

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, March 22.

- **CHPI Funding Plan Approved:** Council has approved the 2017/2018 Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative plan for using funding provided by the provincial Ministry of Housing. In a report to the community services committee earlier this month, Social Housing Manager Sandy Grey explained the ministry provides an annual allocation of funds for the program, which is designed to help people experiencing homelessness to obtain and retain housing, and to help people who are at risk of homelessness to remain housed. The allocation for 2017/2018 is \$1.2 million and the county, as a service manager, must submit an annual investment plan that aligns with its Ten-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. This year's allocation includes an increase in allowable administration costs due to an additional requirement that service managers conduct an annual enumeration of homeless residents. The enumeration plan must be submitted in June. Ms. Grey explained CHPI plans must address four provincial homelessness priorities: chronic homelessness, youth, indigenous persons and homelessness following transitions from provincially funded institutions and service systems. Lanark County's plan for 2017/2018 includes the enumeration and administration component (\$186,932); emergency shelter solutions, including hotel stays and an after-hours contract (\$20,000); housing with related supports, including hostels, deposits for rent and utilities, and transition beds (\$530,000); services and supports, such as staff, backpacks/self-care kits, minor home repair, food/gas cards, transportation, hoarding expenses and a public awareness event (\$114,000); and homelessness prevention services, including eviction prevention/arrears (\$395,280). Ms. Grey noted the provincial vision for CHPI is "people centred, evidence informed and outcomes based, and reflects a Housing First approach that focuses on homelessness prevention and reduces reliance on emergency services." For more information, contact Sandy Grey, Social Housing Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2401.
- **New Affordable Housing Units Coming to Carleton Place:** Council has passed a motion authorizing the warden and CAO to award a contract to Blackrock Properties Equity Inc. to provide nine units of affordable housing in Carleton Place at a cost of \$1.2 million. Once a tax rate rebate is confirmed with the Town of Carleton Place and a contribution agreement signed for the funds before the end of this year, construction will commence. Social Housing Manager Sandy Grey presented a report to the community services committee earlier this month outlining the results of a request for proposals issued in November for the affordable housing units. Four proposals were received from two bidders. The accepted proposal includes constructing a new 12-unit seniors' apartment building in Carleton Place with nine units exclusively dedicated to affordable housing and three potentially available for alternate social housing. The building is to be located on a 0.6-acre site at the corner of Lake and McNeely avenues and is expected to take about 14 months to complete. The building would include five one-bedroom affordable units, four two-bedroom affordable units and three two-bedroom market units, with rents ranging from \$517 to \$925 per month. The total capital cost of the project is estimated at \$2.1 million, with \$1.2 million coming from the Social Infrastructure Funding, which is an allocation from the federal and provincial governments. Ms. Grey noted this project will increase the stock of affordable housing in Carleton Place. For more information, contact Sandy Grey, Social Housing Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 2401.
- **Lanark Lodge Quality Improvement Plan Approved:** Council has approved the 2017/2018 Quality Improvement (QIP), which is part of a requirement of the Long-Term Care Home Service Accountability Agreement between Lanark Lodge and the South-East Local Health Integration

Network for 2016-2019. Lanark Lodge Director Deborah Pidgeon presented a status update on the plan at the community services committee meeting earlier this month, which outlined the home's performance for 2016/2017. She explained the plans are intended to be key to driving health care quality in an organization and help the home to clearly communicate its commitment to care and services while meeting a requirement under the Excellence for Care Act. The progress report outlines areas with a high rate of success, consistent success, and areas for ongoing work. Several goals were exceeded. "We have met with residents, families, staff and as a leadership team to identify performance targets and strategies for change," Ms. Pidgeon said. "There has been a significant amount of work completed on key indicators, most notably a reduction in restraint utilization and the use of anti-psychotic medications. There is continued work on a number of key indicators, which engages front-line staff, residents and families in quality improvement activities to advance resident care and services." The progress report and the plan for 2017/2018 will be submitted for review and approval by April 1. For more information, contact Deborah Pidgeon, Director of Lanark Lodge, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 7101.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, April 12, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, April 12 (following County Council); Corporate Services, April 12 (following Community Services). **County Council, Wednesday, April 26, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, April 26 (following County Council); Public Works, April 26 (following Economic Development). 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!