

Municipality of Lakeland Ridges
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
September 23th, 2024

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Leonard Foster
Deputy Mayor Ross Stairs
Councillor Linda Porter
Councillor Patti Budd
Councillor Randy Stairs
Councillor Chris Yerxa
Councillor Dusty Buckingham

ABSENT: Councillor Bull joined via Teams

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

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Foster called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 pm

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The following items were added to the agenda by Mayor Foster: Request of support from Plaster Rock Mayor Tom Eagles regarding ambulance service coverage, a request from WVRSC for a list of tourism operators in Lakeland Ridges, WVRSC budget update & tax assessments. Councillor Porter added a question regarding the motion for the remaining CCBF money to be spent in North Lake.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Budd and seconded by Councillor Yerxa to approve the agenda with the five additions listed above.

All in favor.

Motion carried 53-2024

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Councillor Stairs declared a conflict for the Meductic septic and the Snow Removal Contracts. He left council chambers when each topic arose.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stairs to adopt the minutes for the August 26th Committee of the Whole meeting as written.

All in favor.

Motion carried #54-2024

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Committee overview and applications from residents – There was a discussion on how the committee should be structured. Mayor Foster asked Deputy Mayor Stairs to come up with a “term of reference” and submit into the office for Susie to distribute to council before the October 15, 2024 meeting.
- b) Political Leader Meeting – There was a long discussion on how the meeting should be conducted and what council’s objective was. It was agreed that the candidates would each give their platform followed by a Q&A. Council would prepare and agree upon a selected list of questions and allow all candidates an opportunity to answer impromptu. The meeting would be open to the public. Refreshments would be served after adjournment and the public could have an opportunity to ask their questions during this time.
- c) Training (part of 6 steps) – Andy Baird is scheduled for Oct. 10 at 6pm. Andre Daigle is scheduled for Oct. 29 in the afternoon for chair training and at 6pm for the rest of council. Susie has a zoom call with Transitional Solutions regarding the Strategic Plan.
- d) Air Primer System for North Lake Fire Truck – an estimated cost is \$4,500. After discussion it was suggested that an adjustment should be made to the Procurement Policy which would allow repairs been done to Emergency vehicles or equipment without having to get a motion from council even if it is above the limit the CAO normally authorized to approve.
- e) Community Centre Door Locking System – The current system at the Meductic Centre is still not working properly even after several service repairs. For now, it was suggested that the system be disabled and return to using a key. Council would like a few quotes from security companies to consider during the budgeting process to consider for the coming year.
- f) Snow Removal Contracts – Council agreed it was best to tender all contracts using the same requirements. Councillors Budd and Yerxa will review the current contracts and bring a recommendation to council at a special meeting on Monday, September 30 at 7pm via zoom.
- g) Cleaning Contracts – Councillors Budd and Yerxa will review the contracts and bring recommendations to council at a later meeting.
- h) Offices – Councillors Budd and Yerxa, co-chairs for the Infrastructure and Assets Committee, met and did an evaluation of the current office building in Canterbury and the space at the Meductic Community Centre. Their recommendation to council was to close the current office in Canterbury, give the building to the seniors or the recreation council, and move everything into the Community Centre in Meductic. During a discussion a couple of other options were suggested. Mayor Foster asked the Co-Chairs to re-evaluation taking the suggestions of the Canterbury Community Centre and building a new facility into consideration and bring it back to council at the October 15th meeting for a vote.

- i) Bill for Supervision – ELG supplied council with a detailed list of expenses incurred during the Supervision. Councillor Budd and Mayor Foster had an opportunity to speak with former Minister of Local Government Glen Savoie last week. Mr. Savoie promised that if re-elected and appointed Minister of Local Government, that he would sit down with council for a discussion. Based on that information, it was suggested to not pay the invoice until after the election and/or a meeting with Mr. Savoie.
- j) Special Request for rental in Meductic – A local resident requested permission to allow a Petting Zoo be set up inside the Meductic Community Centre for a birthday party in December. All agreed against it.
- k) Roger Lauzier- After much discussion it was agreed that the situation was a Civil Matter and did not fall under council's mandate. Mayor Foster will prepare a letter to Mr. Lauzier explaining council's position.
- l) Hill Street Repairs – Brad Keilty had a look at the job and provided Susie with his professional opinion on what needed to be done to correct the problem. Councillor Buckingham agreed to provide guidance on what should be included in the RFQ.
- m) Derek McNiece – He is still continuing to harass Chief Clark. He is also continuing to reach out to the other Chiefs trying to get orders while mocking the CAO. Council agreed to readdress the bill for the NLFD at the next meeting and has suggested that Derek McNiece be blacklisted moving forward.
- n) Request from Plaster Rock Mayor Tom Eagles – Mayor Foster said that Mayor Eagles has asked the other communities in the region to send a letter to Ambulance NB requesting that the Ambulance bases are covered at all times.
- o) WVRSC tourism request – Mayor Foster said the WVRSC have requested a list of local tourism operators in our Municipality. Councillor Porter said she already had a list and would forward it to the RSC.
- p) WVRSC budget – Mayor Foster explained that there were going to be a few minor changes to the cost of services that he shared with council last week.
- q) Tax Assessments – Mayor Foster stated that it is expected that this year's tax assessments won't be released until after the October Provincial Election.
- r) Councillor Porter's Question – After making the motion at the last meeting to spend the remaining 2023 CCBF top up money, she would like to know if the paperwork was submitted yet? Susie explained that the forms are project specific and details on what the project was, scope of work, quote, etc. are required in order to fill out the paperwork.

6. CLOSED SESSION

No closed session this meeting.

7. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Special meeting via zoom on Monday, September 30th at 7pm to approve Snow Tenders for posting.

Regular meeting on Tuesday, October 15th at 7pm in council chambers.

8. ADJOURNMENT at 9:12 pm

Mayor

CAO/Clerk