

United Counties of Leeds and Grenville



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 19, 2009

Here are the highlights from the regular United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Council meeting held Nov. 19.

Warden Reflects on Year: Warden Mel Campbell thanked councillors and staff for their support and for a memorable term and offered his assistance to the incoming warden. "I have enjoyed every day of this office and hope that I have fulfilled your expectations." He added he has had the opportunity to more fully appreciate the counties' administration, and commended the staff for their direction and dedication. "All counties staff have been supportive and professional – from all divisional perspectives this council should take pride in and appreciate such a focused organization," he said. "Again, thank you, one and all, for this notable year in which we have faced a number of challenges, made important decisions and moved forward." The inaugural meeting is slated for Dec. 9. Westport Mayor Bill Thake has declared his intention to seek the warden's position for 2010. For more information, contact Lesley Todd, Clerk, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2304.

Winter Maintenance Policy Adopted: Council adopted a winter maintenance procedure report that documents the counties' approach over the last several years and has been endorsed as a formal policy. It includes items such as a fleet inventory and capacity, which documents the level of equipment and the associated level of service; minimum maintenance standards and decision-making markers based on representative sections of road. It will also cover those under contract with the counties. In terms of monitoring weather for decision making, the counties will be using Environment Canada's updates and will assess pavement temperature versus air temperature using patrol trucks equipped with pavement thermometers. The provincial transportation ministry's activities will also be monitored. The document is available to local municipalities. For more information, contact Leslie Shepherd, Director of Works, Planning Services and Asset Management, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2412.

Seeking Closure Delay: The counties will be sending a letter to the provincial health minister requesting a delay of at least one year in the closure of transition beds at the Brockville Mental Health Centre. This would give displaced staff a realistic opportunity to find alternative employment once an anticipated economic recovery has begun. It would also allow for alternative plans to be formalized for the site as well as for developing treatment facility plans for inmates with mental health issues. The letter will be sent to the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, MPP Bob Runciman, Ontario Public Service Employees Union representative Warren Thomas, the South East LHIN and the City of Brockville. For more information, contact Lesley Todd, Clerk, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2304.

Interim Manager Named: Director of Human Services Dorothy Theobald informed council an interim manager has been contracted for the counties' long-term care home, Maple View Lodge. Dave Hunter, a local health consultant, will take the position until a full hiring process occurs. Mr. Hunter has extensive experience in the health-care field, working at a large facility in Windsor and at the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital, and he has been previously employed as a senior administrator. For more information, contact Dorothy Theobald, Director of Human Services, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2293.

Consultations Continue: The counties is working with a steering committee of local fire chiefs and consultant Bill Anderson to review the existing fire communications system regarding upgrades and future needs. A report has been approved in principle by the joint services committee and steering committee representatives are visiting local councils to review the findings. It is proposed costs for upgrades would be shared between the local municipalities and the counties based on the responsibilities each jurisdiction holds. Approvals will be sought before proceeding. For more information, contact Steven Silver, Counties CAO, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2301.

Upcoming Meetings – Joint Services Sub-committee, Dec. 1; Public Works, Dec. 2; Governance and Finance, Dec. 3; Inaugural session, Dec. 9; Joint Services Committee, Dec. 16; Counties Council, Dec. 17. All meetings begin at 9 a.m. in the council chambers, 25 Central Ave. W., Brockville, unless otherwise noted. *Please note: Non-emergency delegations are heard at committee meetings.* For more information contact 613-342-3840, ext. 2304.