

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, March 9.

- **Hiring Consultant to Explore Public Transportation:** Council has approved a recommendation from the Economic Development Committee to hire a consultant to facilitate stakeholder consultations, research best practices and establish a prioritized action plan on public transportation for Lanark County using up to \$20,000 from Provincial Gas Tax funding to pay for the required work. CAO Kurt Greaves said the recommendation comes in an effort to seek direction on moving forward with council's priority related to public transit. He noted the Lanark Transportation Association provides accessible transportation to and from medical and other specialized services and many other agencies provide services across the county. "Lack of transportation is a huge barrier for many citizens of Lanark County and has measurable consequences, such as youth not staying in rural areas; barriers to employment education opportunities and service agency programs; and it contributes to isolation for seniors." The consultant would investigate demands for public transit, work with stakeholders and interested parties, assess current service levels and resources and establish if there are opportunities for better coordination, research best practices in other jurisdictions, determine technological solutions that could help with coordination, and develop a prioritized action plan to help the county move forward. The county currently has almost \$600,000 in provincial gas tax reserves dedicated for public transit, and this project qualifies for funding. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Weed Inspector Appointed for 2016:** Council passed a motion appointing Ken Gilpin as the Lanark County Weed Inspector for 2016. Upper-tier and single-tier municipalities must appoint an area weed inspector under the Weed Control Act by April 1 to perform duties related to controlling the infestation of noxious and harmful weeds. Mr. Gilpin served in the position in 2015. In a report to the public works committee, Janet Tysick, business manager, said Mr. Gilpin "was accessible and answered questions in a timely manner" when they could not be handled in house. "Utilizing the services of an active weed inspector ensures services are undertaken in a timely manner, utilizing state-of-the-art principles and taking current legislation into account." Calls related to weeds are received by public works administrative staff, who then use work order software to track relevant information and, if needed, issue the work order to the weed inspector to conduct a site visit and take necessary actions. Compensation is only applicable if a work order is assigned. For more information, contact Janet Tysick, Business Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3110.
- **Perth Garage Property Declared Surplus:** Council has approved a motion to declare the property known as the Perth Garage as surplus to the county's needs and has authorized staff to proceed with its disposal by public sale. The site at 110 Wilson St. W. in Perth is no longer being used as the Perth public works garage now that operations have been consolidated in the new facility located at the county administration site at 99 Christie Lake Rd. on the edge of Perth in Tay Valley Township. A public notice regarding the sale will be advertised in the near future. For more information, contact Janet Tysick, Business Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3110.
- **Public Works Tenders Awarded:** Council authorized the awarding of numerous public works tenders that closed Feb. 2 and 11. The projects include bridge and road rehabilitation, shoulder work, surface treatments, culvert replacements and a range of road maintenance projects. Thirteen tenders were opened by Director of Public Works Terry McCann and Business Manager Janet Tysick. The MERX Public Tender Service software was used for the tender call. Sixty-four tenders

were received, with three disqualified and two received late and returned unopened. Council also approved deferring a tender award for a project on County Road 10 until March to allow for further review, as well as deferring two projects to 2017, creating a contingency of \$25,000 for unforeseen costs associated with a bridge rehabilitation project, adding \$40,000 for additional crack cleaning and sealing and line painting, and using savings from the construction capital tenders to offset costs of unscheduled culvert work on County Road 511. More details about the 2016 construction and maintenance projects will be outlined in the spring. For more information, contact Terry McCann, Director of Public Works, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3190.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, March 23, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, March 23 (following County Council); Public Works, March 23 (following Economic Development). **County Council, Wednesday, April 13, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, April 13 (following County Council); Corporate Services, April 13 (following Community Services). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!