

DECEMBER 17, 2024

Minutes of the special budget meeting of the Township of Gore’s Municipal Council held at the Trinity Community Hall located at 2 Cambria Road in Gore, on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7 p.m.**

ARE PRESENT:

Councillors: Daniel Leduc, Sakina Khan, Alain Giroux, Shirley Roy, Anik Korosec and Anselmo Marandola forming a quorum and presided over by the Mayor, Scott Pearce.

The General Manager, Mrs. Julie Boyer, and the Clerk-treasurer, Mrs. Sarah Channell are also present.

CALL TO ORDER

The mayor calls the present meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2024-12-375 NOTIFICATION OF THE REGULARITY OF THE NOTICE OF MEETING

WHEREAS the clerk-treasurer certifies that the notice of convocation for this special council meeting was given to all members of the municipal council at least two days before the date of the said meeting, all in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Code of Quebec.

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Alain Giroux
SECONDED BY: Councillor Anik Korosec
AND RESOLVED unanimously by Councillors (6):

TO DECLARE that said special meeting is convened and constituted according to law.

CARRIED

2024-12-376 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

WHEREAS the members of the council have familiarized themselves with the agenda of the present meeting;

WHEREAS all the members of Council are present;

WHEREAS the members of council would like to add two points to the meeting’s agenda:

- Payment authorization – invoice number 5734 from Service Technique mobile S.D. Inc. for vehicle 444’s engine
- Charges to municipalities serviced by the Sûreté du Québec

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Daniel Leduc
SECONDED BY: Councillor Sakina Khan
AND RESOLVED unanimously by Councillors and the Mayor (7):

TO ADOPT the agenda of the present meeting as modified.

CARRIED

2024-12-377

ADOPTION OF BY-LAW 267 DECREERING THE TAXATION, COMPENSATION AND PRICING RATES FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR THE 2025 FISCAL YEAR

WHEREAS Council adopted its municipal budget for the 2025 fiscal year on December 17, 2024.

WHEREAS the Municipal Code of Québec (C-27.1) and the Act respecting municipal taxation (F-2.1) allow the Municipality of the Township of Gore to impose and charge taxes, tariffs and compensations in order to provide for the planned expenses for the 2025 financial year.

WHEREAS a notice of motion and the presentation of the present by-law was given by Councillor Daniel Leduc at the regular meeting of December 9, 2024;

WHEREAS a copy of the by-law was given to the members of council 72 hours prior to the meeting where this by-law is presented for adoption;

WHEREAS copies of the by-law were made available to the public at the beginning of the meeting;

WHEREAS the Mayor presented the by-law in accordance with article 445 of the Quebec Municipal Code(C-27.1).

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Shirley Roy
SECONDED BY: Councillor Anik Korosec
AND RESOLVED unanimously by Councillors (6):

THAT by-law 267 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2024-12-378

ADOPTION OF THE INTEREST RATES AND PENALTIES FOR TAX ARREARS

WHEREAS the provisions of article 981 of the Municipal Code allow the municipality to set an interest rate on tax arrears by resolution.

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Alain Giroux
SECONDED BY: Councillor Sakina Khan
AND RESOLVED unanimously by councillors (6):

THAT the interest rate applicable to all accounts past due on January 1st, 2025, and on 2025 tax arrears, 2025 mutation taxes and 2025 municipal service rate is set at 1.17 % per month which is equivalent to a yearly rate of 14 %.

CARRIED

**2024-12-379 SEIZING OF A PROPERTY FOR NON-PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL TAXES –
LOT 5 317 386**

WHEREAS the file bearing the lot numbers 5 317 386 has been in arrears for unpaid municipal taxes since 2015;

WHEREAS all attempts to recover the amounts due have been unsuccessful;

WHEREAS it is in the interest of the municipality to seize the property for non-payment of taxes instead of a proceeding with a sale under judicial control.

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Daniel Leduc
SECONDED BY: Councillor Alain Giroux
AND RESOLVED unanimously by Councillors (6):

TO MANDATE the law firm Prévost, Fortin D'Aoust, to seize lot 5 317 386 for non-payment of municipal taxes.

CARRIED

**2024-12-380 PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION – INVOICE NUMBER 5734 FROM S SERVICE
MECANIQUE MOBILE S.D. INC FOR VEHICLE 444'S ENGINE**

WHEREAS it is necessary to purchase a new engine for the fire department's vehicle 444;

WHEREAS Service Mécanique Mobile S.D. Inc. has been mandated to carry out the work for the replacement of vehicle 444's engine.

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Sakina Khan
SECONDED BY: Councillor Daniel Leduc
AND RESOLVED unanimously by Councillors (6):

TO RATIFY the awarding of the contract with Service Mécanique Mobile S.D. Inc. for the replacement of the fire department vehicle 444's engine.

AUTHORIZE the payment of invoice 5734 in the amount of \$ 32 527.93 taxes included.

