

Mayor's Year-End Report 2016

In keeping with article 955 and those following of the Municipal Code of Quebec, I am presenting a report on the fiscal situation of the municipality of Low, including the financial statements and the auditor's report for 2015 as well as an update on the present financial situation for 2016.

Financial statements for the year ending in 2015 and auditor's report

The municipality's auditors, Piché et Lacroix Inc., submitted their report for the year ending December 31, 2015 indicating revenues of \$2,149,242 and expenses of \$2,197,034. After adjustments, the total accumulated surplus at the end of 2014 was \$88,000. Council has reserved the full surplus in the following way: \$45,000 for taxes, \$20,000 for development, \$ 9,761.38 for a road brush, and \$ 13 238.62 for the boat launch.

Contracts/purchases over \$25,000

Jean Legros	Snow removal \$89 441, 58
CIMA +	Gas Tax \$30,790.31
Morrison Fuel	Fuel & Heating \$85,836.18
Piché Lcroix	Accounting \$27,683.66
Ronald O'Connor	Material \$53,633.32
Transport RLS	Waste removal \$100,185.79

Financial update to October 31, 2016

Revenues	\$1 845 592
Expenses	\$1 533 001

Tax Roll

Salaries of elected officials

The mayor received an annual salary of \$8350 in 2016 in addition to \$1200 for meeting expenses. Councillors received an annual salary of \$2,783 in addition to \$600 for meeting expenses.

Public Works

Stéphanie Vallée, MNA for Gatineau, provided \$32,000 for works on Kallala Rd.

The TECQ (gas tax) program money has been applied to improving Mayer, Sullivan, Vimy, McDonald and Burrough roads. Works included ditching, replacing culverts and resurfacing. More works are planned for 2017.

Fire Safety & Policing

Year 5 of the Risk Coverage Plan ended October 6, 2016 and a new plan is being developed for adoption in late 2017. The fire department has answered over 35 calls this year and will be undergoing reorganization in early 2017.

Environment

More than 112 households in Low too advantage of our regional septicwaste treatment plant by having their systems pumped in 2016.

The municipality successfully replaced its public lighting system from high pressure sodium lights to LEDs. Costs for lighting our streets as of October 31, 2016 are \$5,427 as compared to \$13,115 for the same period last year.

Waste and recycling removal will be done in-house as of January 1, 2017 due to an inter-municipal agreement for shared services with the municipality of Denholm. The new program is designed to keep costs at the same level for the next 5 years, to improve service and decrease the number of complaints.

Planning & Development

The declared value of the 88 permits issued up to the end of October in 2016 is \$2,615,493.

Recreation

Council continues to support the municipality's numerous recreation clubs, seniors' groups as well as the Cultural Association and the arena.

The 2017 budget will be presented at a special meeting planned for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 15 at the Heritage Hall, 4C d'Amour Road, Low.

I would like to thank our residents for their confidence. I also extend my gratitude to members of Council who contribute to managing our ongoing cost pressures and moving our community forward; our staff for their consistent support and professionalism; our volunteers in the Arena Association, Lions Club, the Low Cultural Association and social and recreation groups, without whose efforts this community would be much poorer. I also wish to thank our volunteer firefighter team who are always proud to serve.

GIVEN AT LOW, Province of Quebec, this 7 day of November 2016.

Morris O'Connor, Mayor