

## **Town of Lake Santeetlah**

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

**June 10, 2025**

Mayor Simon called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Councilmembers Jim Hager, Kevin Haag, Ralph Strunk, and Keith Predmore were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Kim Matheson, Town Technician Scott Kamps, and Town Clerk Kala Farley were also present. Attorney Brian Gulden was present on Zoom.

Kevin Haag led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered an Invocation.

**Approval of the Council Meeting Agenda:** Strunk made a motion to approve the agenda. Predmore seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the May 13, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes:** Hager made a motion to approve the May 13, 2025 Council Meeting minutes. Strunk seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the May 27, 2025, Budget Hearing Minutes:** Strunk made a motion to approve the May 27, 2025 Budget Hearing minutes. Predmore seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial/Tax Report as of May 31, 2025:** Matheson reported the tax collection for May was \$4,677.39.

Mayor Simon read the Ethics Statement Reminder.

#### **New Business:**

- 1. Jack Gross-request for Nantahala Terrace:** Gross had previously submitted a request for a road crossing on Nantahala Trail for septic connection and has submitted an additional request for a road crossing on Nantahala Terrace. Predmore made a motion to approve the Nantahala Terrace crossing for Jack Gross. Hager Seconded. Cheryl Zaricki at 61 Nantahala Terrace voiced concerns of this project being done during such a busy time in the season and how it would affect their parking. A vote was taken on the motion. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Discussion regarding contract security:** There has been \$10,000 in the budget for the contract security officer. There was discussion about reducing the budgeted amount since the Town of Lake Santeetlah was part of Graham County and should be patrolled by the Graham County sheriff's department like the rest of the county. Haag suggested the amount budgeted be reduced to \$5,000 on a trial basis, and allocate the other \$5,000 for use somewhere else, such as in road paving. Matheson said she would have to review the term of the current contract as well as speak to the officer about the reduction before any changes should be voted on.
3. **2025 Election agreement:** The Graham County Board of Elections presented an agreement for the upcoming November 2025 election to the Town. The Town of Lake Santeetlah will be splitting some of the cost of the election this year with the Town of Robbinsville as outlined in the agreement. Haag made a motion that the Town agree with the Graham County Election Board to split or divide the cost for the upcoming election in November. Predmore seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Simon will sign the agreement.
4. **Budget Amendment:** Matheson said some of the items in the budget were set up differently in Edmunds in Administrative Expense and Governing Body so \$15,000 was moved from Administrative Expense to Governing Body. That transfer was only a paper transfer and not a transfer in Edmunds. Matheson said \$1,000 from Public Buildings and \$1,000 from Truck Expense was transferred to Public Safety for security lights. From Webpage Services \$300 was moved to Dental and Vision, \$800 to payroll services, and \$600 to Zoning. \$250 was moved from Meals and Entertainment to Computer Tech Support. \$1,600 from Payroll taxes into Payroll. In the Water Fund, \$1,400 is being transferred from Transfer from Reserves with \$900 being transferred to Administrative Expense and \$500 being transferred to Distribution Expense, which is for the water wells and pumps power bills. \$400 will be moved from Payroll Taxes into Payroll. Hager made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Strunk seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **FY 25/26 Budget and Budget Ordinance vote:** Hager made a motion to adopt the FY 25/26 Budget as is and the Budget Ordinance. Haag seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. TDA report:** Mayor Simon said the TDA Budget and Ordinance was approved and presented a report on the FY 25/26 Budget Information. (see attached)

**7. Council Statements:**

**Ralph Strunk:** Strunk said he would like to ask for updates on the Bricks, Guard Shack, and visibility issues coming up the hill by Town Hall. Matheson said the bricks have been ordered. The Guard Shack project has been approved and is now awaiting the contractor to begin work. Matheson said Brookfield would need to be asked and give permission to put something up to help with visibility since they own that property.

**Keith Predmore:** Predmore said he is opposed to any mirrors or signage.

**Request for Public Comment:**

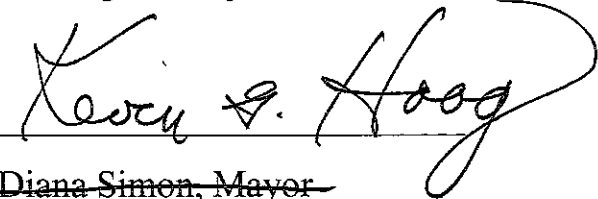
**Alan Davidson:** Davidson said he had concerns about renters and suggested people that rent their house could gently remind renters that there is a lot of foot traffic in Town, especially during the summer months, and to drive slowly and cautiously.

**Jack Gross:** Gross said the easements are overgrown and that creates a safety issue. Gross also said the water on top of the mountain is a continued issue and it needs to be addressed.

**Announcements:**

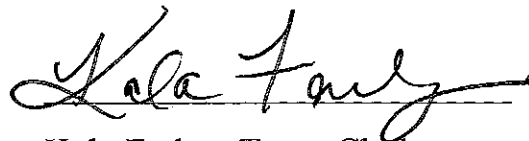
- The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting will be held July 15, 2025, at 2:00 PM. This meeting will be held at Town Hall and via Zoom. The link to join by Zoom will be sent out by mass email.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Hager made the motion to adjourn. Predmore seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 PM



~~Diana Simon, Mayor~~

KEVIN G. HAAG, Vice Mayor



Kala Farley, Town Clerk

## TOLS TDA FY 2025-2026 Budget Information

TOLS Council Members:

The Town of Lake Santeetlah Tourism Development Authority members would like to present the proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026. NC Statutes dictates the goals and some of the funding requirements and allocation of TDA revenues. That being "promotion of travel and tourism in the town and/or other tourism related expenditures."

Outlined below are the budget line items and the thoughts or assumptions behind their development.

1. **Source of Revenue:** The revenue source is based on NC legislation and is set at three percent (3%) rental occupancy tax. Revenue includes transfer of \$2,000.00 from UCB checking account
2. **The projected revenue for FY 2025-2026 is \$13,025.00.**
3. **Expenditures: Promote Travel and Tourism \$8,684.00** This includes advertising and promotion of Lake Santeetlah.
4. **Related Expenditures:** \$4,341.00 This includes administrative, insurance, audit, capital projects and reserves.
5. **Total Revenue: \$13,025.00**
6. **Total Expenditures: \$13,025.00**

**FY 2025-2026 Budget is attached.** This budget, and the budget ordinance, have been adopted by the TDA Members to present to the TOLS Council. Please provide comments to acting Chair Simon, at your earliest, of suggested adjustments.

Also provided for Town Council review are 'July 1, 2024 through June 4, 2025 Profit and Loss Statement' and 'TDA Balance Sheet as of June 4, 2025'.

1. Revenue to date, July 1, 2024 to June 4, 2025: \$11,858.61; Interest \$22.94 (Not including deposits from June.)
2. Checking \$7,214.16; Savings \$1,550.89