

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Jan. 27.

- **Support for Memorial at Elmwood:** Council has passed a motion to fund an Elmwood Cemetery recognition project in the amount of \$1,800 as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lanark County in 2016. This follows a presentation by Eric Halpin, president and chairman of the board of the Perth Cemetery Company, earlier in the month. Mr. Halpin requested the fund for an inscription on a bench in memory of indigent persons buried in a section at Elmwood known as “the paupers burial area.” Many of those buried there were residents of the House of Industry, which was the predecessor of Lanark County’s current long-term care home. The House of Industry was built in 1903 and served as a place for impoverished people to be sheltered. Mr. Halpin said Elmwood is marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement by organizing self-guided tours highlighting architectural and design features of the cemetery. As part of his research, Mr. Halpin found that between 1903 and 1965 more than 300 indigent burials occurred at Elmwood from the House of Industry alone. Plans are underway to formally place a memorial marker on the site. Council also asked staff to consult with the Perth Cemetery Company to investigate options to acknowledge the names of indigent Lanark County residents buried in the mass grave and to bring ideas back to the Community Services Committee. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
  
- **Ambulance Purchases Approved:** Council has authorized the purchase of three “Fleetmax” ambulances from Crestline Canada for 2016 at a purchase price of \$372,449. The purchase was recommended to the corporate services committee as part of an ambulance/emergency response vehicle replacement program set up in 2014 to formalize the process of use and replacement of fleet vehicles in the Lanark County Paramedic Service. The program sees vehicles replaced based on a combination of mileage and repair costs, which is a Ministry of Health Standard currently followed by most paramedic services in Ontario. Three current ambulances have reached the end of their lifecycle. The purchase from Crestline allows the service to continue with the standardization of the ambulance fleet, which is important for paramedics and mechanics, and to provide staff with the best vehicle available for use in the county. For more information, contact Kevin Wills, Senior Financial Analyst, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1323.
  
- **Ottawa Police Costing Not Proceeding:** Council has voted to not proceed with a costing from the Ottawa Police Service at this time. On Jan. 4, Warden Gail Code (Drummond/North Elmsley Deputy Reeve), Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) as Past Chair of Corporate Services, and CAO Kurt Greaves met with Ottawa Police Chief Charles Bordeleau, Police Services Board Chair Eli El-Chantiry (Ottawa Councillor), the city manager and other staff to discuss a potential police costing for Lanark County by the Ottawa Police Service. In a report to council, Mr. Greaves said the purpose was to determine whether proceeding made sense financially and operationally. He said the parties agreed now would not be the best time as OPS has just completed a three-year business plan and staff are committed to its implementation. This will not allow them the time or staffing to proceed with the planning and logistics required to implement a Lanark County operation, which would not be able to

commence until at least 2020. Mr. Greaves said other considerations include the infrastructure requirements. "Considerable investment would be needed for stations, communications and other operational infrastructure," he said, adding OPS indicated it is open to the idea of developing a policing solution. Mr. Greaves suggested monitoring what steps the province and OPP take to mitigate future increases to police costs and to reconsider a costing in the next few years. He said OPP billing for Lanark County is estimated at \$10.5 million for 2016, which is a 7.8 per cent increase over 2015. A thank you letter will be sent to Chief Bordeleau and Mr. El-Chantiry. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **County Reps Appointed to Health Hub:** Council has approved a recommendation of the striking committee to appoint Councillors John Fenik (Perth Mayor) and Sharon Mousseau (Beckwith Deputy Reeve) to the Mississippi Rideau Tay Rural Health Hub. This follows a presentation in December by Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital Board representatives Richard Schooley and Dennis Staples about efforts to integrate regional health services into a hub that would provide access to care in a timely way close to home. The group is developing a comprehensive business case for managing the healthcare system within a rural health hub to help attract and retain physicians and to provide certain health services now available in larger centres. The county representatives will be part of a community health coalition Rural Health Hub Advisory Panel to participate in the development of the business case. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Deputy Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Feb. 10 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Feb. 10 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, Feb. 17 (following County Council); Public Works, Feb. 17 (following Economic Development). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!