

Municipality of Lakeland Ridges
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
October 28th, 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 7:04 pm

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Porter to approve the agenda with three additions. Those additions were WVRSC update from Mayor Foster, Topic of discussion by Councillor Stairs and Ward system by Deputy Mayor Stairs.

All in favor.

Motion carried #75-2024

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved by Deputy Mayor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Porter to adopt the minutes of the September 23rd Committee of the Whole meeting as written.

All in favor.

Motion carried #76-2024

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Yerxa to adopt the minutes of the September 30th Committee of the Whole meeting as written.

All in favor.

Motion carried #77-2024

5. OLD BUSINESS

a) Unsightly Premises By-Law – Susie shared information she had received from the course held on September 26th. Mayor Foster suggested we look into subcontracting Woodstock's By-Law Control Officer. Council agreed the By-Law needs to be created in the near future.

b) Winterizing Meductic washroom/pressure washer/pump – Councillor Buckingham volunteered to close up the building and make sure the heat is on (just enough) to keep the water from freezing.

c) Meductic Septic – Susie explained that there is a long process to get a Land Use Agreement from DTI (who owns the land) before the next steps can begin. Councillor Stairs said DTI has been aware of the request from Meductic to acquire that land for years. Mayor Foster said he would write a letter to the Premier, new Minister of Transportation and MLA to get them involved. We will continue to work on the project and hopefully have everything signed and ready to complete the work in the Spring.

d) Office Location – Councillor Budd gave a brief summary of the second comparison that the Transportation, Infrastructure and Assets Committee did between the current location and the proposed Meductic Community Centre. After a long debate Mayor Foster told council it would be put on the November 12 meeting for a vote.

e) Supervision bill/New Government – After a discussion, council agreed that Mayor Foster should write a letter to the Premier, ELG, MLA, etc. to request the bill be forgiven. Council asked that a meeting be set up with MLA Ames so they can get their questions answered.

f) Updates on committee's – Councillor Stairs said he did not have his mandate typed up yet but would get it sent into the office ASAP. Deputy Mayor Stairs said his committee would be meeting later in the week to start discussions on Garbage Contract renewals. Councillor Bull said his committee held a meeting last week. Councillor Porter says she will be setting up her first meeting soon. Councillor Buckingham questioned one of the Tourism Committee members not being a qualified voter in the Municipality. After a debate Mayor Foster said it would have to be addressed at the November 12 meeting because no decisions could be made at the COW meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) YouTube channel for video recorded meetings – Susie informed council by creating a YouTube channel that it would make it easier to share the link to meetings on the website and Facebook page. There is no cost.

b) Canada Summer Jobs 2025 – Susie informed council that the dates to apply for funding thru CSJ's is earlier this year. Applications will be accepted between November 18th and December 19th. Mayor Foster asked Councillor Porter to discuss the hiring of students with the recreation committees.

c) Skiff Lake Street Light – The Skiff Lake Cottage Owners Association requested the two street lights that they pay for along Rte 122 be taken over by the Municipality. The cost is around \$40 a month. A need for a street light policy was mentioned.

d) North Lake Dumpster light – Doug Clark requested another light for the back of the dumpster site because it is too dark for the cameras to pick up that area.

e) Meductic Fire purchase request – Chief Sharpe would like to purchase SCBA's from Grand Falls for \$23,000. He says they can pay part now and the balance in the new year. Susie will contact Grand Falls to get more details.

f) Irving Exercise and Council's Role - Mayor Foster suggested that all of council and staff participate in the mock event on Saturday, November 9th. Five councillors are also volunteer firefighters so a decision as to what role they will play that day needs to be decided.

g) Municipal Christmas Party – Mayor Foster asked if council was interested in holding a Christmas party this year. There didn't seem to be much interest.

h) Addition to agenda - Update from Mayor Foster – attend a 6-hour meeting with WVRSC. Their draft budget reflects a possible \$25,000 deduction in cost for Lakeland Ridges in 2025. Under solid waste: tipping fees are increasing to \$80 a ton. Organics are coming (predicting by 2027) which could mean changes to the trucks. WVRSC is suggesting contract renewals should end in 2027 so everyone in the region can get on the same renewal rotation. Meductic is getting recycle bins delivered in the Spring of 2025. Circular Materials is supplying the bins. The large blue bin will be removed. Public Safety is working on a booklet on protection in your community. Due to Canada Post mailing regulations they need to design one booklet with each municipality's information in it instead of one booklet for each municipality.

i) Ward and tax units – Deputy Mayor Stairs questioned how we are going to set up our subunits for the 2025 budget. Should we look at moving to using the four wards? If so, should we set them up as an "inside/outside" system?

7. CLOSED SESSION

Councillor Stairs asked to have his item discussed during a closed session.

8. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Regular meeting on Tuesday, November 12th at 7pm in council chambers.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 9:06pm

Mayor

CAO/Clerk