

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, March 12.

- **Flexibility Provided for Hours of Service:** Council has approved a by-law amending its hours of service policy in relation to county and contractor employees operating commercial motor vehicles, such as snow plows. The policy established the conditions under which an exemption to the provincial regulation for hours of service may be invoked. The public works committee reported the previous by-law may have limited the county from performing winter maintenance activities under certain circumstances, as drivers could only exceed their hours when the county was under an actual "declared emergency." The amendment revokes the definition of "emergency" and expands the circumstances under which a driver and operator are exempt from the regulation. It now includes the ability of the county to respond to situations considered to be an imminent danger, "though not one of major proportions to life, property or the environment, whether caused by forces of nature, an accident, an intentional act or otherwise." The by-law now concurs with the act, and the permission for drivers to exceed their hours will only occur when necessary to ensure public safety. The amendment will be circulated to local municipalities, Lanark County OPP, Lanark County Paramedic Service and Lanark County Fire Dispatch for information. For more information, contact Terry McCann, Acting Director of Public Works, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3190.
- **Lodge Undergoes Successful Inspection:** Council congratulated Lanark Lodge staff for a successful quality inspection with the provincial Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The unannounced inspection began Jan. 7 and involved three to four inspectors each day over nine days. It included structured interviews with residents, family members and staff, direct observations of care delivery and service delivery. Six minor items were identified and corrective follow-up has been completed to address them.. This was the first complete annual inspection for the Lodge since the introduction of the new Long-Term Care Homes Act and supporting regulations in July 2010. "Lanark Lodge staff are to be congratulated on a highly successful annual review," said Deborah Pidgeon, Lanark Lodge director. "There were no core nursing or support services programs triggered as not meeting compliance requirements. Lanark Lodge was able to demonstrate a high level of compliance with the act and its supporting regulations." For more information, contact Deborah Pidgeon, Director of Lanark Lodge, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 7101.
- **Seeking Support for Long-Term Care Funding:** Council is supporting the Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors in its campaign for more provincial funding to address issues related to increasing aggressive behaviour in the long-term care system. OANHSS is a provincial association representing not-for-profit providers of long-term care, services and housing for seniors. It is calling for funding to support its recommendations that include three critical components: increased staffing, particularly for in-house behaviour care expertise in every home; more designated behaviour units to care for residents with severe aggressive behaviours; and regular and recurring behaviour-related training for all care staff. "Aggressive behaviours have become a critical issue directly affecting the safety and well-being of residents and staff within the long-term care system," says Deborah Pidgeon, Lanark Lodge director. Council is also writing to Deb Mathews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, outlining its concerns about the ministry's decision to maintain the limit on the special rehabilitation funding, as well as the methodological approach to calculate funding for nursing and personal care in long-term care homes. The current process uses data that is up to two years old to fund long-term care operations. Although Lanark Lodge's funding for nursing and personal care has increased for 2014, up-to-date data would have resulted in a greater increase that better reflects current resident needs. The cap on special rehabilitation funding also affects the calculation in a detrimental way. Ms. Pidgeon indicates the process and the limited funding affects the home's ability to provide greater care and services to its vulnerable population. For more information, contact Deborah Pidgeon, Director of Lanark Lodge, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 7101.

- **Deployment Model and Boundary Changes for Ambulance:** Council has endorsed recommendations from the Lanark County Paramedic Service regarding the 2014 deployment plan, as well as the realignment of dispatch boundaries between Lanark and Renfrew counties. The deployment plan provides direction to the Kingston Central Ambulance Communication Centre for the deployment of the fleet resources of the service. It is reviewed and approved by council each year and covers emergency and non-emergency usage of the fleet, including standby coverage, heavy patient calls, transfers and more. Notable changes in the 2014 plan relate to procedures around lift assists, dispatch information regarding taking stroke patients to the Ottawa Civic Hospital, new direction designed to reduce the number of calls assigned in the Ottawa and Kingston areas, and procedures around clearing patient drop-offs to indicate availability for calls. Council is also petitioning the provincial health ministry to realign the dispatch jurisdiction between Lanark and Renfrew counties to bring the dispatch boundaries into alignment with actual geographic borders. The boundaries pre-date the period when ambulance service was downloaded to the county (2000). As such, telephone calls for ambulance services in the northern Lanark County-Pakenham area are directed to the Renfrew Ambulance Dispatch Centre instead of Kingston. Renfrew has to contact Kingston to initiate the ambulance response. A memorandum of understanding will be signed by both counties asking the ministry to realign the borders. For more information, contact Rick Hannah, Emergency Services Coordinator, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1701.
- **County Rescinds Auctioneer By-Law:** Council has opted to rescind its by-law that licenses, regulates and governs auctioneers after research showed it is not mandatory. A report to the corporate services committee indicated the Municipal Act gives municipalities the ability to regulate and govern businesses within the municipality "to safeguard residents from nuisances and protect consumers, if they feel it is necessary." The Provincial Auctioneers Act was repealed in 1994 and there are no provincial or municipal legislative or regulatory provisions with respect to the mandatory licensing of auctioneers. CAO Kurt Greaves indicated the county does not issue a substantial number of auctioneer licenses annually. There are no set fines established, nor is there a by-law officer to enforce them. In eastern Ontario, only Lanark and Renfrew counties and a handful of local municipalities have a by-law regulating auctioneers. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Lanark County Live and Online:** In an effort to increase communication, the county has established a new Facebook page and Twitter feed focusing on council and corporate business. It features meeting notices, council decisions (including live tweets from council meetings), announcements, FAQs and information about services. "Like" Lanark County on Facebook and follow @LanarkCounty1 on Twitter. These features accompany existing streams by Lanark County Tourism and CAO Kurt Greaves. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Deputy Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** Economic Development, March 26, 5 p.m.; Public Works, March 26 (following Economic Development); Special County Council, March 26 (following Public Works). **Regular County Council, Wednesday, April 9, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, April 9 (following County Council); Corporate Services, April 9 (following Community Services). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.