

Municipality of Lakeland Ridges
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11th, 2025

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

ABSENT: Councillor Patti Budd

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

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 Stairs to approve the August 11th, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

Councillor Porter questioned three items that she felt should be on the agenda.

1. Summer Students. Mayor Foster said that the job was still posted but that it was getting too late in the year and that it probably wasn't going to happen this year.
2. WI Funding for renovations. Susie explained that it would be talked about with item 6. i).
3. Floor for Meductic Fire Station. Susie explained that it was on pause until we know what the future of that building is going to be.

All in favor.

Motion carried #75-2025

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

none

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Yerxa to approve the minutes of the July 14th, 2025 regular meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried #76-2025

5. PUBLIC INPUT/INQUIRIES/PRESENTATIONS:

a) Chief Foster gave a brief summary of the wildfire in Hartin Settlement area. The fire reached 12 hectares in size. Firefighters were able to get the fire contained by late Sunday afternoon. Monday afternoon they were on the scene managing the hot spots. The plan is to do the same on Tuesday and for as long as DNRED requires assistance. Chief Foster also reminded everyone to keep all receipts for expenses as DNRED will reimburse.

Councillor Porter expressed her appreciation to Chief Foster for all his work, to all the volunteer firefighters who worked in the extreme heat conditions battling the fire, the Ladies Auxiliary for preparing meals, etc and to everyone who volunteered or donated.

Councillor Glanville reminded everyone of the importance of Voyent Alert. Mayor Foster said that the WVRSC is working on it and it should be coming in 2026.

Chief Foster made a recommendation to council to follow the provinces decision to close trails during the Fire Ban.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Stairs to allow the Mayor to consult with the Public Safety Committee Chair and all the Fire Chiefs, and after bringing awareness to council, to make the decision to follow the provinces lead in closing of trails, etc during a fire ban.

All in favor.

Motion carried #77-2025

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) RPC Results for Meductic Building – The testing came back on Friday, Aug. 8th. Asbestos was detected. The results were forwarded to WorkSafe NB. WorkSafe issued a “Stop Work Order” on Monday, Aug. 11 which does not allow anyone entry into the building until further testing is completed. This will not affect the operation of the Fire Department.

Councillor Stairs would like an explanation from WorkSafe NB as to why the building was shut down. In doing so, it has caused a lot of bad feelings. Mayor Foster said he would write a letter.

b) Approval of Logo for Fire Services – Chief Foster recommended that council accept the logo with the incorporation of the Municipal colours.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Yerxa to approve the logo with the incorporation of the municipal colours.

All in favor.

Motion carried #78-2025

c) Review of Draft Fire Policy – Chief Foster asked if council had any questions or concerns with the policy as written. He also stated each station chief would be referred to as “Department Chief” and he would be referred to as “Overall Fire Chief”.

Councillor Stairs thanked all the chiefs and committee members who put a lot of work into drafting the policy. He stated that council shouldn’t make any changes to the policy without considering the impact that those changes would have.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Yerxa and seconded by Councillor Grant to accept the context of the draft policy and once it has been reformatted and double checked for errors it is to be brought back to council for final approval.

All in favor.

Motion carried #79-2025

d) Surplus property in Benton – Susie asked how council were planning to pay for the property. Council said to use Capital Reserve. Council also suggested contacting a realtor to look at the properties and give us a price for fair market value.

e) Auditor – Council is in agreement to move forward with Matthew Derrah.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Glanville to appoint Matthew Derrah, with the firm Nicholson Beaumont, as our auditor.

All in favor.

Motion carried #80-2025

f) E6 Proposal – After a long debate it was decided to stay with Sage for the 2024 audit. Council asked a meeting be requested with Ross Lindsay of E6 to give a demonstration of the Xero Software. Deputy Mayor Stairs reminded council that the accounting was only one component of the proposal.

g) Highway Usage Agreement – Part of the agreement includes a yearly fee of \$500 for the cost of the permit, we must name his Majesty the King in our insurance policy for coverage of the septic system and pay a \$15,000 security deposit that will be used to cover the costs of any expenses incurred. At the end of three years, any balance remaining of the security deposit will be given back to the municipality.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Deputy Mayor Stairs to pay the \$500 permit fee from our general operating account and the \$15,000 out of our capital reserve

account.

