

Town of Lake Santeetlah

Special Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2023

Mayor Gross called the meeting to order at 11:00AM. The purpose of the Special meeting is to accept the Golden Leaf Grant, to discuss a support letter for Corridor K, and to discuss Kim Matheson attending class at UNC. Councilmembers Emerson and Hager were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Kim Matheson and Town Clerk Kala Farley were also present. Councilmember Diana Simon and Ralph Mitchell were not present.

Councilmember Emerson made a motion to open the meeting. Councilmember Hager seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Emerson made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Hager seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- 1. Acceptance of the Golden Leaf Grant:** Mayor Gross stated this was awarded on August 3, 2023 and we have 45 days to respond and this is why we are having a special meeting to get this signed. Emerson asked if anyone knows if Bo Carpenter, Town attorney, has looked it over. Matheson stated that he had said yesterday it was in his inbox to look over but he has not. Emerson stated I'm not an attorney but basically it says they're going to give us the money and we have to use it for the way that we apply to use it and it goes through how we can request the money upfront or we can be reimbursed, or we can request 20% at a time unless we make arrangements with them to get more than the 20%. Basically if there's any money that's left over we can give it back to them. If there is any tools that we buy for the project we can either keep them or donate them to 501C3 or another government unit, so that's what I got out of this. Councilmember Hager made a motion to ask Connie to sign off on it. Mayor Gross seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously. Emerson stated there is no matching funds, it doesn't say anything about that. We have to attend a workshop which is today at 2:00PM. It's pretty cut and dry. Mayor Gross stated she wanted to thank Scott Kamps because he did a lot of work on this, a lot of leg work to get the estimates and the package together.

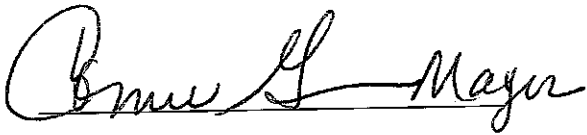
2. **Discuss Support Letter for Corridor K:** Mayor Gross stated we received a letter, we have received one of these before, from the person who is doing the work out on Corridor K and is trying to get more Grant money to finish the job. So we were contacted and this is a standard letter. I was at the Graham County commission meeting Tuesday night and they had the same letter with their name on it, ours is on this one. It's pretty standard and we have signed these before. Councilmember Hager asked to see the letter. Councilmember Emerson made a motion to sign the letter of support for Corridor K. Councilmember Hager seconded it. Emerson stated she wanted to say she is for and against this. I'm for all the jobs but at the same time I would like things to stay the way they are, but at the same time, there was something in there that says the project will overcome the areas remoteness and I think that's what we all love about it here. Mayor Gross stated if they build the roads and make it safer, I'm looking at it that way because it's so narrow in places and if we get populated we will get populated with better roads. Tourism is a big part of Graham County which is why I feel like I need to support this. Emerson stated I think it's a double edge sword because we need it, we need the roads, we need the ambulances to be able to go faster and safer, and we need people to get her faster and safer. Matheson stated she thinks we need something to bring our kids back home. We have our kids, we raise them here, we send them to college, and then they have to stay gone. There's nothing here for them unless they teach or work for the county or town so there really isn't anything for our kids to come back home. Emerson stated you want them to come back and want all the roads to be safe and good but at the same time you want to keep it as a little haven. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Discussion of Kim Matheson attending class at UNC:** Matheson stated I am on the wait list. I think it will be a really good class, it must have filled up really quickly and a lot of people wanted to take it. I did check this morning and they said they would send me an email if I get in. Emerson asked when the class was. Matheson stated it was the last week of August. Mayor Gross stated these classes fill up quickly so you have to respond quickly and if we need to have a meeting to approve you going you have to wait for us. Emerson stated it's in the budget already. Matheson stated I did sign up as soon as we talked about it but it was full. Mayor Gross stated maybe if a lot of people were interested they will do a second one. Matheson stated there is another one but they recommended you take this one before you take the next one. Mayor Gross stated I just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention. We are trying to keep our gals getting their education and benefitting the Town.

Announcements:

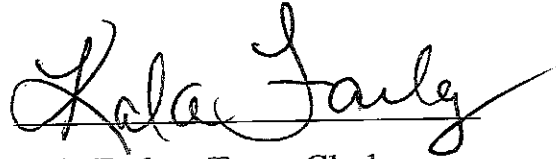
The next Council meeting will be held September 14, 2023 at 5:30PM. This meeting will be held at Town Hall and by Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn.

Councilmember Hager made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Emerson seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:09AM.

Handwritten signature of Connie Gross in cursive script.

Connie Gross, Mayor

Handwritten signature of Kala Farley in cursive script.

Kala Farley, Town Clerk