

Municipality of Lakeland Ridges
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 14th, 2025

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 Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Glanville to approve the July 14th, 2025 regular meeting agenda with two additions.

All in favor.

Motion carried #67-2025

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Councillor Grant declared a conflict with item 7. a)

Councillor Stairs declared a conflict with item 6. b)

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Budd and seconded by Councillor Grant to approve the minutes of the July 14th, 2025 regular meeting. Councillor Porter questioned signage for Meductic.

All in favor.

Motion carried #68-2025

5. PUBLIC INPUT/INQUIRIES/PRESENTATIONS:

a) Chief Foster made a recommendation to council to appoint Joe Weston as the new Fire Chief and Roy Acott to another term as Deputy Fire Chief for the North Lake Fire Department.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Porter to appoint Joe Weston as Fire Chief and Roy Acott as Deputy Chief for the North Lake Fire Department.

All in favor.

Motion carried #69-2025

Chief Foster, Mayor Foster and council would like to express a heartfelt thank you to outgoing Chief Clark.

b) Recommendation of Fire Service Branding and Logo – Chief Foster presented a new logo that incorporates all four stations. The new name will be “Lakeland Ridges Regional Fire Service”. The presented logo was red, black and white.

Councillor Porter suggested incorporating municipal colours and font into the new logo.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Yerxa to approve the depiction of the logo design with changing the Est. date to 2025 and wait on an agreed upon colour scheme they hope to have in the next couple of weeks.

All in favor.

Motion carried #70-2025

c) Voyent Alert – Chief Foster gave an update that WVRSC is looking into purchasing the system for our whole region. More information should be available soon.

Chief Foster also asked council to review the draft fire policy and requested that topic be added to the August agenda for discussion and/or approval.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) Amendments to Procedural By-Law – Second and Third Reading were completed.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Glanville to approve the amendments to the Procedural By-Law #8.

All in favor.

Motion carried #71-2025

b) Septic Meductic – Susie informed council that DTI were going to issue a Highway Usage Permit for the property located in the park area that was part of the old highway. A tender cannot be issued until we have the signed agreement. Council decided to make a motion to allow posting the tender as soon as the permit is received.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Grant to authorize the posting of the tender as soon as the Highway Usage Agreement is received.

7 Yay Votes

**Councillor Stairs declared a conflict of interest, remained at the council table, but did not participate in the vote. **

Motion carried #72-2025

c) Strategic Plan – discussed the draft summary. Felt the plan could be more condensed. Will need to set up another meeting with consultant. August 18 was the suggested date.

d) Audit Update and Treasurers recommendation – Lana provided a letter of recommendation to continue using the Sage program for accounting purposes. Councillor Stairs wants to meet with the potential auditor, Matthew Derrah, before council make a motion to appoint him. Mayor Foster directed Susie to try to set up a zoom meeting as soon as possible.

e) E6 – Councillor Stairs questioned why this was on the agenda. He suggested council wait until they consulted with Matthew Derrah before considering anything further.

f) Recommendation from EWM committee regarding First Eel River Lake requests – Curbside pick up – JS Bellis confirmed that they are unable to provide that service due to the size of their trucks.

Boat Wash Station – there is no location to put the pressure washer, water hookup or electricity. Also, there is a high risk of contaminating the lake. The committee suggested putting signage up directing boaters to use the North Lake station which is close by.

Emergency Response Equipment – The committee felt that this was a liability. The North Lake Fire Dept. is close by and are well equipped and trained to respond to emergencies.

g) Canterbury boat wash station - Councillor Glanville suggested that this system should be hot water. Councillor Stairs suggested asking the Canterbury Fire Dept. if there was a location at the new station that would work. Mayor Foster asked that a letter be sent to the Minister and Deputy Minister to get permission to put one out at the Ranger Station. Councillor Stairs suggested putting signs up near each location to say the systems were free to use but donations could be made to the municipality and provide e-transfer.

h) Voyent Alert – Chief Foster had provided an update during his presentation.

i) Summer Student – Susie let council know that SEED changed the job title to Recreation and Tourism. Councillor Stairs and Councillor Porter said they wanted to stick with the original plan of hiring someone to do mapping and then help with other office work.

j) Surplus Property in Benton – DTI offered the municipality first dibs on surplus land in Benton “as is, where is”.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Yerxa and seconded by Councillor Stairs to purchase surplus property (PID 10122745) on corner of Benton & Caldwell Road in the amount of \$8,700 and (PID 10183077) 460 Benton Road in the amount of \$7,900 plus HST, registration fees and any required survey costs.

