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Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, June 22.

- **Awards of Excellence Created** – The County has established the Lanark County Awards of Excellence program, which will see recipients recognized for their extraordinary contribution to the county at large or in at least two municipalities. This could be a person who has belonged to various boards, associations or groups for a number of years. A separate award is also planned for Lanark County citizens who have brought recognition to the county through their national or provincial achievements over their lifetime. Council has adopted the terms of reference for the Awards of Excellence, and the sub-committee responsible will commence developing terms of reference for the National/Provincial/Lifetime Contributions by Lanark County Citizens Award. The county plans to advertise for nominations in August. For more information, contact Peter Wagland, County CAO, at (613) 267-4200, ext. 103.
- **Fire Dispatch Contract Awarded** – The county has awarded the Fire Dispatch Communications Centre Services contract to the Town of Smiths Falls at an annual fee of \$185,000 plus taxes. The agreement is for three years with an option of extending the contract to five. Proposals were received from Smiths Falls and the City of Ottawa. Smiths Falls scored higher in the evaluation process, and the sub-committee attended an on-site demonstration there on June 1. The contract includes all county municipalities except the Town of Perth, which operates its own 9-1-1 service. Perth previously handled fire dispatch for the county, but chose not to submit a bid at this time. To assist with the transfer of responsibilities from the dispatch centre in Perth to the Town of Smiths Falls, the county has retained the services of Rod Manley, Community Emergency Management Solutions Inc. The transition is to take place in December. Through a separate contract, the Central Emergency Reporting Bureau in Orillia handles other dispatch operations for the county. For more information, contact Cynthia Moyle, Township of Beckwith CAO, at (613) 257-1539.
- **GIS Project Moves Forward** – As a result of a comprehensive request for proposal process and a Geographic Information System consultant's recommendation, council has authorized the CAO and the consultant to negotiate a contract with CGIS Spatial Solutions, based in Perth, to provide GIS services to Lanark County. This will supply accurate mapping and information for staff and the public. Six out of nine local municipalities already use the services of CGIS. In addition, a full-time GIS coordinator is to be appointed from within the county staff complement, and a coordinating forum is to be established. The forum will consist of a GIS representative from each local municipality and will enable collaboration on GIS matters for mutual interest once data-sharing agreements between the county and municipalities have been approved. For more information, contact Tammy Wolters, Treasurer, at (613) 267-4200, ext. 135.
- **Acting Clerk Appointed** – Council has appointed Cathie Ritchie as acting clerk for the county until a permanent replacement is found. Ms. Ritchie is currently employed with Lanark Network Associates in Perth and is responsible for administration, finance and project management. She was previously the administrator/clerk/treasurer for Bathurst-Burgess-Sherbrooke Township (now Tay Valley). She will begin her contract with the county the first week of July. For more information, contact Peter Wagland, County CAO, at (613) 267-4200, ext. 103.
- **Support for Farm Produce Sales** – Council has passed a motion to lobby the province to extend farm gate provisions under Ontario Regulation 562 to local farmers' markets to enable farmers to sell their products to the community. Currently, local farmers can sell their products at the end of their driveways without inspection by local health units, but are unable to take the same items to local farmers' markets to sell. The resolution is to be circulated to local MPs, the MPP, municipal organizations and all Ontario municipalities for support. For more information, contact Peter Wagland, County CAO, at (613) 267-4200, ext. 103.
- **Upcoming Meetings** – County Council, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m., Council Chambers. Community Development, Aug. 3, 5 p.m.; Public Works, Aug. 3 (following Community Development). Community Services, Aug. 10, 5 p.m.; Corporate Services, Aug. 10 (following Community Services). **There are no scheduled meetings in July.** For more information and meeting locations, call (613) 267-4200, ext. 119.