

Town of Lake Santeetlah

Council Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2018

Mayor Jim Hager called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Council Members Bob Wehr, Patrick O'Donovan and Keith Predmore were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Kim Matheson, Clerk Emily Hooper, and Public Works Technician Eric Hayes were also present.

The first order of business was the approval of the agenda. There were no additions or changes necessary. Councilman Bob Wehr made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan seconded. All others approved, the motion carried.

After review of the June 8, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes, there were no additions or changes necessary. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan made a motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes. Councilman Bob Wehr seconded. All others approved, the motion carried.

After review of the June 22, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes, there were no additions or changes necessary. Councilman Bob Wehr made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes. Councilman Keith Predmore seconded. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan was not present for the Special Meeting therefore he did not vote on these minutes. All others approved, the motion carried.

After review of the June 25, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes, there were no additions or changes necessary. Councilman Bob Wehr made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes. Councilman Keith Predmore seconded. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan was not present for the Special Meeting therefore he did not vote on these minutes. All others approved, the motion carried.

Financial Report/Tax Report: Town Administrator Kim Matheson explained that the balance sheet presented displayed the balances as of June 30, 2018. The general operating balance is \$49,309.87 and water operating \$2,253.73. The tax collection was \$176.91. All taxes collected at this time are late and a 10% fee for collection is charged. The 2017-18 collection rate was 99.67%. \$650.35 is the outstanding balance for 2017 property taxes. The total spent in legal fees for the 2017-18 year was \$30,127.86. This is a combined total including litigation and annual legal fees.

Councilman Patrick O'Donovan made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Councilman Bob Wehr seconded, all others approved. The motion carried.

Request for Public Comment:

Steve Poole: The Town Council applied and was awarded a grant for a Sewer Study. This study was completed last year and several options were provided for future repair areas. After the options and expenses were presented the Town discussed composing a survey for all Town residents. Tetra Tech agreed to complete a survey for approximately \$1,500.00. During a Council Meeting in which this survey was being discussed Mr. Poole acknowledged that he volunteered to work with others to compose a survey and present it to the Council for review. Poole also completed research during this time about some history of the Sewer system within the Town. Poole presented his work and shared his feelings concerning the grant. Poole, was unable to complete his presentation due to a three minute time limit. Poole basically shared the history of the grant and was concerned that the Town spent a large amount of tax money to still lack a solution. Mayor Jim Hager explained that within the next month the Sewer Study would be discussed

Richard Weale: Weale spoke of his attendance at the May Budget meeting and commended Town Staff for their preparation for that meeting and hard work year around.

Connie Gross: Gross provided a brief background summary of her knowledge of the Sewer Study. At the end of the study the Town decided to complete a survey and proposed the idea to Tetra Tech, the firm that had completed the study. The cost from Tetra Tech for the study was approximately \$1,500 which seemed to expensive therefore the Town decided to seek volunteers who would help create a survey. Gross asked that Steve Poole be granted her three minutes in order to extend the presentation of his research.

Poole continued to share that after volunteering for the project he emailed others involved but was never asked by the Council to present his findings. Therefore he asked for the opportunity to do so at today's meeting.

Jack Gross: Mr. Gross explained that it would be beneficial to have a Sewer Study Workshop with the committee that had been involved throughout the process and discuss options. This could allow an opportunity for Mr. Poole to share his information. A formal report could be shared at the Council Meeting following the workshop.

The donation to the Santeetlah Fire department decreased to \$3,000. Gross spoke to Scott Cunningham, the fire chief, and he was concerned that the fire rating for residents could drop causing insurance premiums to increase. Gross stressed that the Town should consider maintaining a generous donation to the fire department as they count on those funds in their budget. Mayor Hager explained that last year the Town had to approach the Fire Department about the donation as there was never a request. The Town asked for a financial statement from the department or a general breakdown of funds which was not received.

The recent water leak on Nantahala Terrace caused a lot of damage to the road. Gross acknowledged that some felt that the fire department flushing the hydrants earlier that day could have caused the leak. Gross feels that the leak was simply caused by an aging system and short cuts taken during the installation process. Gross asked if the insurance company had been contacted about the damage. Mayor Jim Hager explained that the insurance will cover personal property damage but not public roads. The damage to the Broyles on Nantahala was only cosmetic and the contractor has been contacted for an estimate to repair.

