

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Oct. 21.

- **Community Grants Policy Approved:** Lanark County Council has approved a policy to begin next year related to community grants in order to provide direction in the distribution of taxpayer-funded grants to non-profit groups, and to define Lanark County community grants as “taxpayer-levied funds given to third-party organizations that do not have a signed contract for service with Lanark County.” As well, the 2016 and future budgets will contain a separate budget section specific to taxpayer-funded grants. The move comes following much discussion about a defined program and follows an overview of past motions related to community grants over the years. In his report to the corporate services committee earlier this month, CAO Kurt Greaves indicated a policy would ensure all organizations start fresh. Capital funding would be excluded from the program. The policy indicates grants would be awarded to local projects having a direct impact on people in the community or to increase capacity of organizations to initiate and sustain local projects. Two terms of funding would be available, including short-term project grants or program grants that would span the council term. Evaluation objectives, eligibility, submission and review processes were outlined, as well as reporting procedures and insurance requirements. For this coming year (the 2016 budget), allocations will be decided at budget time as before, with the new program commencing for 2017. The cut off for applications would be in Sept. 15, 2016 and notifications would be provided. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Situation Table Project Introduced:** Council passed a motion to receive as information a presentation about the new Lanark County Situation Table program from Stephanie Gray, who is coordinating the project. At the corporate services committee meeting earlier this month, Ms. Gray explained the goal is to proactively address root causes of crime by identifying risk factors that are prevalent in Lanark County and Smiths Falls and then building a community safety plan – endorsed by local councils and police services boards – to mitigate them. This would be done through extensive collaboration with front-line agencies in a variety of human services sectors, including social services, justice (including police), health/mental health, education, housing, the private sector and local government. Another key aspect of the project is to create a “situation table,” which would bring the agencies together to provide immediate help for people deemed to be at an acutely elevated risk of harming themselves or others. The project received start-up funding from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services’ “Proceeds of Crime Front-Line Policing” grant through Lanark OPP and the Perth Police Services Board. Part of Ms. Gray’s role will also include organizing training needs and planning the sustainability of the program. She highlighted some preliminary risk factors identified in Lanark County and Smiths Falls in the broad categories of substance abuse, poverty, negative parenting and mental health. “We want to provide immediate help for those at acutely elevated risk in the hope of reducing the number of crisis incidents and, therefore, calls for service,” she said. “We also want to continue collaboration to identify and mitigate evolving risks to ensure our community safety plan is a living document.” For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Deputy Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.

- **Council Speaks Against Hydro One Sale:** Council passed a resolution supporting the Citizen Coalition Against Privatization – Ontario Hydro Not for Sale Campaign following a presentation by Rhonda Ferguson at the corporate services committee meeting earlier this month. The motion suggests a public hydro system is necessary to ensure all Ontarians have access to affordable and reliable electricity and that the province should maintain control of the grid to ensure it continues to

operate in the public interest. "Privatized electricity in other jurisdictions has led to higher prices and less reliability for citizens and businesses," the motion states, adding affordable and reliable electricity is key to the long-term success of businesses, manufacturing and mining. The motion calls for the province to stop the sale of Hydro One and to maintain it as a public asset and to "respect the autonomy and local decision-making powers of local distribution companies by not forcing these companies into mergers or sales." The motion will be distributed to the premier, ministers of finance and energy, area MPPs and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Lanark County joins an increasing number of local municipalities that have resolved their opposition to the sale. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Deputy Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.

- **Upcoming Meetings:** Note: There will be no regular meetings on Remembrance Day. **County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Nov. 18 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Nov. 18 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, Nov. 25 (following County Council); Public Works, Nov. 25 (following Economic Development). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!