

Here are the highlights from the special Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Sept. 24.

- **Lanark Lodge Makes Waste Management Strides:** Lanark Lodge has been working with a solid waste solutions provider to find waste diversion opportunities, resulting in a reduced environmental footprint and cost savings for the long-term care home. MASS Environmental Services Inc., a company that implements formal recycling programs while reducing waste tonnage, completed an on-site waste audit in August 2013 and determined the Lodge's recycling program has a solid foundation, but adjusted the pick-up schedule. It also showed an opportunity to reduce organic waste from table scraps and incontinence products. Maceration (dewatering) equipment is to be installed in the main kitchen before the end of this year and could reduce this waste by up to 80 per cent with an option to compost on-site or dispose waste as macerated/dewatered materials. Based on improved recycling and waste diversion, a new contract was negotiated by MASS for the Lodge for waste disposal, resulting in a net savings of more than \$26,000 so far this year. Director Deborah Pidgeon said the introduction of the maceration equipment will lead to further savings as less waste goes to landfill. Councillors congratulated Ms. Pidgeon and staff for their efforts to implement the waste management initiatives. For more information, contact Deborah Pidgeon, Director of Lanark Lodge, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 7101.
- **County Adopts GPS Policy:** Council has approved a global positioning system policy to ensure employees, employers and contractors are made aware of the functions, benefits and responsibilities associated with the devices as their use expands. The county has been adding GPS units to its fleet of public works vehicles for the past few years. CAO Kurt Greaves explained to the corporate services committee last week the units were introduced for several reasons, such as to enhance employee safety, reduce liability and increase efficiencies in operations. The policy outlines the type of data collected, such as real-time records of vehicle location, speed and direction; engagement of plows and seat belts and more. Employee safety is an important feature of the system, as the GPS can be used to locate employees if a concern is raised. Information can also be used for training purposes and to develop safe driving techniques, to protect employees and the county when claims are made, to obtain vehicle data for maintenance purposes, and to locate, dispatch and route employees to job locations to help decrease response times and fuel usage, which enhances service. Mr. Greaves explained county management will not be continuously monitoring the GPS information, but can access it as needs arise. The new policy takes effect Nov. 1. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101
- **County to Apply to FIT Program:** Council has approved a motion authorizing staff to submit applications for the Ontario Power Authority Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) Solar Program, partnering with Drummond/North Elmsley Township and any other local municipality that expresses a letter of interest before Jan. 1. The application would involve municipal property, with the potential end result being a 20-year contract with OPA to supply solar power to the electrical grid. CAO Kurt Greaves reported to the corporate services committee last week that the application is an opportunity for the county to be fiscally prudent and creative at a time when municipal governments face increasing financial pressure and provincial regulation and responsibility. FIT applications featuring partnerships receive a higher chance of approval, he said, and municipal ownership of the projects could mitigate future property tax hikes. It also aligns with the county's official plan theme related to developing local renewable energy sources. Any approved applications would come back to council before proceeding. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Oct. 8, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Oct. 8 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Oct. 8 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, Oct. 22 (following County Council); Public Works, Oct. 22 (following Economic Development). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!