

Richard Ames  
MLA

Thank you for attending our on line meeting a few weeks ago. It is always good to keep in contact with the local MLA. I believe this is the only time since Lakeland Ridges came into existence that you have talked with the Council as a whole. We look forward to continued collaboration with you in the remaining year or so that this Council has. Hopefully, the next one will be in person.

We would like to thank you for looking into the land issue we are having in regard to the Meductic Park. Council will address their options and get back to government in the very near future as we want to have the park up and going as soon as possible. We had initially made contact with the Department of Transportation in late fall of 2024 on the issue in hand. I believe you had been copied on this request as well. The Department of Transportation said they would they would get back to us in early spring which they did. Although we did not hear from you last fall, your recent inquiry may have helped speed up their response.

In regard to the lines on the road from Deputy Mayor Stairs. The question was why the lines were not put on last year. We understand that budgets are going to be tight this year, but in your response, you had said money was not an issue last year when you were Minister for the Department of Transportation.

In your letter you asked what we were going to do about getting the budget in on time for the fiscal year coming up. Council now has some dates as to when things need to be completed on issues around budgets/audits and things will be done on time for fiscal year 2026. I would remind you that this Municipality was under supervision during the time when the auditor should have been contacted and office staff directed to get the finances in order to take to the auditor. The auditor confirmed that neither of the two supervisors had approached them on doing the audit. This Council has been chastised for something that was the responsibility of the supervisors at the time. We have just paid the supervision bill and feel strongly we paid for services that were not fully carried out.

On the issue of the public being ridiculed. I would argue that this has not happened since I became Mayor. I would encourage anyone who feels that this was the case to come forward and I would gladly address the problem with them. I would also expect you to encourage them to do the same thing if someone goes to you with a Municipal complaint. You must be familiar with someone not getting the answer they wanted and being angry or upset.

The vacant seat was indeed a problem that Council could/should have avoided. Again, we now have a better understanding of time constraints and this will not be an issue going forward. In this particular case, the meeting was set up but there were just not enough Counsellors to

take care of the vacant seat issue.

The following are some of the questions that Counsellor Yerxa had along with the rest of Council;

---- Why was the on line meeting the first time you had addressed or contacted Lakeland Ridges Council? This Council may have

appreciated some assistance from their MLA before they were put under supervision. I believe Counsellor Budd actually went to

to your office before the supervision but there was no response.

---- Why did you not attend the "meet the candidate " meeting in Meductic during the election. Council made sure the date was on a

night when you should have been available.

---- As mentioned above, why did the paid supervisors not get the financial information to the auditor in the right time frames?

Someone

seems to have slipped up somewhere and it should not have been completely put back on this Council.

---- Why was Greg Lutes, the second supervisor let go and replaced by Steve Manuel? Council members felt they were within a couple

weeks of being taken off supervision and returning to work under Deputy Mayor Stairs. Instead, there were still several months of

supervision that cost the rate payers a substantial amount of money in the supervision bill.

In summary, we do indeed hope to work more closely with you in the coming months. However, there is a lingering feeling with Council that you may not have put your best effort forward in working with us. I hope that in the future, we will be able to dispel that feeling and have a good working relationship.

Mayor Leonard Foster