

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

- **Council Sets 2018 Taxation Policies:** Council has passed by-laws related to 2018 taxation policy, including tax ratios, as well as the levy apportionment to local municipalities. In December, council passed its budget with a levy of \$33.3 million and a net tax increase of 1.4 per cent, which is collected through the towns and townships. CAO Kurt Greaves explained at a corporate services committee meeting earlier this month that council apportions the tax burden between the various tax classes, determines how much of the levy comes from each municipality and decides on the mandatory continuation of tax protection (capping) for the commercial and industrial tax classes. When the levy is established, council then sets tax ratios, which distribute taxes between the various classes (e.g. industrial, commercial, residential). "This is done in consultation with local municipal treasurers, and the recommendation is to adopt revenue neutral tax ratios to ensure reassessment does not shift the tax burden between the tax classes," Mr. Greaves said. The county will refund the its portion of landfill taxation to local municipalities, which was a new property tax and tax ratio introduced last year. Mr. Greaves noted the number of properties affected by the capping rebates following reassessment has declined steadily since 2009, with only nine properties in 2017. The capping by-law includes all provisions available to reduce the number of capped properties. The county portion of the tax bill is only one of three components on the tax bill, with the local municipality and education portion making up the balance. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, County CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
  
- **Change to Inaugural Meeting Process:** Council has approved an amendment to the procedural by-law that changes the inaugural meeting process to include a nomination period for the position of warden and committee chairs effective this year. At a corporate services committee meeting last month, Clerk Leslie Drynan outlined the process, which varies depending on whether it is a municipal election year. In a non-municipal election year, nomination forms will be provided to councillors on Oct. 1 for the position of warden and/or committee chair(s). The forms require signatures of the nominee and two county councillors (as mover and seconder) and must be submitted to the clerk at the first regular council meeting in October. At the second regular meeting in October, council will receive a report on valid nominations. If an election is needed, voting will take place by secret ballot at the first meeting in November. The official swearing-in of the warden and chairs occurs at the inaugural meeting held each year on the first Tuesday in December. In a municipal election year, the forms would be provided to the certified newly elected head and deputy head of council in each of the local municipalities. Nominations close Nov. 15 and the forms require the signatures of the nominee and two members of county council-elect. The nomination report will be provided at the second meeting in November, with an acclamation or an election by secret ballot occurring at the inaugural meeting after declarations of office have been made by the councillors. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
  
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, May 9, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, May 9 (following County Council); Corporate Services, May 9 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, May 23, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, May 23 (following County Council); Economic Development, May 23 (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!