**Town of Lake Santeetlah**

**Special Minutes**

**February 2, 2023**

Mayor Gross called the meeting to order at 1:30PM. The purpose of the Special meeting is to consider granting Ralph Mitchell a temporary medical leave of absence and appoint a replacement by nomination. Councilmembers Emerson, Simon and Hager were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Matheson and Town Technician Scott Kamps were also present. Councilmember Ralph Mitchell and Town Clerk Emily Hooper were not available.

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

Mayor Gross stated that agenda item number two should read: Consider and vote on a temporary replacement for Ralph Mitchell. Councilmember Emerson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Gross seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

1. **Consider granting Ralph Mitchell a Temporary Medical Leave of absence (needs action).** Mayor Gross explained that Mr. Mitchell spent the holidays in Ohio with his family. During this time the state of emergency ended and meetings could no longer be held by Zoom. While Ralph was away he became sick with Covid and has not been able to return to North Carolina. Mayor Gross talked with Mitchell and asked if he will be able to return and he is unsure at this time. Gross explained that since December there have been issues with having a quorum. NC Statute 128-41 would allow Councilmember Mitchell to take a temporary leave of medical absence until he fully recovers and returns. Mitchell wrote a letter requesting a leave of absence received by Town Staff. All Councilmembers have a copy of this request. Mayor Gross asked for a motion to grant Mitchell this leave until he is able to return. Councilmember Emerson made a motion to grant Mitchell a leave of absence according to NC Statute 128-41 (Emerson read the Statute). Mayor Gross seconded. Councilmember Simon and Hager opposed. Councilmember Simon stated that Mr. Mitchell should resign. Emerson explained that Mr. Mitchell is 93 and is overcoming Covid. He has requested a leave of absence and Emerson feels that it is unfair not to grant it. Hager feels that it would be in the best interest of the Town to prepare a Resolution and respectfully asked Mr. Mitchell to resign. The motion did not pass.

Attorney Carpenter requested a roll call for affirmation after discussion. Matheson asked each member for their vote. Mayor Gross, yes. Tina Emerson, yes. Diana Simon, no. Jim Hager, no. The motion failed.

1. **Consider a Temporary replacement for Ralph Mitchell take nomination (needs action).** This item was not discussed.

**Motion to Adjourn.**

Mayor Gross asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hager made the motion to adjourn. Simon seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:42PM.

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Connie Gross, Mayor Kim Matheson, Town Administrator