

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Jan. 28.

- **Funds for Affordable Housing Initiatives:** Council approved the allocation of additional one-time funding to six short-term initiatives to improve affordable housing in Lanark County. Social Services director Nancy Green explained the funds are part of the provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, which was introduced by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in 2013. Its goal was to consolidate five provincial homelessness-related programs in an effort to prevent, address and reduce homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing linked to flexible support services and based on peoples' needs. The original allocation for 2014/15 was \$876,000 and the new, one-time amount is almost \$340,000. A request for expressions of interest in the new funding was advertised in the fall for initiatives up to \$40,000. The funds were allocated as follows: \$40,000 to Carleton Place and District Core Youth Services, which offers a county-wide housing and homelessness support program for youth, to assist youth ages 16 to 26 with financial and caseworker support; \$28,000 to The Table Community Food Centre to provide training and community events to enhance community knowledge regarding affordable housing; \$36,000 to Cornerstone Landing Youth Services, which works to prevent youth homelessness, to provide financial support to youth in need who are attending school, along with promotional materials to conduct research regarding the issue of rural youth homelessness; \$40,000 to the Susan Shirley Program and Parent Training Centre, a residential maternity home for young, at-risk mothers, to provide an emergency bed for a female youth and a support worker to assist homeless youth to successfully transition to healthy, independent living; \$40,000 to Lanark County Mental Health to extend its rent-supplement program and to enhance its program for clients identified as at risk for homelessness or harm related to hoarding activities. Some of the funds are also allocated to administration costs and to the Lanark County Housing Corporation to contract for additional private market rent supplement units. As well, the director has been authorized to contract with Salvation Army Mississippi-Rideau Lakes Corps to provide after-hours coverage for social services assistance for homeless individuals. This will be funded through the original allocation and is expected to cover about two years. "Partnering with these community agencies will create new and innovative assistance programs in Lanark County," Ms. Green said. For more information, contact Nancy Green, Director of Social Services, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2101.

- **County Joins Climate Change Network:** Council adopted a resolution from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to join the FCM-ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program. This is a network of more than 250 Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and to act on climate change. PCP has provided five milestones to guide municipalities, which include creating a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast, setting an emissions reduction target, developing a local action plan, implementing the local plan and monitoring progress and reporting results. The suggested target is 20 per cent below 2000 levels, and 6 per cent below 2000 levels in the community within 10 years of joining the program. Membership means the county can apply for grant funding under FCM's Green Municipal Fund, which provides financial support to complete the milestones. Senior Financial Analyst Kevin Wills noted reducing emissions is crucial due to expected negative effects on resident health and because climate change is expected to shorten asset-replacement cycles. "This will cost municipalities millions of dollars as bridges, roads, and water and wastewater systems will need to be replaced or upgraded to respond to increased water flows and more frequent freeze/thaw cycles." For more information, contact Kevin Wills, Senior Financial Analyst, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1323.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Feb. 11 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Feb. 11 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, Feb. 18 (following County Council); Public Works, Feb. 11 (following Economic Development). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!