CARRIED

2024-12-381 CONTESTATION OF THE 2025 INCREASE NOTICE - PG SOLUTIONS

WHEREAS PG Solutions is the main supplier of IT solutions for the municipality of the Township of Gore, as well as for several cities and municipalities in Quebec;

WHEREAS PG Solutions is in a quasi-monopoly situation in Quebec;

WHEREAS PG Solutions is imposing substantial annual increases in maintenance and application support contracts (ASECs), main/y since 2022;

WHEREAS the costs of modernizing the financial suite, which includes pay, tax, accounts payable and accounting modules, which were in the order of 20% in 2022 and have since been indexed;

WHEREAS to date on/y the pay module has been modernized and is still not 100 % functional;

WHEREAS the non-compliance with the deployment rate of other modules of the financial suite;

WHEREAS the minimum increase imposed by PG is of the order of 6.7% as of January 1, 2025;

WHEREAS this increase is much higher than the Quebec consumer price index (CPI) for 2024;

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Sakina Khan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Shirley Roy

AND RESOLVED unanimously by Councillors (6):

TO CONTEST the 2025 notice of increase for the Application Maintenance and Support Contract (CESA) sent by PG Solutions and to ask them to review this increase downward;

TO OPPOSE the method of financing PG Solutions' application improvements and developments through additional billing to cities and municipalities;

TO ASK Quebec cities and municipalities to participate in the protest movement by adopting this resolution at their next council meeting and to forward it to PG Solutions and their MRC;

TO ASK the Argenteuil MRC to support the Municipality's request by adopting a resolution to this effect, to make representations to the relevant authorities and to encourage other Quebec MRCs to fend their voices to theirs.

CARRIED

2024-12-382

CELLULAR COVERAGE

WHEREAS cellular coverage remains insufficient in several regions of Quebec, limiting access to an essential service for residents and visitors.

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has committed to deploying full cellular coverage throughout the territory by October 2026, recognizing its importance for the quality of life of citizens and socio-economic development, particularly in a context where automation is becoming an essential solution to the labour shortage.

WHEREAS reliable cellular services are essential to ensure access to information, health services, and public safety responses, and poor coverage jeopardizes the safety of people in areas with limited coverage or roaming, especially in emergencies requiring a rapid response by first responders.

WHEREAS the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) procedure CPC-2-0-17 imposes conditions for licence on cellular service providers (CSPs), including mandatory roaming, tower sharing and the prohibition of site exclusivity, to facilitate access to the network for subscribers of another CSP when a service is available.

WHEREAS this same procedure does not, however, oblige CSPs to request the service of another provider in the event of non-existent coverage in every region, thus limiting the scope of the measure.

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec and the CRTC are awarding significant subsidies to telecommunications companies for the construction of new cellular infrastructure to improve coverage in the regions.

WHEREAS despite the presence of more than 8,500 cell towers in Quebec, the exclusivity of the use of these towers by a single CSP limits access for other providers and constitutes a major obstacle to the deployment of optimal cellular coverage for the entire population.

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Alain Giroux

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anselmo Marandola

AND **RESOLVED** unanimously by Councillors (6):

TO CALL on the Liberal Party of Canada, the Conservative Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party of Canada and the Bloc Québécois to:

- Include in their election platforms for the next federal election a requirement for all cellular companies to enter into roaming agreements so that cellular customers, regardless of their provider, can benefit from the presence of cellular sites in the area in which they are located.

TO TRANSMIT a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Finance of Quebec, Mr. Eric Girard, responsible for the implementation of the government's commitment to provide cellular service throughout the territory inhabited in this mandate.

TO TRANSMIT a copy of this resolution to the officers of the telecommunications carriers, including BCE (Bell), Videotron, Rogers, TELUS and Cogeco.

CARRIED

2024-12-383

CHARGES TO MUNICIPALITIES SERVED BY THE SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC

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

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

WHEREAS the 2025 invoice marks the end of the transitional period leading to a 50-50 split of the cost for Sûreté du Québec services, between the Government and municipalities. A period characterized by the establishment of an increase capped at 7% and with minimum of 2%;

WHEREAS during the negotiations of the new formula in 2019, the Ministry of Public Security assured its municipal partners that the increases would be approximately 3% per year once the transitional period was over and that this formula would protect the municipal sector from increases such as those announced for 2025;

WHEREAS the inflation rate is now less than 2%;

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

WHEREAS legitimate questions from several elected officials regarding the impact of the amount of unfilled police positions and the significant use of overtime have arisen given that an effective police service requires stability and a long-term community presence;

WHEREAS there is a reckless increase in the costs of the Sûreté du Québec services which has an impact on the costs imposed on municipalities;

WHEREAS municipalities are not involved in determining the working conditions of police officers and in the management by the Sûreté du Québec;

WHEREAS the total cost invoiced to municipalities for 2025 amounts to more than \$444.8 million, a considerable amount that should give municipalities a right to oversee the management of these services.

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Shirley Roy

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anik Korosec

AND RESOLVED unanimously by Councillors (6):

THAT the Municipality of the Township of Gore request that the Minister of Public Safety, Mr. François Bonnardel:

- To mandate an external firm to analyze the management of the Sûreté du Québec, similar to what was done with municipal transit companies, which made it possible to identify possible solutions to save several hundred million dollars;
- To maintain a ceiling and a floor for costs increases in both the permanent and transitional formulas until the analysis identifies ways to control the reckless increase costs related to Sûreté du Québec services.

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Public Security, Mr. François Bonnardel, the Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Argenteuil, Ms. Agnès Grondin, the Director General of the Sûreté du Québec, Ms. Johanne Beausoleil, and the President of the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM), Mr. Jacques Demers.

CARRIED

QUESTION PERIOD

A question period was held during which no questions were asked.

2024-12-384

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

IT IS **MOVED** BY: Councillor Sakina Khan
SECONDED BY: Councillor Anselmo Marandola
AND RESOLVED unanimously by Councillors (6):

TO CLOSE the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

CARRIED.