

Town of Lake Santeetlah

Budget Workshop Minutes

April 16, 2025

Mayor Simon called the meeting to order at 11:33 AM. Councilmembers Jim Hager, Ralph Strunk, Kevin Haag, and Keith Predmore were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Kim Matheson and Town Clerk Kala Farley were also present.

Approval of the Agenda: Hager made a motion to approve the agenda. Strunk seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- 1. Discussion of Budget:** Hager said the proposed budget has no tax increase, no water increase, and includes a 5% pay increase for all staff. Hager referred to the paving estimate from Aldridge brothers (see attached) and said it is possible to do Item 4 through Item 8, totaling \$109,845.

Strunk asked where Zoom expenses were, and Matheson said it would fall under Line 29 which includes all office expenses. Haag suggested Zoom have its own line so that expense is easier to track. Matheson said Line 11, Sales & Use tax, \$130,000.00 may have to be lowered for the upcoming budget year since that amount didn't come in and wasn't reached. Mayor Simon said Line 12, Solid Waste Disposal Distribution, was for recycling and since the Town doesn't have the recycling trailer any more, that item can be removed.

Matheson said there was an increase in Line 22, Cell Phone, for Farley since she has given out her personal number during the time the phone and internet was out so people would be able to contact the office, and she does text and receive calls and messages on her personal cell phone. The office copier was upgraded so that expense was given its own line item. Line Item 50, Zoning Administrator, was reduced to \$4,000 from \$8,000 since he has been paid less than \$2,000 so far in the current budget year. Matheson said she didn't know of any trees that would need to be taken down so Line 68, Danger Tree Removal, was lowered from \$6,000 to \$4,500. Line 80, Maintenance to Buildings, has \$11,000 for the Town Hall building to be painted and the backsteps to be repaired and/or replaced. In reference to Line Item 85, Contract Public Safety, Predmore said he was not in favor of continuing to contract the officer from the Graham County sheriff's department saying

Lake Santeetlah is part of Graham County and should be patrolled by the Graham County Sheriff's Department equally as part of the county. Matheson said it is possible that Consumption in the Water Fund would need to be lowered since the amount of water sold was less than the previous year.

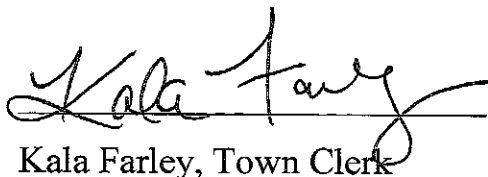
Public Comment:

Jack Gross: Gross said due to the Town donating to the Friends of the Library rather than the Nantahala Regional Library, they are not listed as part of the regional library system now.

Motion to Adjourn: Haag made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Hager seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 PM.



Diana Simon, Mayor



Kala Farley, Town Clerk