
Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, May 26.

- **Public Meeting for Development Charges Held** – The county held a mandatory public meeting regarding the possible introduction of development charges for Lanark County. This is a tool the province has provided to municipalities to collect fees in order to recover a portion of growth-related costs associated with capital infrastructure needed to service new development. Director of Finance/Treasurer Kurt Greaves made a presentation explaining the rationale behind introducing development charges. He said this tends to be a fairer tax because it is a user fee attributed to new services, that it is a method of covering some costs at a time when provincial and federal funding is dwindling, and it is one of few tools provided to municipalities to collect revenue other than through property taxes, which are already burdensome. “The current proposal would collect \$2 million over 10 years, which would otherwise have to be raised through taxes,” he said. “Grants are limited and the property tax system is inherently flawed.” Barbara O’Connor of Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. was on hand to provide an overview of the background study they completed for the county. The study determined what charges can be recovered under the provincial Development Charges Act based on the county’s capital spending plans. In Lanark County, projects that qualify relate to long-term care, ambulance, studies and roads. The study includes tables of the proposed fees on new development. County CAO Peter Wagland explained development charges are a fixed amount applied to new development. Following the public meeting and other consultations, council must take input and decide whether it wishes to establish charges for residential, commercial, industrial and/or institutional development. No members of the public attended the advertised meeting. Council must also endorse the proposed expansion of services and finalize the development charge policy and bylaw, including exemptions, phasing in, indexing and more. Further discussion is planned for the corporate services committee meeting on June 16, with consideration of the bylaw scheduled for June 23. A copy of the development charges background study can be found on the county website at www.county.lanark.on.ca. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, Director of Finance/Treasurer, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1301.
- **No Parking Zone Established** – Council approved a bylaw establishing a no parking zone on the west side of County Road 15 at the Ferguson’s Falls Community Hall. The zone was requested by Drummond/North Elmsley Township staff and is supported by the hall manager in an effort to ensure access to the main entrance is not blocked by vehicles, particular in the event emergency vehicles are required. For more information, contact Steve Allan, Director of Public Works, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3101.
- **Upcoming Meetings** – County Council, Wednesday, June 23, 7 p.m. Community Development, June 2, 5 p.m.; Public Works, June 2 (following Community Development); Special County Council (Official Plan RFP award), June 2 (following Public Works). Community Services, June 16, 5 p.m.; Corporate Services, June 16 (following Community Services). For more information, call 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1501.