

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Jan. 22.

- **Support Continues for LCMTC:** Council has agreed to continue to support the Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation and to collaborate with the group to establish a trails strategy. At a recent special economic development committee meeting, the LCMTC provided an overview of its work and responsibilities. Council then considered a staff report that explored overall strategic direction and costs pertaining to the development and maintenance of county trails. The county currently manages or is involved in the development of several trails, including Baird Trail and the Tay River Pathway. The corporation was created as an approved charity in 2006 and relies on in kind administrative, financial services and engineering support. This will be reviewed after one year. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Rail Corridor Process Continues:** The county will proceed with an amended memorandum of understanding to allow municipal funds to be spent related to the Smiths Falls to Mattawa rail corridor, including an appraisal of the land in partnership with Renfrew County and Papineau-Cameron Township. At a recent special economic development committee meeting, council discussed direction pertaining to the potential acquisition of the corridor, which runs from Smiths Falls through Montague, Beckwith, Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills. CAO Kurt Greaves notes keeping the corridor in the public domain “adds the potential to re-establish rail or other methods of public transportation in the future,” and that its proximity to Ottawa gives it the potential to be a well-used trail and a tourist draw. Renfrew County is currently applying for funding on behalf of the partners through the Rural Economic Development Program, which could pay up to half the costs of a land appraisal. Other funding is being explored. Any decisions related to the spending of municipal funds would come back to council for approval. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Hiring Process for Public Works Director Approved:** Following the retirement of public works director Steve Allan in December, council has approved an updated job description and a recruitment process to find his replacement. The director oversees the engineering and operation of the department, which has 28 full-time permanent positions and a levy of \$11.5 million for this year. An interview panel has been established and the position has been widely advertised. It can be found at www.lanarkcounty.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=5485. Applications close Jan. 24. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Garage Project Ongoing:** Council has asked staff to explore an option that would see the new public works garage constructed on land beside the existing county administration and public works buildings on Christie Lake Road. The new garage would replace existing facilities, including the Perth garage on Wilson Street, which is at the end of its useful life. Three other potential sites include the Wilson Street location, one in the Balderson area and one in the Ferguson Falls area. Next steps include firming up building design and pricing for the project. A report is to be provided at a future public works committee meeting. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Feb. 12 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Feb. 12 (following Community Services). Economic Development, Feb. 19, 5 p.m.; Public Works, Feb. 19 (following Economic Development). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.