

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

- **Council Sets 2019 Taxation Policies:** Council has passed by-laws related to 2019 taxation policy, including tax ratios and levy apportionment to local municipalities. Council passed the 2019 budget in January with a levy of \$34.6 million and a net tax increase of 2.2 per cent, which is collected through the towns and townships. In a presentation to council, CAO Kurt Greaves explained 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). “The recommendation from the Lanark County treasurers is to again adopt revenue neutral tax ratios,” Mr. Greaves explained. “This ensures that reassessment does not shift the tax burden between the tax classes.” The county will refund its portion of landfill taxation to local municipalities, which was a new property tax and tax ratio introduced in 2017. Mr. Greaves noted the number of properties affected by the capping rebates following reassessment continues to decline and there are capping options available to allow municipalities to slowly reduce the number of properties in capping/claw-back situations. He said the recommendation is to adopt all the provisions to eliminate capping in the near future. The current value assessment for Lanark County is almost \$9 billion, with the residential class paying 85.6 per cent of the taxes. 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.
- **Public Meeting Planned for Perth Official Plan Amendment:** Council passed a motion to hold a public meeting and to notify affected agencies concerning proposed amendments to the county’s Sustainable Communities Official Plan (SCOP) and Perth’s official plan. In reports to the economic development committee last month, County Planner Julie Stewart explained the Town of Perth has undertaken a comprehensive review of its official plan, including studies and initiatives that support growth and development of the town and expansion of its urban settlement boundary. This affects lands north of Hwy. 7, strategic population projections, servicing and storm water master plans and studies, sewage lagoon upgrades, and a planning justification report. An official plan amendment would permit the planned expansion of the town’s urban settlement boundary for additional residential development consistent with the county’s population allocation of 8,085. The county’s official plan amendment is being processed concurrently with the town’s in order to update the population allocation to local municipalities, including Perth. The county’s amendment removes historical and projected population numbers for the municipalities and replaces them with numbers resulting from a comprehensive review and consultation with staff and county council representatives. The amendments require public and agency consultation under the Planning Act. The public meeting will take place on May 22 at 6 p.m. in County Council Chambers (99 Christie Lake Road). For more information, contact Julie Stewart, County Planner, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1520.
- **Improvements Coming to Tay-Havelock Trail:** Council has approved spending up to \$25,000 from the trails reserve for improvements to the Tay-Havelock Trail, including building a parking area, completing surface improvements, improving drainage and installing two gates. Lanark County owns 25.2 kilometres of the east section of the trail from Glen Tay to the Frontenac border. The

upgrades would provide parking for guests using the recently approved Cabinscape site, as well as six to eight spots for day users. Surface improvements on the trail will continue, and drainage improvements will be conducted to help prevent flooding in several areas that are regularly affected. Gates will prevent cars and trucks from accessing the trail. The upgrades will be in the vicinity of Armstrong Line near Maberly in Tay Valley Township. The improvements will help prepare for summer use on the trail. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, May 22, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, May 22 (following County Council); Economic Development, May 22 (following Public Works). **County Council, Wednesday, June 12, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, June 12 (following County Council); Corporate Services, June 12 (following Community Services). 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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