

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, March 8.

- **Weed Inspector Appointed:** Council has approved a by-law appointing Ken Gilpin as the Lanark County Weed Inspector for a five-year term (2017 to 2021). Upper-tier and single-tier municipalities must appoint an area weed inspector under the Weed Control Act by April 1 each year to perform duties related to controlling the infestation of noxious and harmful weeds. Mr. Gilpin has served in the position since 2015. In a report to the public works committee, Janet Tysick, business manager, said Mr. Gilpin has been accessible and answered questions in a timely manner that could not be handled in house. “Utilizing the services of an active weed inspector ensures services are undertaken in a timely manner, utilizing state-of-the-art principles and taking current legislation into account.” Calls related to weeds are received by public works administrative staff, who then use work order software to track relevant information and, if needed, issue the work order to the weed inspector to conduct a site visit and take necessary actions. Compensation is only applicable if a work order is assigned. Council has approved a five-year term, which staff indicate will allow the weed inspector to become familiar with the geographic area and ongoing specific areas of concern, as well as reduce administrative costs related to annual agreement renewals. For more information, contact Janet Tysick, Business Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3110.
- **Source Water Protection Policies Approved:** As part of its economic development committee report, council passed motions related to official plan amendments for the Town of Perth and Beckwith, Drummond/North Elmsley and Montague townships for source water protection policies. David Krajaefski, senior planner with Stantec Consulting Ltd., performed municipal plan review services for the county prior to the adoption by council. The amendments reflect Theme 12 in the county’s Sustainable Communities Official Plan, which states “Our community protects and improves local water quality.” The source water protection policies define the applicable areas in each municipality and indicate the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan is to be consulted when community development areas are expanded. There are also stipulations related to risk management and intake protection. The Source Protection Plan came into effect in 2015 and includes policies to protect drinking water sources located within local municipalities. The Clean Water Act, 2006, requires that the focus be on the protection of shared municipal drinking water sources, such as the Mississippi, Tay and Rideau rivers and other vulnerable areas that protect groundwater aquifers for municipal drinking water. With the approval of these four official plan amendments, all municipalities in Lanark County that depend upon municipal drinking water now have adopted and approved policies. For more information, contact Mary Kirkham, Planning Administrator, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1520.
- **Paved Shoulder Program Proceeding Well:** Council received an information report from the public works committee regarding the ongoing county roads paved shoulder program, which was approved in principle in 2013. By the end of 2016, about 149 kilometres or 27 per cent of the county road system had paved shoulders completed. The report indicated from 2014 to 2017, paved shoulder locations were determined by concentrating on road resurfacing or rehabilitation project areas. Starting in 2018, construction debt repayments will finish, which means shoulders on roads that are not within the five-year road resurfacing or rehabilitation program could be added. The report indicated roads will be selected taking continuity into consideration, which is expected to result in about 310 km, or just over half of the entire system, completed by the end of 2020. The public works department aims to complete the entire program during the 2025 construction season.

The report notes upfront costs to pave shoulders are high, but benefits are already being seen. Of note, plowing is easier in winter and wing edges on plows are lasting longer; safety is increased year-round for cars, cyclists and pedestrians; and shoulder grading and gravel application needs are reduced. It is also anticipated the number of claims related to gravel on the roadway will reduce over time as more shoulders are paved. The report adds if the county is successful in attaining extra funds from other sources related to active transportation, public safety and/or health, county costs may be reduced and the timeline for the program may be expedited. For more information, contact Janet Tysick, Business Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3110.

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