

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, April 24.

- **County Takes Steps Towards Lanark Lodge Redevelopment:** Council has received a report on a feasibility study to redevelop Lanark Lodge. Interim Director of Long-Term Care Jennie Bingley reviewed the results of the report at the community services committee meeting earlier this month. She said the study marks the first step in the process with a focus on a review of the current structure. The Lodge accommodates 163 residents in a building designed and constructed to standards acceptable in the early 1990s, classifying it as a “B” level facility. Although the buildings are in good shape, the facility must be rebuilt or redeveloped to meet current design standards by 2025. The feasibility study was completed by Dredge Leahy Architects Inc. between November 2018 and March 2019. It included determining if the existing facility can be renovated to meet the standards, providing estimates and sample floor plans for renovations, and providing estimates to construct a new facility if need be. The consultants explained that mechanical and electrical engineers found systems at the Lodge are mostly past their useful life and require significant upgrades that would be too significant to make redevelopment feasible. As well, redevelopment of the current structure was deemed not feasible from a cost/benefit standpoint due to significant additional costs for phasing, moves, operations, design variance and temporary bed closures. “It is unlikely the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care would approve this option as it would require significant design variances and does not allow for any growth,” Ms. Bingley said. A partial redevelopment/partial new build is a possible option, but a new build and repurposing the existing structure was recommended by the consultant. Before proceeding, Ms. Bingley is seeking a formal vision from council regarding the long-term future and management of Lanark Lodge, as well as input from Lanark Lodge residents, families, staff, management and the public. She also cited a need for current data regarding the demand for long-term care and the ability to pay for it, and indicated pending provincial legislation could significantly affect redevelopment options and responsibilities. Multi-public or private-public partnerships may be mandated under the new legislation, she said, which means obligations and requirements to operate a municipal long-term care home may change significantly. “The decision regarding renewal of the county facility will have a long-term impact on all Lanark County residents with respect to the growing demand for long-term care and the significant cost to taxpayers to fund it,” she said, noting redevelopment could range between \$73 and \$76 million. She said hiring a consultant to provide all the options in light of pending provincial legislation will help to assess unknown factors. “This will be one of the biggest decisions made by this council in decades,” Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) said. Council has directed staff to issue a request for proposal to hire a consultant to complete an analysis of all options pertaining to redevelopment pending the imminent passage of expected provincial legislation. For more information, contact Jennie Bingley, Interim Director of Long-Term Care, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 7101.
- **Lanark Lodge Air Conditioning Upgrades Planned:** Council approved a motion authorizing a request for quotations up to \$100,000 for air conditioning upgrades at Lanark Lodge to the areas most in need. In a report to the community services committee earlier this month, Interim Director of Long-Term Care Jennie Bingley explained the Lodge is currently compliant with requirements around air conditioning, but the age of the facility and extreme heat and humidity experienced in recent summers have made for less-than-ideal conditions. The Lodge has a plan for hot weather-related illness prevention and management and, because it does not have central air conditioning, has designated cooling areas for residents. The upgrades, she explained, take needs and costs in

account while considering the long-term plan for redevelopment of the facility. The upgrade would involve installing electrical air conditioning units in common areas. It is expected to improve air conditioning to resident and staff areas by increasing air flow in the hallways and staff work areas while using strategic ceiling fans to maximize cool air flow into resident rooms. Each unit would serve three areas and can be installed with little or no disruption to residents. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care must pre-approve the work. Ms. Bingley explained other options investigated would be much more costly and disruptive to residents. For more information, contact Jennie Bingley, Interim Director of Long-Term Care, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 7101.

- **Signing Lease with Cabinscape:** Council approved a by-law to execute a lease agreement with Cabinscape Inc. In November, company representatives presented to the economic development committee regarding their proposal to place a temporary cabin on vacant county property in Tay Valley adjacent to the Tay-Havelock Trail. CAO Kurt Greaves reported staff and Cabinscape worked with their lawyers and insurers to develop a draft lease. The cost to the county is to build parking spaces for guests. The lease will be a long-term income generator for taxpayers. The endeavour is expected to encourage direct tourism and promotion of Lanark County trails. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Funds Approved for Situation Table:** Council has passed a motion to provide funds for the Lanark County Situation Table Project in the amount of \$20,000 up to the end of 2019. This follows a presentation by Coordinator Stephanie Gray and Lanark County OPP Insp. Derek Needham at the community services committee meeting earlier this month. The situation table has been operating since December 2015 and is a privacy-protective, risk-intervention tool that brings front-line agencies together to intervene and assist referred individuals who are at an acutely elevated level of risk. The project was also instrumental in the coordination of the Community Plan for Safety and Well-being for Lanark County and Smiths Falls, which has since been mandated by the province and has been adopted by six out of nine local municipalities so far. Ms. Gray noted the high level of collaboration and dedication amongst participating agencies in both aspects of the program to help vulnerable populations and address prevalent risk factors in the community. Insp. Needham explained the project has been supported by provincial grants since it began, and a contingency is needed to cover costs until further provincial or other funding is secured. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Transfers to Reserves Approved:** Council has approved the 2018 transfers to and from reserves following a report to the corporate services committee earlier this month. Interim Treasurer Kevin Wills provided an updated schedule of reserve balances and outlined the 2018 surplus of more than \$1.1 million for the county. The surplus was generated in various departments by additional subsidies, revenues, shared services, and more. In addition, the Lanark County Housing Corporation (LCHC) experienced a surplus of \$893,341, which will be transferred into the capital reserve for future use. That surplus came from savings in utilities due to the impact of the Fair Hydro Act and the closing of the Joseph/Edward Pattie social housing site, as well as furnace and hot water tank buyouts and savings in wages and benefits from restructuring. For the county surplus, \$500,000 will be allocated to reserves for Lanark Lodge capital, \$357,821 to social housing, \$250,000 to forestry and trails, and \$21,403 to planning. The total Lanark County reserve balance at the end of 2018 is \$20 million, and LCHC has \$2 million. "Maintaining adequate reserves is important for managing operations, smoothing the tax levy and replacing the county's assets,

which have a replacement cost valued at more than \$400 million,” Mr. Wills said. CAO Kurt Greaves commended Mr. Wills for his diligence in pursuing the savings. For more information, contact Kevin Wills, Interim Treasurer, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1323.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, May 8, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, May 8 (following County Council); Corporate Services, May 8 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, May 22, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, May 22 (following County Council); Economic Development, May 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!

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