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**General questions related to proposed loan by-laws 300, 301, 302**

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**1. What is a loan by-law?**

A loan by-law enables a municipality to borrow over the long term to finance certain types of work or to purchase equipment that require a substantial investment. The capital and interest are repaid over the period that the work or equipment can be expected to usefully last. The cost of the repayment is covered by a special tax that is charged to some or all the municipal taxpayers depending on the nature of the expense.

**2. How do the proposed loan by-laws affect me, which ones will I have to pay for and how much will it cost?**

The proposed loan by-laws are all for work identified in the three-year investment plan as essential to ensure the effective functioning of the municipal water and sewer systems. Each project requires its own loan by-law. Provincial law clearly defines who will pay for what and if the loan by-law is subject to a register or not.

The table below summarizes the proposed loan by-laws and who will be charged for each. The attached maps show the sector served by the Mountain aqueduct and the Village aqueduct. If your property is not in the sectors shown or is not served by the municipal aqueduct or municipal sewer system you will not be charged.

By-law	Purpose	Amount	Loan period	Typical annual cost*	Qualified voters who will be charged	Register
#300	Replace membrane at Mountain sector filtration plant	\$141,104	5 years	\$48	Taxpayers served by the Mountain municipal aqueduct	No**
#301	Install back up pump Village sector	\$325,461	15 years	\$40	Taxpayers served by the Village municipal aqueduct	No**
#302	Protect rue Maple conduit	\$262,470	15 years	\$18	Taxpayers served by the municipal sewer system	No**

\* For a residence with the average municipal evaluation of \$322,000.

\*\* Replaced by a call for written comments. See point 4 below.

**3. Why not use the Town reserves to finance some or all the investments rather than a loan by-law?**

The law defines the restrictions about which reserves can be used for what. Of the Town's three reserves, none are appropriate for the planned investments. The *fonds de roulement* cannot be used as it is only for expenses that benefit all taxpayers. The public works reserve is only for work related to roads. The *surplus accumulé non affecté* is for emergencies and unplanned necessary expenses.

#### **4. What process will be used to approve the proposed loan by-laws?**

Normally all three of these loan by-laws would require a registration process for qualified voters and, if necessary, a referendum vote. However, during the health emergency and as decreed in Order 2020-008, the municipality cannot undertake these processes and must therefore determine an appropriate alternative.

For projects deemed to be non-priority, the municipality suspends the regulatory adoption process; in this case, the register will be opened once the health emergency has been lifted.

For projects deemed a priority, the municipality holds a written consultation. This consultation replaces the referendum process and no register is then opened. The Council considers the projects related to the loan by-laws 300, 301 and 302 to be priorities and will therefore be following the steps outlined by Order 2020-008. The procedure is as follows:

The replacement of the registration process by a written consultation is first voted by resolution and, after that, announced by a public notice. The public notice will:

- describe the project that would have been the subject of a register but is instead subject to a call for written comments.
- specify the web address where a detailed presentation of the project is posted (the actual document).
- indicate that any person may submit written comments, by email, drop box or regular mail, for a period of 15 days following publication of the notice.

For all loan by-laws, regardless of the applicable procedure (priority project or project exempted from the referendum approval process), the *Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation* must approve them, as is normally the case.

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#### **Questions relating to specific loan by-laws**

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##### **BY-LAW #300 FOR MEMBRANE REPLACEMENT**

#### **1. What is the purpose of the loan by-law?**

If adopted, the loan by-law will authorize an expense and a loan of up to \$141,104 over a period of 5 years to replace the membrane in the filtration plant on Réal Road which treats the water for the whole Mountain sector. The membrane must be replaced on a regular basis and this work is considered essential for the continued efficient supply of drinking water to the Mountain sector.

#### **2. Who will pay the loan and how much will it cost the taxpayer?**

The expense is a sectorial one meaning that the work benefits only those whose water is provided by the Mountain aqueduct (buildings on and above the junction of Maple Street and de la Granuleuse Street). The annual cost to the taxpayers in the sector will depend on the final expense, the interest rate and the number of taxpayers for the year in question. As a rough guide, assuming the same number of taxpayers in the sector as in 2019 and an interest rate of 3%, the annual loan repayment for 5 years would cost approximately \$48 per year for a residence in this sector with the average municipal evaluation of \$322,000.

## **BY-LAW #301 FOR PUMP**

### **1. What is the purpose of the loan by-law?**

If adopted, the loan by-law will authorize an expense and a loan of up to \$325,461 over a period of 15 years to add a back up pump to the well on Academy Street which provides drinking water for the whole of the Village sector. This work is considered essential to safeguard the supply of drinking water to the Village sector.

