

Municipality of Lakeland Ridges
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 12th, 2024

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 Dusty Buckingham

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Patterson – CAO/Clerk
Lana Sharpe - Treasurer

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Foster called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Stairs to approve the November 12, 2024 regular meeting agenda with three additions. The three additions were: Recap and recommendation from the Irving exercise, December meeting dates and a key request by Meductic Ladies Auxiliary.

All in favor.

Motion carried #78-2024

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

October 15th meeting. Mayor Foster asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 15th meeting. Councillor Buckingham had a question to a motion within the minutes. After a short discussion Mayor Foster said to “set the minutes aside” to be discussed later. (***Motion was at the end of the meeting***)

October 28th meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Yerxa and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stairs to approve the minutes of the October 28th Committee of the Whole meeting with a slight typo correction under section 6 (i).

All in favor.

Motion carried #79-2024

5. PUBLIC INPUT/INQUIRES/PRESENTATIONS:

a) Sandra Olmstead – As President of the Canterbury Senior's Club, Sandra asked if council would consider paying for the renovations (RDC project approved) as they do not have the funds to cover the cost upfront while waiting for the CIF money to come in. Mayor Foster said council would need to discuss and would get back to her with a decision.

b) Michael Furrow – Expressed his concerns with the lack of enforcement for dog control. Mayor Foster explained that council was aware of the issue and working on a solution to the by-law and enforcement.

c) Greg Grant – follow up to his previous presentation. Pointed out several items from the Pivot report.

d) Michelle Dow – presentation on behalf of the late Ruth Lozier's family. Gave a bit of history about the agreement regarding the Village Hall building. Wanted to make sure council was doing their due diligence on office location.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

a) Andre Daigle – a tentative date was set for December 3 to work on the Code of Conduct By-law. Councillor Stairs requested a letter be sent to the new Premier to see if council is still required to complete the six steps that were put in place under the former government.

b) Hill Street Repair – After discussion council agreed that a policy with protocol for when culverts are covered or not by the municipality needed to be put in place. The Transportation, Infrastructure and Assets Committee will review.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stairs to accept the RFQ from Hamilton Lumbering for the ditching and street repair, but the replacement of the culvert would have to be paid by the homeowner.

7 Yay votes

1 Nay vote from Councillor Buckingham

Motion carried #80-2024

c) Municipal office/buildings – decision on location – Mayor Foster explained that the air quality test at the Meductic building was done to check for black mold and asbestos. Those results should be back in about a week. The radon testing takes 90 to collect the

information. Then the device is return for testing. Councillor Budd shared the report the TIA committee completed to compare both buildings. The recommendation from the committee is to relocate to the Meductic building. A long debate ensued with many pros and cons discussed.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Porter to relocate the municipal offices and council chambers to the Meductic Community Centre after the renovations, that are deemed scientifically necessary based on the air quality test by RPC, are completed.

Question to the motion: Deputy Mayor Stairs asked if cost would come into play? Council had another long discussion before Councillor Stairs amended his original motion.

Amended MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Budd to relocate the municipal offices and council chambers to the Meductic Community Centre after the renovations, that are deemed scientifically necessary based on the air quality test by RPC, are completed. Based on the test results, should the cost of repairs be unrealistic and council feels it is unreasonable, they will revisit the decision.

7 Yay votes

1 Nay vote by Councillor Buckingham

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Motion carried #81-2024

Second part to item 6 (c) – based on decision/discuss widening parking – Mayor Foster said no more money would be spent at the current location until the air quality test results come back.

d) Committees – approve mandate and members for the Protective Services Committee

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Yerxa and seconded by Councillor Budd to accept the mandate for the Protective Service Committee as written.

All in favor.

Motion carried #82-2024

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Yerxa and seconded by Councillor Bull to approve Brayden Collier, Steve Livingstone and Crystal Keiller-Vardy to the Protective Services Committee should they choose to accept.

Question to the motion: Councillor Buckingham asked if they were all qualified voting members. It was confirmed that they are.

All in favor.

Motion carried #83-2024

Second part to 6 (d) Clarify requirements for committee members – Councillor Buckingham pointed out that the procedural by-law and the description on the application form clearly states the committee members had to be a qualified voter in the municipality. After a long discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Budd and seconded by Councillor Yerxa to amend the Procedural by-law, section 8, item b) to read “The council may only establish special or ad hoc committees by a resolution of council. The council shall appoint persons who are either qualified voters or property owners and taxpayers of the local government thereto. Special or ad hoc committees shall have at least one member of the Council on the committee.

