

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Nov. 13.

- **2020 Warden and Committee Chair Nominations Announced:** Council has accepted a nomination report for the positions of 2020 warden and committee chairs. The report was presented at the close of close of nominations during the council meeting. This marks a change from previous years as a result of amendments to the procedural by-law, which now include a requirement for a nomination period prior to the inaugural meeting. Nominations open on Nov. 1 and must be submitted within 10 days, with council receiving a report on valid nominations at the first regular council meeting in November. If an election is required, voting is by secret ballot at the second meeting in November (Nov. 27). The official swearing-in ceremony takes place at the inaugural meeting on the first Tuesday of December (Dec. 3). Standing for election as warden will be Councillors Brian Campbell (Tay Valley Reeve) and Peter McLaren (Lanark Highlands Reeve). Standing for community services committee chair are Councillors Rickey Minnille (Mississippi Mills Deputy Mayor) and Sharon Mousseau (Beckwith Deputy Reeve). Acclaimed chairs include Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) for corporate services chair, Councillor John Fenik (Perth Mayor) for economic development and Councillor Klaas Van Der Meer (Montague Deputy Reeve) for public works. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk/Deputy CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.

- **County Road Access Policy Approved:** Council has passed a by-law approving an updated Access to County Roads Policy. The initial policy was created in 1976 to control the construction of entrances on county roads, and a more comprehensive policy was adopted in 2004. At the public works committee of the whole meeting last month, Public Works Business Manager Janet Tysick explained that with land available for development becoming more restricted, causing lots to be created in areas that would not have been previously considered, unique locations are causing an increase in complex entrance applications. “Some entrance applications cannot be approved due solely to spacing of adjacent entrances,” she explained, noting the amendments still focus on road safety, road efficiency and local site condition criteria, but include minor changes to take current standards and neighbouring policies into consideration. In addition to procedural and housekeeping changes, major amendments include spacing to adjacent entrances, entrance design specifications and quality of entrance construction. An updated fee structure will better ensure costs are recovered from the applicant for time spent by county staff administering and inspecting entrances. “Responsibility for entrance installations and maintenance is solely the applicant’s and all costs are borne by the applicant,” Ms. Tysick said. For more information, contact Janet Tysick, Public Works Business Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3110.

- **National Housing Day Proclaimed:** Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) proclaimed Nov. 22, 2019 to be National Housing Day in Lanark County to recognize “the many individuals and organizations that play an important role in providing safe, secure and affordable housing opportunities to those in need.” The proclamation indicates the lack of affordable, stable and available housing in the county affects the well-being of all residents, including the most vulnerable and low-income households, and limits their ability to fully participate and contribute in the community. The day has been designated by the federal government to commemorate housing partnerships that contribute to the social and economic health of Canadians. The goal is to raise awareness about local housing issues while striving for effective solutions. “The day is an opportunity to remind us there is still much work to do to ensure that all residents have access to

safe and healthy homes that help to build strong, local communities,” Mr. Kidd said, adding the county is committed to working with the federal and provincial governments, as well as private and non-profit housing organizations to deliver positive housing outcomes. For more information, contact Shawna Stone, Housing Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2401.

- **County to Seek Climate Action Plan Funds:** Council has passed a motion to apply to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to obtain funding from their Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program to advance and develop a climate action plan. This comes following a large delegation at the economic development committee meeting last month, with a presentation by Gord Harrison of the Lanark County Stewardship Council. The stewardship council created the Climate Action Network (Smiths Falls/Lanark County) earlier this year, and one of the group’s priorities is to support the county in securing the FCM funding. “Climate change has become the defining issue of our time,” Mr. Harrison said. “It is critical that at this time we address the issue.” He highlighted concerns about climate change, including increases in ticks, extreme weather events, risks to maple syrup production and water levels in local watersheds. FCM’s Partners for Climate Protection Program provides step-by-step guidance on developing a climate action plan. Perth and Tay Valley Township have both started the process, which Mr. Harrison noted can be integrated with a county plan. Lanark County became a member of the program in 2015. Funding would allow for the county to create a greenhouse gas inventory, establish emission reduction targets and develop a local action plan. Warden Richard Kidd (Beckwith Reeve) said a climate action plan falls within the county’s strategic plan. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk/Deputy CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** Special Corporate Services (Budget), Friday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. **County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Nov. 27 (following County Council); Economic Development, Nov. 27 (following Public Works). **Lanark County Inaugural Meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m. County Council, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Dec. 4 (following County Council); Services, Dec. 4 (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!