

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Feb. 14.

- **Council Endorses Transit Recommendations:** Council has authorized the striking committee to develop terms of reference for a permanent transit committee following a series of recommendations from the Transit Advisory Group (TAG). As well, it authorized using \$25,000 of provincial gas tax funding to support the recommendations. Last month, TAG Chair Councillor Jane Torrance (Mississippi Mills) presented the summary of findings and recommendations to the economic development committee. The group began meeting last year to review the “Rural Transportation Issues and Options for Lanark County” consultants’ report and develop options for an action plan. TAG consisted of representatives from stakeholder groups, transportation operators, county councillors, staff and community members and heard from several delegations that provide service or support vulnerable populations. Various sources have found transportation to be a number one challenge for families. TAG found many organizations and businesses are offering similar transportation services, but in a siloed approach, and that current options are not well publicized. It learned Lanark Transportation Association has rebranded, purchased new dispatching software and is willing to review its mandate, which could present an opportunity to obtain increased provincial gas tax funding. Smiths Falls is interested in being involved and OC Transpo has some routes that service parts of Lanark County. TAG recommended increased communications, including a media campaign, advertising, website promotions and education. A fixed route pilot project is planned, with Lanark Transportation Association working with Lanark Highlands on a route through Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley Township and Perth. TAG also recommended the permanent transit committee be established to guide future projects and continue conversations; that an intern be hired to work on ridership development and to help coordinate existing services, investigate grant opportunities and more; and that technology-based/dynamic solutions be investigated for transit. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

Support for Climate Innovation Application: Council has passed a motion to support the Mills Community Support’s application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Climate Innovation program and to use \$10,000 from contingency reserves to support the initiative. The county will work with The Mills and the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit to develop a comprehensive climate change adaption and mitigation plan. Jeff Mills and Patricia Larkin of The Mills made a presentation about the project to the economic development committee last month. CAO Kurt Greaves also reported on the proposal, noting the FCM program is a “five-year, \$75-million program that helps municipalities prepare for and adapt to climate change, and to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.” It is delivered by FCM and funded the Government of Canada funds up to 80 per cent off eligible expenses. The program has a focus on infrastructure and can help municipalities by raising awareness of climate change, providing technical expertise, funding municipal projects and sharing knowledge. The Mills would be the lead in the project to develop a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan, which would include identifying local and regional hazards and risk issues for vulnerable populations and developing a plan to assist residents. For climate change mitigation, The Mills would be looking at housing and transportation specifically for greenhouse gas emission reductions and to prepare for climate change. “What is of interest to Lanark County is to understand the vulnerability to local climate change risks and identify priority areas for action that could be replicated for other agencies and county activities, both in terms of adaptation and mitigation,” Mr. Greaves said. The application ties into the county’s Sustainable

Communities Official Plan and would have benefits to all county residents. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Feb. 21 (following County Council); Economic Development, Feb. 21 (following Public Works). **County Council, Wednesday, March 14, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, March 14 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Feb. 14 (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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