

## **Fire station/municipal garage project**

As part of the improvement of our municipal infrastructures, the ward of Saint-Louis fire station was a project on the table for the Beaurivage municipal council.

The first meeting at which the entire council was present was in February 2024, when a visit was made to the Saint-Louis fire station so that the council could see the need for a new fire station. After this visit, the council met to begin discussing options of where and how this project could be done.

After researching the best location for the station, looking at various available sites, and speaking with firefighters in the ward of Saint-Louis, the scenario for the perfect location was the old Saint-Louis Town Hall.

This project will increase public safety in our communities by building a new fire station in Saint-Louis, while adding a bay for Ambulance NB, which will reduce response times for our community.

After taking a look at the annual expenses of the municipality's fleet, snow removal equipment, generators, summer equipment (lawn mowers) and also the Beaurivage fleet of fire trucks, the decision was made to purchase a building for the Beaurivage public works department, with the possibility of eventually hiring a public works mechanic/operator to work on the municipal fleet only.

The Greater Kouchibouguac Watershed Association (previously known as “The Friends of the Kouchibouguacis”) who have been part of the municipality for many years, will be taking over the old fire station so that they can continue their exceptional work in our community.

The reason for making the purchase rather than building a new garage for public works was a matter of time: The demolition and construction of the new fire station was beginning.

The total cost of purchasing the garage and building the new fire station is approximately \$5.5 million, approved by council at the May 2024 regular meeting where the details were discussed prior to the motion.

Notices were placed in the newspapers (Times & Transcript on August 21 and 22 and L'Étoile on August 22 and 29) to advise citizens of the purchase of a garage for public works (\$450,000) and the fire station (\$4,800,000) and to ask if there were any objections: No objections were received, so the project went ahead.

For more information, please contact the municipal office at (506) 523-7870.

*The Municipal Council*