All in favor.

Motion carried #81-2025

h) Canterbury & Meductic's Reserve money – Due to the temporary closure of the building, Ward 3 councillors were not able to hold an open house to see what projects residents would like done with the money. The money will stay in capital reserve with the possibility of putting it towards paving the parking lot near the fire station.

Councillor Grant and Councillor Glanville recommended that the \$133,502.94 in Canterbury's general operating account be spent on the following projects:

\$60,000 to the Canterbury Fire Department to replace their rescue vehicle.

\$20,000 towards upgrades at the Canterbury Community Centre.

\$53,502.94 towards parks upgrades that would include resurfacing the small basketball court and a large pavilion.

Councillor Grant suggested giving the \$2500 that was in the 2025 budget for community gardens, but was not used, to the Food Security Project being developed by Heather Furrow and Greg Williams.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Glanville to reallocate the \$2500 from Community Gardens to the Food Security Project.

All in favor.

Motion carried #82-2025

i) CCBF consolidated plan for Canterbury & Meductic – Susie explained that we must submit a new consolidated plan with the old CCBF money in order for the province to release Lakeland Ridges CCBF money.

In response to Councillor Porters question about the money for the WI Hall renovations: The project has been approved in the 2024-2028 5-year CCBF plan for Lakeland Ridges. However, the project cannot begin until the consolidated plan for Canterbury & Meductic has been approved and ELG releases the funds.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Stairs and seconded by Councillor Yerxa to approve consolidating Canterbury and Meductic's 2018-2023 5-year CCBF plan with \$188,550.58 for CFD expansion and \$54,043.93 for developing the water front in Meductic.

All in favor.

Motion carried #82-2025

j) Strategic Plan – Reminder of the in-person meeting scheduled for Monday, August 18 @6:00pm.

k) Municipal Signage – Susie provided council with an example of what the municipal signage could look like. Susie will inquire about pricing. Mayor Foster asked council to come up with a list of locations where signs should be installed for the next meeting.

l) Boat wash in Canterbury – Susie informed council that the Mill Street location would not work. Councillor Glanville suggested that council considered purchasing a portable boat wash station with hot water. Mayor Foster stated that he still feels that the Ranger Station on the Skiff Lake Road is the best location and will send a letter asking that they reconsider the request.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Lakeland Ridge Runners ATV club – President Greg Grant submitted a letter of request for a donation to help with trail development and maintenance.

MOTION: It was moved by Councillor Porter and seconded by Councillor Yerxa to donate \$500 to Lakeland Ridge Runners ATV club.

All in favor.

Motion carried #83-2025

8. QUESTIONS REGARDING MAYOR'S REPORT

No report provided.

Mayor Foster said that he was speaking with a North Lake cottage owner, who lives in the states, and would like to install a friendship flag (Canadian/USA) by drilling into one of the rocks along the shoreline. He plans to come to a council meeting in the near future.

9. QUESTIONS REGARDING COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

No reports provided.

Councillor Porter asked if staff had sent a letter of response to the Province regarding the Tax Freeze for 2026. Susie stated that AMANB and UMNb were both working on a response.

10. QUESTIONS REGARDING CAO'S REPORT

11. QUESTIONS TO THE TREASURERS REPORT

12. NEW BUSINESS

a) Honorarium for Overall Fire Chief – After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Public Safety Committee needed to review the honorarium rates for all the Fire Chiefs. The Overall

Chiefs rate would be set based on that information. The committee will come back with a recommendation for council approval.

b) Schedule for council meetings – It was agreed that council would only meet for the regular meetings (second Monday of the month) for the rest of 2025. Committee of the Whole meetings will only be scheduled as needed.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

14. CLOSED SESSION

14. ADJOURNMENT at 9:36pm.

Mayor

CAO/Clerk