover Plan must be revised during the sixth year following the date of its coming into force or its last attestation of conformity.</p> <p>Whereas the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau adopted a resolution on February 14, 2023, in which it undertook to revise its Fire Safety Cover Plan.</p> <p>Whereas the Gatineau Valley MRC has submitted to all municipalities on its territory a document setting out the optimal protection objectives it intends to put forward, as well as the strategies for achieving these objectives.</p>

	<p>Whereas, in accordance with section 15 of the aforementioned Act, the municipalities must give their opinion to the Gatineau Valley RCM on these proposals, in particular by mentioning the impacts on the organization of their human, material and financial resources, which proposals are presented in the implementation plans.</p> <p>Whereas each of the municipalities must adopt a resolution to signify its acceptance of the said implementation plan and its commitment to respect and carry it out.</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Luc Thivierge SECONDED BY Maureen Rice</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that the municipal council give a favourable opinion to the proposals of the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau contained in the implementation plan concerning its territory and that it undertakes to respect and carry out the said implementation plan applicable to its territory.</p> <p>Adopted unanimously</p>										
2023-158	<p><u>Request to the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau - Fire safety cover plan</u></p> <p>Whereas, on August 7, 2023, the Municipality rejected the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau's (MRC) request for a favorable opinion on the proposals contained in the implementation plan concerning its territory.</p> <p>Whereas the municipality's public safety department would like to see more actions in the fire safety cover plan implementation plan.</p> <p>Whereas the vision of the Association des gestionnaires en sécurité incendie de la Vallée de la Gatineau (AGSIVG) is collaboration based on trust and the group's commitment to providing professional, efficient and safe responses in the event of an emergency; and</p> <p>Whereas the Public Safety Committee, at its meeting held on September 27, 2023, recommended that the AGSIVG collaborate with the MRC to develop concrete actions to improve the schema's implementation plan in the future.</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Maureen Rice SECONDED BY Luc Thivierge</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that the municipal council ask the MRC to work in collaboration with AGSIVG to improve the fire safety plan while respecting the municipalities' ability to implement it.</p> <p>Vote requested</p> <table><tr><td><u>For</u></td><td><u>Against</u></td></tr><tr><td>Maureen Rice</td><td>Joanne Mayer</td></tr><tr><td>Maureen McEvoy</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Luc Thivierge</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Lee Angus</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Adopted on division</p>	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	Maureen Rice	Joanne Mayer	Maureen McEvoy		Luc Thivierge		Lee Angus	
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Maureen Rice	Joanne Mayer										
Maureen McEvoy											
Luc Thivierge											
Lee Angus											
	<p>PUBLIC WORKS</p>										
2023-159	<p><u>MRC VG support - Gens-de-Terre bridge reconstruction project on chemin Lépine-Clova - Request for emergency decree</u></p> <p>Whereas resolution 2022-R-AG283 adopted on August 23, 2022 by the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau (MRC);</p> <p>Whereas it is necessary to relaunch the request in order to adequately meet the needs of users in the Outaouais and Laurentians regions;</p> <p>Whereas chemin Lépine-Clova is a major inter-regional road axis and is recognized as part of the Laurentians-Outaouais region's priority multi-use road network;</p> <p>Whereas this road is the gateway for several hundred vacation leaseholders, and also provides access to several structured wildlife territories (outfitters, ZECs and SEPAQs) in the Laurentians and Outaouais region;</p> <p>Whereas Chemin Lépine-Clova is also an important link with the Abitibi and Mauricie regions;</p>										

