

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Oct. 28.

- **Lanark Lodge to Purchase Trishaw:** Council has approved the purchase of a “trishaw” for Lanark Lodge as part of the Cycling Without Age program. A trishaw is a small, light, three-wheeled vehicle pedaled by an operator that can carry two passengers. In December, council authorized program volunteers to register with the Lodge and be covered by the county’s liability insurance. The group has purchased its first trishaw through fundraising, which is being used to pilot the program in Lanark County and promote the benefits of cycling with seniors. At the community services committee meeting earlier this month, Lanark Lodge Director Jennie Bingley explained the home is eager to purchase its own trishaw to be used by staff and future volunteers to take residents out on county property. “Our location is ideal for safe travel and will be a safe outing between residents and staff.” Bingley said staff and volunteers will be trained on using the trishaw, and appropriate permissions from residents and staff will be secured before use. The home is agreeable to sharing the trishaw with other community members on a pre-scheduled basis. The vehicle will be purchased in late 2020 or early 2021 to ensure it is ready for use in the spring and be stored at the Lodge. Bingley noted the Cycling Without Age organization is striving to give all seniors in Lanark County access to trishaw rides, and the Lodge will work with the group to promote the program. The purchase would be for \$10,000 or less and would come from the Lanark Lodge donation account. Donations will be encouraged to offset the expenditure. For more information, contact Jennie Bingley, Director of Lanark Lodge, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 7101.
- **Council Discusses Amended Procedures for Warden/Committee Chair Election:** Council discussed revised procedures related to the upcoming election of warden and committee chairs due to COVID-19 and the possibility that an in-person election will be difficult. With the second wave of the pandemic underway, council decided to revert to virtual meetings, with a hybrid model as a secondary option. Clerk/Deputy CAO Leslie Drynan explained neither format would allow council to adhere to the current election process if an election by secret ballot (as opposed to acclamations) is required. In the revised process, the clerk will accept nominations by e-mail between Nov. 1 and noon on Nov. 17. Nominees must have a mover and seconder, both of whom must e-mail the clerk indicating support for the candidate and copying each other and the nominee. At the Nov. 18 council meeting, council will receive a report on the valid nominations. If an election is required, council has opted to conduct a modified in-person meeting with safety procedures in place to allow for paper ballots to be used. The parameters of the accommodations will be brought back to council prior to the election. The inaugural meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. Ceremonial aspects, such as transferring chain of office and presenting the Past Warden’s pin, will be deferred until the first available opportunity to reconvene in person. For more information, contact Leslie Drynan, Clerk/Deputy CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502.
- **Cost-Sharing Agreement with Smiths Falls Adopted:** Council has approved the adoption of a new cost-sharing agreement for joint services with the Town of Smiths Falls, effective Jan. 1, 2020. At the corporate services committee meeting earlier this month, Treasurer Kevin Wills explained the county received notice of reassessments from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for the audit period of Jan. 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2017. CRA indicated the county must charge HST on costs being shared with the Town of Smiths Falls, which is a separated town and not part of the county. Wills explained the town, as a municipal organization, does not receive a rebate from CRA for all of the HST paid, which means the county charging HST will result in a net cost to the town. He indicated county

finance staff and the county's auditor do not agree with CRA's position and have filed a notice of objection, which was received by CRA but has not yet resulted in further communication. Wills said the new agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel for the county and the town, and added the objection is based on CRA documents indicating there is not a requirement to charge HST on cost-sharing arrangements if one of the parties is a delivery agent. Lanark County has acted as delivery agent for Smiths Falls for many years for social services and long-term care. "Adopting the agreement will provide notice to interested parties that the county is the delivery agent for the Town of Smiths Falls in respect of applicable cost-sharing programs," he said. For more information, contact Kevin Wills, Treasurer, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1323.

- **Council Receives Update on Priorities:** At the corporate services committee meeting earlier this month, CAO Kurt Greaves provided councillors with an update on 10 priorities set at the start of their current term. First was the redevelopment of Lanark Lodge by June 2025. Engineering and design is slated to be part of 2022 budget deliberations, and Greaves noted the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus is conducting a detailed analysis of long-term care throughout the region. Social housing redevelopment is another priority, which is part of the county's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Greaves said some best practices have been identified from the current build in Carleton Place. The third priority is cell and Internet expansion, which is part of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's (EORN) cell project now moving forward with private and public partners. EORN is working on the "gig to the home" component for broadband Internet, and the county is lobbying for greater access to utility poles to ease the process. For the hospital funding priority, Greaves noted the 2021 draft budget will mark the third year of providing hospital funding (\$350,000 each year) for capital and equipment. Climate and environment is another priority. Activities have included bringing on a climate environmental coordinator and several projects related to planting trees, insulating homes, electric vehicles, banning plastic bags, car-pooling, participating in Partners for Climate Protection, turtle nest box awareness and pollinator programs, and increased social media presence. The trail promotion priority has included increased parking, the Alameda Project in Almonte, the Warden's Slow Roll for United Way and an Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail Promotion Committee. For the invasive species priority, work continues regarding phragmites and wild parsnip control, as well as education on gypsy moths. Earlier this year council adopted projects for the modernization funding priority, including support for EOWC regional initiatives, the climate action plan, digitization of the social services filing system and online tenant and housing applications for social housing, energy efficiency upgrades to social housing units, and consulting services for a Lanark Lodge review. Staff recruitment for the health-care sector is another priority, and Greaves outlined efforts to recruit staff, including ensuring Lanark Lodge is an employer of choice. The county continues to work with the Town of Perth on the arterial road priority. The final priority relates to budget goals, including maintaining consistent levy increases (about 3 per cent) and sustainable funding for capital assets, as well as increasing efficiency to lower operating costs, building reserves to mitigate borrowing and only borrowing for long-term capital assets. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Nov. 18 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Nov. 18 (following Community Services). **Special Corporate Services (Budget), Friday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. County Council, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Nov. 25 (following County Council); Economic Development, Nov. 25 (following Public Works). Watch for details about public access to meetings on agendas and

through online notifications. For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!

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