7 Yay votes

1 Nay vote by Councillor Buckingham

Motion carried #84-2024

Third part to 6 (d) Clarify Committee Procedure – this item was missed.

e) Garbage contracts – Deputy Mayor Stairs said his committee is working on possible options for new contracts. He is suggesting extending current contracts until May 1, 2025 to give his committee time to work the file.

MOTION: It was moved by Deputy Mayor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Perry Bull to have the CAO/Clerk request contract extension with all three current contractors until May 1, 2025.

Question to the motion: Councillor Stairs asked what if they come back and ask for another 2 or 3 %? Deputy Mayor Stairs said that is a secondary issue and this motion was only to request the possibility of an extension.

All in favor.

Motion carried #85-2024

f) Canada Summer Jobs – Councillor Porter is stilling working on gathering information from Rec. Council and hoping to have answers soon. Councillor Bull suggested hiring a University Student to help with wards system and mapping.

g) Street lights – request for Skiff Lake & Ritchie Road. After a brief discussion Mayor Foster asked the TIA committee to develop a policy before anymore requests will be reviewed.

h) Additional light at North Lake Garbage site – Deputy Mayor Stairs said this request would fall into the policy with street lighting and to wait and review the request once we have a policy in place.

i) Media Relations – Mayor Foster stated that all responses to the media will come from the mayor.

j) Meeting with Richard Ames – Council suggested asking MLA Ames to attend our January 27, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.

k) SCBA purchase from Grand Falls – A purchase agreement was provided from Grand Falls for MFD.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Bull and seconded by Councillor Porter for Meductic Fire Dept. to purchase four SCBA's from Grand Falls Fire Dept. \$9,000 will be paid out of the 2024 budget and the remaining \$14,000 will be paid in January of 2025.

All in favor.

Motion carried #86-2024

l) WVRSC draft budget – Mayor Foster asked council how they would prefer he vote on approving.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Yerxa and seconded by Councillor Bull to have Mayor Foster vote in favor of passing the WVRSC 2025 budget.

6 Yay votes

2 Nay votes from Councillor Stairs and Deputy Mayor Stairs

Motion carried #87-2024

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

DFD Deputy Chief sent a letter to rescind his previous resignation letter.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor's report was provided. No questions from council.

9. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

No additional reports other than the two previously discussed earlier in the meeting from the TIA committee and Tourism Committee.

10. CAO'S REPORT:

CAO's report was provided. Councillor Stairs questioned if the scheduled meetings, etc. would take away from the work that is required here. Susie explained that they are part of the workload.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT:

No report provided

12. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Group Insurance – Mayor Foster stated the HR Committee held a meeting last week and discussed the obligations that employers need to provide to staff. He asked Lana to forward any information she had on insurance and pension plans to himself, Deputy Mayor Stairs and Councillor Porter.

b) Asset Management Course – Susie explained the course and would like to enroll. Council would like more information and asked for that to be forwarded to them.

c) ICS 100 course – in person course will be offered in January 2025. Mayor Foster suggested anyone who doesn't have it to take it.

d) Meductic Ladies Auxiliary – The group have requested a key so they can have access to the building during emergencies. Council did not have a problem with it. Councillor Stairs asked that we get a quote for an electronic system.

e) December meetings – Councillor Porter suggested only having the regular council meeting (2nd Monday of the month) in December. Council all agreed.

***Items not on the agenda but discussed.**

Animal Control -Councillor Budd asked if council could back up and open the discussion again. After a brief discussion Mayor Foster asked that the SPCA be contacted for a quote. Council also suggested asking Calvin Dunbar to attend the next committee of the whole meeting on Monday, November 25th.

13. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

Councillor Porter said she is revamping the list for November and December.

14. CLOSED SESSION:

Moved into a closed session that was not scheduled on the approved agenda.

*****After coming out of closed session the following motion regarding the approval of the October 15, 2024 minutes was made *****

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Bull to approve the minutes of the October 15th Regular meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried #88-2024

15. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

A Committee of the Whole meeting was set for Monday, November 25th at 7pm in council chambers.

16. ADJOURNMENT after 9:30pm

Mayor

CAO/Clerk