

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meetings held Wednesday, Jan. 22.

- **Council Approves Allocations for Municipal Modernization Funding:** Council has approved a motion to endorse in principle the allocation of \$725,000 in provincial funding for the Municipal Modernization fund. In March 2019, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced the allocations to “transform service delivery and identify more modern, efficient ways of operating.” In a presentation to the corporate services committee earlier this month, CAO Kurt Greaves explained it is an unconditional grant and “represents a great opportunity to jump start projects that will make an improvement on service delivery, municipal operations and community well-being.” Projects identified by the management team for funding include \$10,000 for the Eastern Ontario Warden’s Caucus for regional initiatives (matched by the other 12 municipalities); \$200,000 to jump start the county’s Climate Action Plan; \$75,000 to digitize the social services department filing system; \$40,000 to enable online submission of tenant information and social housing applications; \$100,000 for one-year consulting services for long-term care; and \$300,000 for energy efficiency upgrades towards new or existing social housing. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Council Moves Forward on Climate Action:** Council has approved a number of activities from the draft work plan outline for a “Lanark County Climate Action Plan” presented by CAO Kurt Greaves at the corporate services committee meeting earlier this month. The county recognized protecting and enhancing the natural environment as one of its core strategies in its 2005 Strategic Plan, and in 2019 established climate/environment as one of the top five priorities for its term. “Global warming and environmental degradation have become the defining challenges of the 21st Century,” Greaves said in his report. “We need a multitude of solutions to reach a level of sustainability. It is imperative that a holistic approach be adopted by everyone to move forward.” Initial goals in the work plan include moving forward with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection Program, researching best practices, implementing programs to make immediate positive impacts and establishing long-term goals and program initiatives. Initial projects will be funded under the Municipal Modernization Fund, and the county’s Climate Action Plan would be inclusive of current local-tier plans and would cover those municipalities without a plan. The approved report includes hiring a summer student dedicated to moving forward with the Partners for Climate Protection Program, \$25,000 for an “Insulate Lanark” program to help people insulate their homes, \$2,500 for funding tree-planting programs in coordination with the local conservation authorities, and authorizing a new position (Climate/Environmental Services Coordinator) to begin this autumn. Greaves added these initiatives are “designed to help build momentum on moving climate action projects forward.” For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.
- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Feb. 5 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Feb. 5 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 5 p.m.;** Public Works, Feb. 19 (following County Council); Economic Development, Feb. 19 (following Public Works). 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!