

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

- **Warden Proclaims National Housing Day:** Warden Bill Dobson (Montague Reeve) has declared Nov. 22, 2017 to be “National Housing Day in Lanark County.” The proclamation indicates an estimated 10 per cent of Lanark County households face affordability problems and are considered to be in core housing need. “Homelessness is a harsh reality in our community; it reduces self-worth, erodes a community and costs in terms of health care, policing and other public services,” he said. National Housing Day aims to raise awareness of local housing issues, while striving to attain effective solutions. “It also reminds us to double our efforts in order to achieve our vision and become a county where all residents have access to safe and healthy homes that help to build strong local communities.” The proclamation notes housing protects families and provides a healthy environment to grow; it’s a refuge for those fleeing abusive or difficult situations; it helps seniors to age with dignity and stay close to supports; and it supports persons with disabilities, mental illness and addictions. “Lanark County recognizes the importance of collaboration amongst all levels of government, organizations and communities in order to provide adequate and affordable housing that will make a difference to those in need,” Warden Dobson said. “I encourage all citizens and levels of government to support the vision of safe and affordable housing for all of Lanark County’s residents.” For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
- **Support for Anti-Racism Motion:** Council has endorsed a resolution from the Town of Halton Hills regarding zero tolerance for racism of any kind. The resolution points to the recent racially motivated act of violence in Charlottesville, Virginia that resulted in the death of a 32-year-old woman and multiple injuries during “what has been described as one of the largest white supremacist events in U.S. history.” It calls for communities, the province and Canada to come together “to condemn this type of hatred and racism” and supports “zero tolerance for racism of any kind, including nazism and white supremacy.” The motion is being widely circulated. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
- **Social Assistance Modernization Underway:** Council accepted a report on social assistance modernization that was presented by Ontario Works Manager Emily Hollington at the community services meeting earlier this month. She explained the province is reforming and modernizing social assistance service delivery over five years in an effort to provide “a modern, responsive, efficient, cost-effective and sustainable service delivery system that is client-centred and supports integration across programs.” The province has highlighted five priorities, including streamlining and simplifying intake procedures, improving communication with clients, improving digital tools and to streamline processes, modernizing payment administration, and improving the delivery of benefits. Ms. Hollington indicated the changes will require significant effort to manage, but will ultimately provide more time for caseworkers to focus on high-impact activities, such as employment/goal planning and crisis prevention. For more information, contact Nancy Green, Director of Social Services, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2101.
- **Council Raises Alarm about Bill 148:** Council has endorsed a resolution by Montague Township that highlights the substantial impact Bill 148 (Employment Standards Act) will have on costs for its fire service and raises the concern that many Ontario municipalities will be unable to afford to maintain fire services if the change is enacted. The province tabled Bill 148 in June, and much of the focus has centred on increases to minimum wage. Municipalities, however, are citing several

issues that may substantially impact bottom lines, which CAO Kurt Greaves outlined at the corporate services committee meeting earlier this month. Issues include pay implications for schedule changes without four-day notice, substantial costs related to on-call provisions (e.g. volunteer firefighters' remuneration); minimum paid days for personal emergency leave; equal pay provisions related to part-time and student employees and for full-time versus volunteer firefighters. Mr. Greaves said some municipalities have estimated the costs of the legislation to be in the tens of millions of dollars, and the potential increase in costs to municipalities with volunteer fire services will be significant. "The sweeping changes proposed in Bill 148 could have far-reaching implications on municipalities' ability to provide affordable services to residents," Mr. Greaves said. "It is imperative that the provincial government consider the impact the legislation will have on municipal property taxpayers." Montague's motion requests that all municipal employees be exempted from the on-call changes proposed in the bill and that the province conduct a full economic impact study. In addition, council has indicated it supports the position taken by the Association of Ontario Municipalities' submission to the Bill 148 Standing Committee. The motion has been circulated to Minister of Labour Keven Flynn, Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **County Matching EOTA Funding for Tay Havelock Trail:** Council has authorized using \$30,000 from its trails/forestry reserve to match funds for a Rural Economic Development grant for work on the Glen Tay Havelock Trail in partnership with the Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance. The EOTA is working with the county and the Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation to upgrade 5 km of the trail from the Fall River to the Frontenac/Lanark boundary. The work will include grading, adding 5/8" aggregate and stone dust. "This work will complete the entire upgrade to the 25.2-km Lanark County portion of the trail," said CAO Kurt Greaves. "With the recent opening of the trailhead parking lot near Glen Tay on Highway 7, the trail is welcoming to all multi-use trail enthusiasts." Learn more at <http://trails.lanarkcountytourism.com>. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Contract Awarded for Sewer Replacement:** Council passed a motion awarding a contract for sewer replacement on Christian Street (County Road 29) north of the intersection with Wolf Grove Road (County Road 16) in Almonte to C.A.C.E. Construction (1991) Ltd. for \$146,819 plus HST. Janet Tysick, Public Works Business Manager, said 20 documents were taken by potential bidders, with four bids submitted. The public tender opening took place on Oct. 19. A Clean Water and Waste Water Fund grant for \$49,500 has been received for this project and work is to be completed by the end of this year, making it time sensitive. Ms. Tysick noted any surplus construction capital funds will be used for the portion not covered by the grant. For more information, contact Janet Tysick, Public Works Business Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3110.
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Nov. 15 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Nov. 15 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Nov. 22 (following County Council); Economic Development, Nov. 22 (following Public Works). All meetings are in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!