All in favor.

Motion carried #73-2025

k) Canterbury & Meductic’s reserve money – Mayor Foster stated that he felt the councillors from each of those wards should come up with a recommendation of potential projects and bring them back for council to review at the next meeting.

l) WI Hall renos – Susie informed council that she confirmed with ELG that council could give funds to this project through CCBF even though the municipality does not own the building. Council had previously agreed to give \$32,673.00 for their planned renovations. Receipts must be made out to the municipality and paid by the municipality. However, final approval of the CCBF 5-year plan has not been received yet so no money can be spent until that comes through.

m) sealing of MFD garage floor – The floor of the station needs to be sealed with a rubber membrane. Susie asked if the firemen would do the work but Councillor Stairs suggested hiring someone to do it. Councillor Stairs also suggested contacting Bird & Stairs or Arrow Construction for a quote on the product material.

n) rental space request from RealWorldABA – Susie informed council that this company inquired about renting office space at the Meductic Community Centre. Councillor Budd said to offer them the Canterbury building which will be vacant after the office move.

o) Moving Municipal offices – Councillor Budd read a response she had prepared to Dusty Buckingham’s petition. She said that her and Councillor Yerxa met to review it and that their recommendation to council was to proceed with moving the offices to Meductic. Mayor Foster asked council when they would like to see the offices moved. Councillor Glanville questioned the security of the building, safety for the staff and important documents, and the poor accessibility access. After a discussion most of council felt there were no issues and set the date to open the new offices on August 1.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Alexander Manuel – Alexander asked if the municipality would sponsor him as a member of the Basketball NB Provincial Team.

Councillor Grant declared a conflict of interest and left the building before any discussion began

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Yerxa and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stairs to sponsor Alexander Manuel \$400 towards his expenses as a member of BNB Provincial Team.

All in favor.

Motion carried #74-2025

Councillor Grant returned to the meeting

b) Lakeland Ridge Runners ATV club – President Greg Grant requested financial support to help with start up cost for signage, etc. Council would like more information, a map of the trails and an estimated amount of the funding requested.

c) Heather Furrow & Greg Williams – funding request for their food security project. Council suggested that Councillor Glanville and Councillor Grant add it to their list of projects for Canterbury's surplus money.

d) Ditching/culvert complaint on Rte 165 – After a long discussion council agreed that driveway culverts are the responsibility of the homeowner.

8. QUESTIONS REGARDING MAYOR'S REPORT

No report was provided. Mayor Foster said that the HR Committee has some stuff to sent out.

9. QUESTIONS REGARDING COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

No reports provided.

Councillor Stairs said that he hasn't been able to get in touch with Dr. Stoczek regarding the After Hour Clinic. Council said they will need to come up with a strategic plan for opening the offices and find out what the needs are for getting things set up.

Councillor Budd suggested put something out to the community regarding the renting of the current office building (199 Main Street).

10. QUESTIONS REGARDING CAO'S REPORT

11. QUESTIONS TO THE TREASURERS REPORT

June analysis was provided

12. NEW BUSINESS

a) UMN Conference – Councillor Glanville will attend this year.

b) DTI road maintenance concerns – Councillor Stairs said that he contacted the road commissioner the second week of May. He also called Woodstock the end of June. There are concerns that the Debec area is getting all the work done and the rest of Lakeland Ridges is not receiving the same level of service. Councillor Stairs requested that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation expressing councils' concerns. He would also like a report from the Debec office on what work they have done, where was it done, and what work is planned for our area?

c) Municipal Signage – council agreed that new signage for our municipal building should be ordered. Susie showed a sample of road signage that may work well.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

14. CLOSED SESSION

14. ADJOURNMENT at 9:33pm.

Mayor

CAO/Clerk