

Town of Lake Santeetlah (The Town)

Council Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2019

Mayor Jim Hager called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Councilmembers Keith Predmore and Mary Williams were present for the meeting. Attorney Craig Justus, Town Administrator Kim Matheson, Clerk Emily Hooper and Public Works Technician Eric Hayes were also present. Councilmember Patrick O'Donovan was available by phone. Councilmember Roger Carlton was not available.

The first order of business was the approval of the agenda. Councilmember Keith Predmore made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Mary Williams seconded. All others approved, the motion carried.

After review of the July 15, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes, there were no additions or changes needed. Councilmember Predmore made a motion to approve the Council Meeting minutes. Councilmember Williams seconded. All others approved, the motion carried.

After review of the August 7, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes, there were no additions or changes needed. Councilmember Predmore made a motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes. Councilmember Williams seconded. All others approved, the motion carried.

Financial Report/Tax Report: Town Administrator Matheson presented reports as of July 31, 2019. The general account balance is \$38,578.40; the water operating account balance is \$17,059.03. Tax collection for July was \$16,475.42. The general operating balance does not reflect this balance as the check has not been received at this time. Councilmember Predmore made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Councilmember O'Donovan seconded, all others approved. The motion carried.

Request for Public Comment:

Jack Gross explained the history of an invoice submitted by Tu-good Enterprises for work Mr. Gross completed to assist with a water leak on Nantahala Terrace. Mr. Gross noted that a check had been sent to him, but was not sufficient to pay for his work and stated if the invoice was not paid, he would have no choice other than to pursue legal action.

Tina Emerson reviewed the notice that was attached to the June 30 water billing, notifying all residents that the 2018 annual drinking water quality report was available at Town Hall. Emerson asked that the report be posted on the website, stating that she believed all water customers were to be notified of the completion of this report by July 1, 2019 by mail or email notice. Emerson noted that the Town of Lake Santeetlah should have received a waiver from the Governor to provide exemption for mailing notice. Emerson asked for a copy of that waiver.

Bette Lobue provided an update of TPOA meeting dates. The next meeting will be held September 9th at 7:00PM at Town Hall. Liter pickup September 10th at 9:00AM, meet at Town Hall.

Old Business:

#1: Water System Repair and Upgrades: Fred Walker, state inspector, visited Lake Santeetlah, Tuesday August 13th, to complete the annual inspection of the water system. Mayor Hager and Councilman Predmore met with the inspector with questions concerning the upcoming repairs to the water system. Walker agreed that replacing the tanks with plastic would be an option but will confirm that a plastic tank would comply with NC State regulations. Walker will provide an inspection report to the Town.

New Business

#1: Town Technician Maintenance Report: No major water leaks this month to report. Hayes replaced a two inch meter at Well House #2 that had stopped working.

#2: Resolution to approve application of Asset Inventory Assessment Grant for TOLS Water System: Randy Welch is planning to apply for, Asset Inventory Assessment grant. This grant is for \$150,000 for a three year period. This will pay for a survey and mapping of the water system. The Town Council must approve the Resolution provided by Welch. The information completed by Welch has a mistake and will need to be reviewed and corrected prior to approval. Town Administrator Kim Matheson will contact Welch and explain. Any action on this item is deferred until the paperwork is corrected.

Discussion:

#1: Sewer Study Report/Keith Predmore: No update at this time.

#2: Report from Roger Carlton regarding RPO/Allocation of Road Funding: Roger Carlton was not present at the meeting to report on this item.

#3: TDA Report/Predmore: The balance in the TDA account as of August 14th is \$13,634.64. Predmore is working on the car charging station project. A vendor has been identified. The next step is for the TDA and Town Council to agree upon a site for this station. Predmore is hopefully for this project to be moving forward within the next two or three months.

Motion for Closed Session:

Councilman Predmore made a motion for the Town Council to go into closed session to receive advice from the Town attorney. Councilmember Williams seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to return to the Council Meeting. Councilman Predmore seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

Attorney Justus said that Mayor Hager had engaged Attorney Meghan Burke with the Brazil & Burke law firm for representation in the lawsuit filed by Marsha Mathews and Johnny Cochran. The Council will consider payment by reimbursement to Mayor Hager. Each invoice will be submitted and reviewed by Town Administrator Kim Matheson and Attorney Justus. The Council authorized Matheson to review and pay any invoice up to \$10,000. Any invoice above that figure would be reviewed by the Council prior to consideration for payment. This is not a contract but a willingness to consider reimbursement

payment on a case by case basis. Councilmember Williams moved to approve, Predmore seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

Attorney Burke submitted a waiver of conflict form to be signed by Attorney Justus and Vice Mayor Predmore. Councilmember Williams made a motion to approve the waiver, O'Donovan seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

Announcements:

With no further business at this time Councilmember Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Predmore seconded, all others agreed. The motion carried. Mayor Hager adjourned the meeting at 11:01AM.

Meeting Adjourned

Jim Hager, Mayor

Emily Hooper, Town Clerk