Roger Carlton: Carlton clarified the idea to "tie" into Robbinsville sewer system was from a study completed years ago, not from the most recent sewer study. There are homes that do not have adequate systems and Tetra Tech was able to provide several options for repair. The claim that sewage will be transferred to unused lots as a plan is not true.

The ARC grant applied for to construct a public facility for restrooms was no surprise and was approved by the Board at the time of the application. The Town Administrator and Town Clerk at the time were in favor of a public restroom facility due to so many people coming in to the office to use the restroom.

Betty LoBue: TPOA Announcements: The nominations for officers for 2019-20 are now open. Please notify by email if interested in becoming an officer of the TPOA. August 13, 2018 at 7:00PM at Town Hall is the next meeting. Rick Davis, president of GREAT, will be speaking. August 14, 2018 at 9:00AM is liter pick up. August 17, 2018 is the end of summer boat party.

Old Business

#1 Review of Front Entrance: No update available at this time.

New Business

#1 Town Technician Maintenance Report: There have been four water leaks over the past month, one occurred at the top of the hill at the entrance to Town Hall, another near the garage, then last week on Indian Trail and Nantahala Terrace. All leaks have been repaired and all four wells are working at this time. Cherokee Well Drilling replaced a pump and Harvey Seay, an electrician, fixed the electric issues with the third well. The water leak on Nantahala Terrace caused the road to be undermined and forty feet of asphalt was dug up in order to repair. There is more that will need to be removed as the sun hits the road it is showing obvious signs of dipping.

#2 Scott R. Mitchell & Katie Mitchell, 23 Santeetlah Point, Purchase of Town Property abutting the 1817 Contour Line of Lake Santeetlah: Councilman Keith Predmore made a motion to approve the land transfer from the Town of Lake Santeetlah to Scott R. Mitchell & Katie Mitchell as presented. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan seconded. All others approved. The motion passed.

#2 Mike & Ava Goodson, 119 Island Drive, Purchase of Town Property abutting the 1817 Contour Line of Lake Santeetlah: Councilman Bob Wehr made a motion to approve the land transfer from the Town of Lake Santeetlah to Mike & Ava Goodson as presented. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan seconded. All others approved. The motion passed.

#3 Recommendations for New Council Member: At this time Connie Gross is the only candidate to be considered for the vacant council seat. There is one other pending and a decision will be made to fill the Council seat soon.

#4 Occupancy Tax Update/Diana Simons: Diana Simons was absent therefore TDA Board Member and Councilmember Keith Predmore provided an update of TDA business. The 2018-19 budget was approved by the TDA. The insurance premium for the year has been received which included a yearly fee. A second proposal has been received this morning but not reviewed. The TDA will discuss and approve after comparing the figures and coverage. The presentation from a WNC company based out of Franklin NC at the last TDA meeting was impressive and informative. The company plans to incorporate and promote the Town of Lake Santeetlah on their website.

#5 TOLS Black Knight Banner and Program Ad: Robbinsville High School has banners and program ads that are sold each year that support the RHS Athletic Department. The banners are displayed at the football, basketball games and wrestling matches. The banner and program ad would show that the Town of Lake Santeetlah supports Robbinsville High School. The cost for the banner is \$300.00 for the first year and \$200.00 for the years to follow. A full page program ad is \$130.00. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan made a motion to approve the purchase of the banner to support RHS athletic department. Councilman Bob Wehr seconded. All others approved. The motion carried. Councilman Bob Wehr made a motion to approve the program ad. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

#6 Review of Block Party: The Town Block Party was a success; weather was great and the feedback from residents was positive regarding the event. There were approximately one hundred people present. T-Dubbs catered the BBQ pork and chicken. The leftovers were frozen and could be used for another party in the fall if the residents are interested. The Town budgeted \$1,200.00 for the party and only about \$400.00 was used. The Town would have plenty of funds available if another party was planned.

#7 Follow up Sewer Study: This item was previously discussed.

Announcements:

Mayor Jim Hager announced that the next Council Meeting is August 10, 2018 at 10:00AM at Town Hall.

With no further business at this time Councilman Bob Wehr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan seconded, all others agreed. The motion carried. Mayor Jim Hager adjourned the meeting at 10:42AM.

Meeting Adjourned

Jim Hager, Mayor

Emily Hooper, Town Clerk