

Municipality of Lakeland Ridges
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
January 27th, 2025

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Leonard Foster
Deputy Mayor Ross Stairs
Councillor Perry Bull
Councillor Linda Porter
Councillor Patti Budd
Councillor Randy Stairs
Councillor Chris Yerxa
Councillor Gary Grant

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Patterson – CAO/Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Foster called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 pm

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: It was moved by Deputy Mayor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Grant to approve the agenda with the addition of the Canterbury Fire Department station.

All in favor.

Motion carried #05-2025

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Stairs to approve the minutes of the January 13th regular meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried #06-2025

5. OLD BUSINESS

a) **Website** – Councillor's Porter, Budd & Bull updated council on the meeting held with Out Reach Productions on January 23. Many of their questions were answered. Several upgrades to the website were discussed. A quote will be provided for the requested upgrades and for the possibility of adding a video & photography option. Councillor

Budd said she has been in contact with a local resident who has drone video, photos, etc. and he may be able to provide these to the municipality at a lower cost.

b) Budget – The due date set by ELG to have the 2025 budget submitted was November 29, 2024. Due to several challenges, including not having the 2023 completed, this date was not met. With the government offices being closed over Christmas and not reopening until January 6, 2025, we were told we had until Friday, January 10th to get the budget submitted. Susie explained that the budget was in fact submitted on Friday, January 10th. However, due to the last-minute changes made on the morning of Monday, January 13, the resolution numbers no longer matched the totals of the budget. This would require getting council together to pass a new resolution, have the mayor sign and get it sent in. This could not be done in time. Therefore, the Minister set the tax rates. The set rates saw each subunit's rates increase by \$0.135. With the set rates, a few changes had to be made so each subunit equaled the set rate. None of the expenses previously approved were changed. The three biggest changes were: the fire service agreements were set back to the ones originally provided by the province, a transfer to was made to the operating reserve in the amount of \$98,600 and adjusting the allocation of the community funding grant between the subunits.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Grant to approve the 2025 Budget, based on the set tax rates, as presented.

Yay votes – 7

Nay votes – Councillor Bull. Reason: frustration with the whole budget situation and did not agree with the fire service agreements used.

Motion carried #07-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Elections NB – A by-election will be held on April 14th to fill the vacant seat in Ward 4. Elections NB had also requested the possibility of renting the office at the Meductic Community Centre. A few councillors expressed concern that they had already approved relocating the municipal offices back in November and that they should be getting the RFQ out for the renovations so that the work can be completed and move as soon as possible. Therefore, they didn't want that work held up by renting the space at this time. A few others stated that Elections NB pay well for rent and it could be a profitable income which would help offset the cost of renovations. Council did agree to allow Susie to show the space and they will make a decision regarding the renovations if Elections NB are interested in renting the space.

b) Fire Station – Mayor Foster explained the Transportation, Infrastructure and Assets committee will be reviewing the need of expanding the station on Mill Street, the future of the old building on Main Street and protecting the water reservoir.

*Councillor Budd requested that Councillor Grant join their committee. Councillor Grant

accepted. Mayor Foster will make the appointment at the next regular council meeting on February 10th, 2025.

7. CLOSED SESSION

Section 68 (1) j)

Council moved out of closed session at 9:00pm and set the date for Tuesday, February 4th for interviewing the four people for the temporary treasurer position. The HR Committee will handle the interviews.

8. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Regular meeting on Monday, February 10th at 7pm in council chambers.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 9:04pm

Mayor

CAO/Clerk