

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Nov. 25.

- **Long-Term Care Home Renewal to be Explored:** Council passed a motion to have Lanark Lodge Director Deborah Pidgeon explore and report on options for redevelopment or renovation for Lanark Lodge, including demographic and costing information. In October 2014, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care indicated it would be engaging the long-term care sector regarding major components of the Enhanced Long-Term Care Home Renewal Strategy. Several of the components relate to redevelopment of homes. About 30,000 beds located in more than 300 homes across Ontario remain eligible for redevelopment. The ministry provides a construction funding subsidy on a per-bed, per-day basis to support such costs if a home meets a range of criteria. This can include new construction or renovation. There is also an incentive for operators that include specific green-building features. Lanark Lodge staff consulted with representatives from the South East Local Health Integration Network and identified an interest in exploring options in light of the high number of retirees to Lanark County. When final construction plans are approved for a long-term care home, the ministry will indicate the total expected construction funding subsidy based on the plans. Potential options around a formal redevelopment application or retrofit will be reported back to council before proceeding. For more information, contact Deborah Pidgeon, Director of Lanark Lodge, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 7101.
- **CHPI Funding Distributed to Agencies:** Council approved recommendations regarding the distribution of \$150,000 of Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding to community partner agencies for 2015/2016. In June 2015, council approved a spending plan for the funds, and an expression of interest was published in August soliciting proposals from community partners for one-time grants of up to \$25,000. Proposals were for programs to help people who are experiencing homelessness to find and retain housing and to help people at risk of homelessness to remain housed. After reviewing proposals received, the social services director has been authorized to contract with agencies until March 31, 2017. The Table Community Food Centre will receive \$25,000 to enhance their capacity to support and advocate for low-income residents; the Susan Shirley Program was granted \$25,000 to provide an emergency bed for homeless pregnant women; Lanark County Mental Health was granted \$24,000 to provide \$200 per month rent subsidy to eight clients; and a partnering group (Cornerstone Landing Youth Services, HIV/AIDS Regional Services, Youth Action Committee of Perth & District, Lanark County Community Justice Program, Lanark Highlands Youth Centre and Smiths Falls and District Centre for Youth) will receive \$76,000 to hire one full-time caseworker to provide a variety of wraparound services for youth and adults. Each of the proposals addresses some of the priorities indicated in the Lanark County Ten-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. For more information, contact Nancy Green, Director of Social Services, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2101.
- **Non-Union By-Law Approved:** Following consultation between staff, the warden and the chair of corporate services this fall, council has approved a non-union employment by-law and revised salary grid to take effect January 1. The need to replace existing policies and procedures with a bylaw was identified last year, specifically to address significant wage gaps between Lanark County positions and other eastern Ontario municipal comparators for many positions, as well as a need for improved internal job evaluation. Limited wage allowances have been approved, the new by-law clarifies procedures and the revised salary grid will help ensure internal and external non-union compensation is maintained and administered effectively. For more information, contact Jennie

Bingley, Deputy Treasurer, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1320.

- **Contract Awarded for Workflow Optimization:** At its regular meeting on Nov. 18, Lanark County Council awarded a contract to Dillon Consulting Limited to provide a planning department work flow optimization review. In August, the county issued a request for proposals for the review, which is intended to provide practical, achievable and realistic options and recommendations to improve efficiency and effectiveness, both for the county and local municipalities. The cost of the review is just over \$28,000. Seven proposals were received and the final report is to be completed by April 29. Council also passed a motion that a subcommittee of council, consisting of one representative from each local municipality, be formed to participate in discussions with the consultant with respect to the review. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Deputy Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
- **Upcoming Meetings: Inaugural Meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 11 a.m. County Council, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Dec. 9 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Dec. 9 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, 16, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, Dec. 16 (following County Council); Public Works, Dec. 16 (following Economic Development). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!

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Note: A separate media release pertaining to the 2016 Lanark County budget, approved Nov. 25, has been issued.