	<p>Whereas the forest management units (FMUs) served by this roadway contain large volumes of wood intended to supply regional processing plants.</p> <p>Whereas the Rivière Gens de Terre bridge is located on the first section of the Lépine-Clova road, and the reduction in tonnage to 15 tonnes limits the supply of essential goods to the outfitters concerned;</p> <p>Whereas the pandemic and forest fires have already weakened the economic health of these outfitters, the alarming situation of not rebuilding the bridge could lead to the definitive end of these companies' economic activities;</p> <p>Whereas the estimated costs of this reconstruction are currently in the order of plus or minus 6.5 million;</p> <p>Whereas a geotechnical study has been carried out by the foresters and no action has been taken to date;</p> <p>Whereas the regional players impacted by this work have already agreed to participate in the project's financial package by providing a sum equivalent to 10% of the total cost currently estimated, i.e. more or less \$650,000;</p> <p>Whereas there is an urgent need for action in terms of user safety and the economic impact on the Outaouais and Laurentides regions;</p> <p>Whereas no action has been taken by the Ministry for over a year, and the Ministry is unaware of the urgency and impact of refusing to pay the full cost of the urgent reconstruction of the Gens-de-Terre bridge;</p> <p>In view of all the safety consequences for users of this bridge, as well as the magnitude of the economic impact, the MRC is requesting an urgent decree;</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Luc Thivierge SECONDED BY Maureen Rice</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that this Municipal Council support the MRC de La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau in its request for a decree concerning the reconstruction of the Rivière Gens de terre bridge on chemin Lépine-Clova, with a view to ensuring the economic vitality of the forest industry and maintaining accessibility to these recreational and tourism sectors.</p> <p>It is also resolved to send a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Maité Blanchette Vézina, the Minister of the Economy and Innovation, Pierre Fitzgibbon, the Minister responsible for Infrastructure, Jonathan Julien, the Minister responsible for the Outaouais, Mathieu Lacombe, Benoit Charette, Minister responsible for the Laurentians, and Robert Bussière, MNA for Gatineau.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Adopted unanimously</p>
2023-160	<p><u>Renewal of the Quebec Gas Tax and Contribution Program (2024-2028) - negotiations between the governments of Quebec and Canada</u></p> <p>Whereas the governments of Quebec and Canada are currently negotiating the renewal of the Quebec Gas Tax and Contribution Program (TECQ) for the period 2024 - 2028;</p> <p>Whereas on August 24, 2023, the Board of Directors of the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM) called on the governments of Quebec and Canada to reach an early agreement to ensure the renewal of this important program;</p> <p>Whereas this program is essential to the realization of important projects in Quebec communities;</p> <p>Whereas, despite the substantial sums allocated to this program, they remain insufficient to meet needs, and must be increased due to the rising costs of carrying out projects;</p> <p>Whereas the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has asked the federal government to double its investment in this program, and to provide for an indexation of 3.5% per year;</p> <p>Whereas the FQM and its members have been asking for several years that the Quebec Gas Tax and Contribution Program (TECQ) allow for the financing and realization of projects planned and decided by Quebec municipalities, in the sense that municipal</p>

	<p>building projects (garages, town halls, fire stations, etc.) and work on retention structures (dams, dikes, etc.) be eligible for this program;</p> <p>Whereas, despite the request to include municipal buildings, it is essential to maintain financial assistance programs specifically dedicated to these infrastructures;</p> <p>Whereas it is important to adapt programs to the challenges posed by climate change, and to enable municipalities to finance the implementation of developments and work to adapt to the consequences of these changes, such as the creation of firebreaks to protect forest communities;</p> <p>Whereas the reporting requirements for projects are onerous for municipalities;</p> <p>Whereas negotiations must be concluded by early fall 2023 to ensure implementation on January 1, 2024, and to enable municipalities to budget for investments;</p> <p>Whereas the sums allocated to this program must be free of any new obligations or conditions to ensure its success;</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Luc Thivierge SECONDED BY Joanne Mayer</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that this Municipal Council request the governments of Quebec and Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To conclude a new federal-provincial agreement early this fall for the renewal of the Gas Tax and Quebec Contribution (TECQ) Program for the period from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028;• To increase the sums available to Quebec municipalities, and to provide for an annual increase in the envelope for the duration of the agreement to cover rising costs;• To add no additional accountability, obligations or conditions to municipalities in the application of the program;• To allow the financing of municipal buildings, retention structures and wharves owned by municipalities as eligible work;• Make eligible projects involving prevention, development and adaptation to the consequences of climate change. <p>To forward a copy of this resolution to the Québec Minister of Finance, Mr. Éric Girard, the Québec Minister of Municipal Affairs, Ms. Andrée Laforest, the Canadian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, the Canadian Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable Sean Fraser, the Québec Minister of Transport and Lieutenant-Colonel, the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, MNAs Mr. Robert Bussière and Ms. Sophie Chatel, the Fédération québécoise des municipalités and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.</p> <p>Adopted unanimously</p>
2023-161	<p><u>Mandate Survey McDonald road to Lyons road</u></p> <p>Whereas the firm WSP is preparing plans and specifications for the reconstruction of chemin McDonald to chemin Lyons, as well as a drainage plan;</p> <p>Whereas the firm WSP is requesting an illustrative plan in digital format of the limits of the right-of-way and the occupancy markings of the portion of chemin McDonald affected by the work;</p> <p>Whereas a request for quotation has been sent to EcceTerra, land surveyors, to carry out the survey and the price submitted is \$8,799 plus taxes;</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Luc Thivierge SECONDED BY Joanne Mayer</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that Council award the contract for the preparation of the illustrative plan at a cost of \$8,799 plus taxes to EcceTerra, arpenteurs-géomètres.</p> <p>Funds will be taken from budget item 23-040-12-721, TECQ work.</p> <p>Adopted unanimously</p>
	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE</p>

