**Municipality of Lakeland Ridges**

Special Budget Meeting Minutes

January 10th, 2025

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Leonard Foster

 Councillor Perry Bull

 Councillor Linda Porter

 Councillor Randy Stairs

 Councillor Gary Grant

**ABSENT:** Deputy Mayor Stairs

Councillor Patti Budd
 Councillor Chris Yerxa

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** Susan Patterson – CAO/Clerk

**ABSENT:** Lana Sharpe - Treasurer

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** The public meeting was scheduled for 9:30am. Mayor Foster and council wanted to meet privately for discussions before allowing the public to sit in. Mayor Foster asked those in attendance to leave and return for 11:30am. Council then went into closed session to discuss the budget. Members of the public returned and Mayor Foster called the public portion of the meeting to order at 11:45am.

**2. BUDGET:** Susie explained that the 2023 audit was still not complete so the surplus values were projected amounts based on the Treasurer’s input, year end surpluses within the 2023 budget and numbers from the previous year (2022). Many expenses are set amounts based on contracts. Council had a few budget meetings previously where they decided all other expenses. The budget, as presented would see tax rates increase by over 25% in a couple subunits, hardly any change in a few subunits and a decrease of around 10% in another. A number of councillor's questioned how Debec Outside and Inside subunits had a tax rate increase of 28% and 26% respectively. Due to the time crunch of having to have the budget in by noon, council went with the figures that were presented to them. Susie suggested reallocating the Community Funding Grant, like done in the two previous years, to help even out the tax rates. Council disagreed and decided to leave the amounts as is.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Grant to transfer the 2023 surplus of $177,960 to the Capital Reserve account based on the current figures. This number is subject to change based on the actual numbers that our accountant will provide once the audit is complete.

All in favour.

Motion carried #0-2025

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Porter to approve the 2025 budget in the amount of $2,896,329 with a warrant of $2,448,214.

All in favour.

Motion carried #00-2025

**4. Questions or comments from the public:** Mayor Foster addressed the public and asked if there were any questions or comments? Barb Glanville, a resident from Ward 4 (Skiff Lake), expressed her concerns regarding EMO. She mentioned a messaging system that could be used to inform residents of important information and updates. Greg Grant, a resident of Ward 1 (Second Eel River Lake), requested that next year council hold public budget meetings well in advance of the budget, so the public could have input on what they would like to see, and not wait until the final hour.

**3. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

 Regular meeting on Monday, January 13th at 7pm in council chambers.

**7. ADJOURNMENT** at 1:03pm

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 Mayor CAO/Clerk