

**Municipality of Lakeland Ridges**  
Special Meeting Minutes  
April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Patterson – CAO/Clerk

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 Deputy Mayor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Stairs to approve the April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 special meeting agenda with three additions. A letter from local resident under correspondence and under unfinished business was summer student and auditor.

All in favor.

Motion carried #45-2025

3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

none

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councillor Yerxa and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stairs to approve the minutes of the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 regular meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried #46-2025

5. **PUBLIC INPUT/INQUIRIES/PRESENTATIONS:**

a) **Phillip Grant** – Phillip requested an update from council in regards to the Unsightly Premises By-Law. He stated that not only are there a couple of buildings that need to be demolished but that there are several dooryards within the community that should be cleaned up. Mayor Foster explained that the second and third reading of the by-law would be completed at the next regular meeting in May. He also said that the council had recently hired James Parish as our By-Law

Enforcement Officer and that he would begin issuing notices to comply once the by-law was enacted.

**b) Greg Grant** – Greg asked council what committees have held meetings and if minutes were taken at those meetings. He said that other than the Environment and Waste Management Committee, he has not seen any public notice given for committee meetings and questioned why. He said he asked the CAO for minutes of any committee meetings but was told they have not been submitted to the office. Greg asked for any and all minutes be shared with him within the next two weeks. On another topic, Greg informed council that Lakeland Ridges now officially has an ATV club that he helped established. Lakeland Ridge Runners Club 60. Trail passes are now available to purchase at the local stores.

**c) Dusty Buckingham** – Presented council with a petition (approximately 270 signatures) from local residents who are requesting council review the decision to move the municipal office. He pointed out that council was previously asked to look at the Canterbury Community Centre as an option but that was never done. It was suggested that an outside party be brought in to do a study before tax payer's dollars are spent on renovations.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a) Strategic Plan session** – Reminder that the in-person meeting will be held on May 1 at 6pm.

**b) Set date for CAO by-law** – Council suggested the evening of May 21 via zoom.

**c) Motion to approve the CCBF 5-year plan** – as agreed to at the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Stairs that the document entitled "Municipality of Lakeland Ridges Five-Year Capital Investment Plan" for the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) 2024-2028 be adopted.

All in favor.

Motion Carried #47-2025

**d) Solid Waste Collection** – It was recommended by the Environment and Waste Management Committee to award the 5-year contract to J.S. Bellis with the first-year cost of \$224,512.10 plus tax.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Deputy Mayor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Stairs to accept the bid in the amount of \$224, 512.10 (plus tax) from J.S. Bellis for the first year of a five-year contract.

All in favor.

Motion carried #48-2025

**e) Municipal Office Renovations in Meductic** – review quote from Grand Property

Maintenance.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Stairs to accept the bid from Grand Property Maintenance in the amount of \$29,647.81 and move forward.

Questions: There were several questions around the costs, budget, community input, the petition, etc. After a long debate the vote was taken.

7 yay votes

1 nay vote by Councillor Glanville

Motion carried #49-2025

**f) Mowing Contracts** – bids were reviewed and awarded as follows:

Canterbury Area (all properties listed on tender) – Alexander Luimes at \$600 per mow

Meductic Area (all properties listed on tender) – Jamie Lauzier at \$230 per mow (extra \$50 for ball field).

Debec Fire Dept. – Brian Cowper at \$79 per mow

North Lake Fire Dept. – Doug Clark at \$25 per mow

**g) Debt Cost Projection** – Based on an estimated 4% tax base growth over the next 5 years, it was projected that the purchase of the new fire truck would increase the property tax rate by 0.0361% if it was cost shared by all subunits.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councillor Yerxa and seconded by Councillor Glanville to accept the Debt Profile & Budget Projections for the Capital Borrowing Board application for the purchase of a new Fire Truck.

All in favor.

Motion carried #50-2025

**h) Summer Student** – Councillor Porter suggested sharing the NBCC website. There was a discussion around topping up wages to attract a qualified student. It was suggested having the student do a demographic study for our area.

**i) Auditor** – Councillor Budd asked where we were with the 2024 audit. Mayor Foster said that E6 International was coming to do a discovery this week. Hopefully they can assist with getting 2024 ready for audit. Lenahan McCain has not given an answer as to whether they can do the 2024 audit or not but have suggested another firm. Councillor Budd and Councillor Porter suggested that council consider bringing in their contact to get the financial entries caught up.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**a) Letter from MLA Richard Ames** – Mayor Foster read the letter and suggested it be posted to the website.

**b) Letter from Coroner's Office** – Mayor Foster read the letter from the Coroner's Office thanking the CFD for their exceptional support at a recent incident.

**c) Complaint regarding garbage along the roads in Debec** – The complaint came in through the website. Councillor Porter said that a local group recently did a community clean up in that area.

**d) Donation request from CHS leadership students** – The students requested financial support for on their leadership trip in the Fall and offered to do a community clean up any where within Lakeland Ridges. Deputy Mayor Stairs said his committee would look into it and make a recommendation to council.

**e) Letter from Larry and Beth Corscadden** – The Corscadden's expressed their disappointment of council's failure to declare a vacancy in Ward 1 in time for the final by-election. They will be filling a formal complaint with the Local Governance Commission.

## **8. QUESTIONS REGARDING MAYOR'S REPORT**

No report provided. Mayor Foster stated that the HR committee met right before the council meeting (tonight) to review the HR Policy that he drafted to replace the current policy. The HR committee will go through it one more time before sharing it with council.

## **9. QUESTIONS REGARDING COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

No reports provided.

Councillor Budd asked about the street light that was approved for the Ritchie Road intersection. Susie said the order request was submitted.

Councillor Yerxa stated that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee met at the Canterbury Park right before the meeting (tonight) to discuss the Public Washroom/Warming Shelter Building.

## **10. QUESTIONS REGARDING CAO'S REPORT**

Councillor Glanville had a question in regards to the request sent to Gov. Officials for a meeting to discuss the reopening of a medical clinic. She suggested looking into a mobile clinic similar to one that is operating in other Provinces.

## **11. QUESTIONS TO THE TREASURERS REPORT**

No report available

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Street sweeping option** – The Town of Woodstock may be able to bring their sweeper down and do the job in a half day. Just waiting on a quote to come in.

**b) Insurance for Meductic Rec's Student & equipment request** – an email has been sent to see if our insurance would cover the student or if the rec committee would have to purchase their own insurance.

**c) Spring Clean up** – Waiting for a quote for cleaning up the sod, dirt and rocks from municipal property to prep for the summer mowing season.

**d) Council meeting schedule for summer months** – council agreed not to hold Committee of the Whole meetings during the months of May thru August. They will look at resuming in September.

### **13. UPCOMING EVENTS**

Councillor Porter is working on an updated list for May & June.

### **14. CLOSED SESSION**

Section 68 (1) (j)

Council moved into closed session to discuss the Over All Fire Chief Position at 8:45pm. Mayor Foster stepped down from chairing this portion of the meeting due to a possible conflict. No official conflict of interest was declared and he remained in the room but did not participate in the discussion.

Council moved out of closed session at 9:31pm and passed the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Yerxa to go back the interview committee and request that they make a clear recommendation to council.

6 Yays

Councillor Stairs abstained

Motion carried #51-2025

**14. ADJOURNMENT** at 9:34pm.

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Mayor

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CAO/Clerk