	N/A
	URBANISM
	N/A
	RECREATION, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS
2023-162	<p><u>Support for authorization to apply for funding under the program to support the Municipalité amie des aînés (MADA) approach Volet 1 : Soutien à la réalisation de politiques et de plans d'action en faveur des aînés Édition 2023-2024 de la MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau (MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau)</u></p> <p>Whereas the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau (MRC) has been at the heart of a PFM Politique Familiale Municipale (PFM) - Municipalité Amies Des Aînées (MADA) collective approach bringing together twelve (12) municipalities on its territory since 2017 ;</p> <p>Whereas the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau has been accredited MADA following the development of its Politique aînés and its action plan in favor of seniors;</p> <p>Whereas twelve (12) MRC municipalities have been part of the PFM-MADA collective approach since 2017, namely Aumond, Bois-Franc, Cayamant, Déléage, Denholm, Gracefield, Grand-Remous, Lac-Sainte-Marie, Low, Messines, Montcerf-Lytton and Sainte-Thérèse-de-la-Gatineau;</p> <p>Whereas the Municipality of the Township of Low is part of the MRC's PFM-MADA collective approach and wishes to continue its involvement in this process;</p> <p>Whereas it is possible that other municipalities in the MRC will join the collective approach;</p> <p>Whereas component 2 of the MADA approach for the implementation of the last MRC policy and action plan expired in March 2023;</p> <p>Whereas there is a need to update the MADA policies and action plans for the MRC, especially in a post-pandemic context where the needs of seniors are potentially changed;</p> <p>Whereas the Secrétariat aux aînés of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux has opened a call for MADA project volet 1: Soutien à la réalisation de politiques et de plans d'action en faveur des aînés 2023-2024 ;</p> <p>Whereas the work involved will be an update of the existing policy and action plans that will touch on the three (3) pillars of active aging, i.e. health, safety and social participation, and this spread over the nine (9) MADA fields of action;</p> <p>Whereas this work will be carried out over a 2-year period, and will involve the creation of steering committees in each participating municipality, as well as at the MRC;</p> <p>Whereas these steering committees will then be responsible for establishing a new social diagnosis that will be used to update the policy and action plan of the MRC and each participating municipality;</p> <p>Whereas the work will be carried out under the coordination of the MRC, through its collective PFM-MADA approach, and in collaboration with the elected representatives of the Family-Seniors Issues (RQFA) of each municipality, as well as their respective steering/monitoring committees.</p> <p>Whereas the workload that this update may represent can be very heavy for the MRC and participating municipalities;</p> <p>Whereas a coordination resource, Mr. Marc-André Gauthier, is already employed by the Table de development social Vallée-de-la-Gatineau and is responsible for the PFM-MADA file on behalf of the MRC;</p> <p>Whereas Mr. Gauthier was responsible over the past year for the implementation of volet 2 and its final reporting, and will do the same for the call for projects for volet 1 2023-2024.</p>

	<p>Whereas Joanie Courchaine, Director General of the MRC, will be the MRC representative responsible for following up on the financial assistance application, as well as for signing the financial assistance agreement and rendering an account;</p> <p>Whereas the elected RQFA representative in the municipality of the Township of Low is Maureen McEvoy;</p> <p>Whereas the substitute RQFA elected official in the municipality of the Township of Low is Luc Thivierge.</p> <p>Whereas funding amounts to \$8,000 per participating municipality.</p> <p>Whereas the collective approach does not involve any additional financial contribution from participating municipalities.</p> <p>Whereas the program involves a financial contribution from the MRC equivalent to 15% of eligible expenses under the program;</p> <p>IT IS PROPOSED BY Maureen McEvoy SECONDED BY Maureen Rice</p> <p>AND RESOLVED that this Municipal Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Supports and endorses the MRC's request for financial assistance under the program to support the Municipalité amie des aînés approach Volet 1: Soutien à la réalisation de politiques et de plans d'action en faveur des aînés Édition 2023-2024.- Appoints Joanie Courchaine as signatory on behalf of the MRC.- Appoints Mr. Marc-André Gauthier as the person responsible for coordination throughout the MRC and for reporting. <p>Adopted unanimously</p>
	<p>CORRESPONDANCE</p>
	<p>S/O</p>
	<p><u>2nd question period</u></p> <p>Question period starts at 7:35 pm and end at 8:04 pm</p>
	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.</p>

Carole Robert
Mayor

Sandra Martineau
Director General and Clerk-Treasurer

"I, Carole Robert, certify that the signing of these minutes is equivalent to the signing by me of all the resolutions contained herein within the meaning of Section 142 (2) of the Quebec Municipal Code.