### **2. Who will pay the loan and how much will it cost the taxpayer?**

The expense is a sectorial one meaning that the work benefits only those whose water is provided by the Village aqueduct system (buildings on and below the junction of Maple Street and des Pinsons Road). The annual cost to the taxpayers in the sector will depend on the final expense, the interest rate and the number of taxpayers for the year in question. As a rough guide, assuming the same number of taxpayers in the sector as in 2019 and an interest rate of 3%, the annual loan repayment for 15 years would cost approximately \$40 per year for a residence in this sector with the average municipal evaluation of \$322,000.

## **BY-LAW #302 FOR SEWER PIPE ON MAPLE STREET**

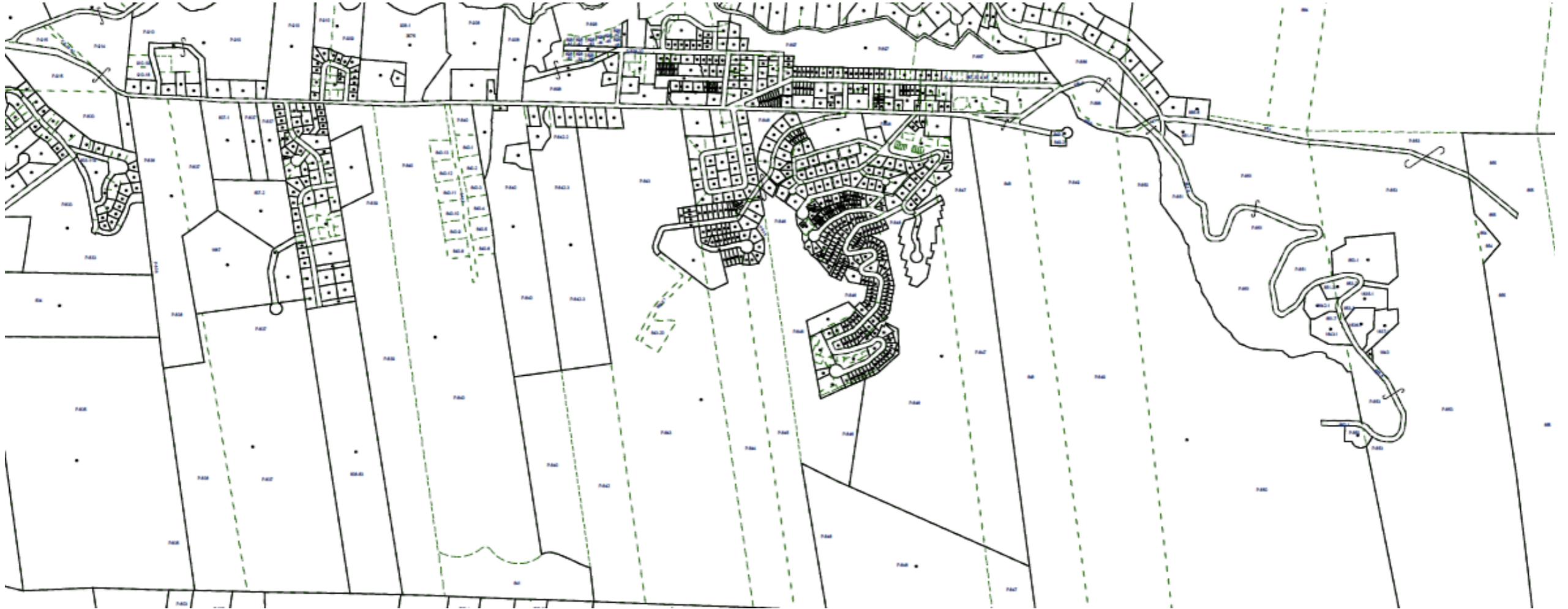
### **1. What is the purpose of the loan by-law?**

If adopted, the loan by-law will authorize an expense and a loan of up to \$262,470 over a period of 15 years to replace the sewer system conduit at the bridge on rue Maple located between rue Principale and rue Highland. The conduit must be replaced due to erosion of the riverbed. This work is considered essential to safeguard the functioning of the municipal sewer system.

### **2. Who will pay the loan and how much will it cost the taxpayer?**

The expense is a sectorial one meaning that the work benefits only those connected to the municipal sewer system. The annual cost to the taxpayers in the sector will depend on the final expense, the interest rate and the number of taxpayers for the year in question. As a rough guide, assuming the same number of taxpayers in the sector as in 2019 and an interest rate of 3%, the annual loan repayment for 15 years would cost approximately \$18 per year for a residence in this sector with the average municipal evaluation of \$322,000.

Aqueduct and sewer system – Mountain sector



# Aqueduct and sewer system – Village sector

