

Town of Lake Santeetlah (The Town)

Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2019

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

The first order of business was the approval of the agenda. Councilmember Keith Predmore made a motion to amend the agenda to remove the motion for closed session and Item#2 Eradication of Kudzu within the Town/Potential Regulation Legal Report, both due to the absence of the Town Attorney. Councilmember Carlton seconded. All approved, the motion carried. Councilmember Predmore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Carlton seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

After review of the October 22, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes, there were no additions or changes needed. Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the Council Meeting minutes. Councilmember Predmore seconded. All others approved, the motion carried.

Financial Report/Tax Report: Town Administrator Matheson presented reports as of October 31, 2019. The general account balance is \$42,040.10; the water operating account balance is \$16,947.62. Tax collection for September was \$9,324.11. This is after the fee for collection was deducted. The two tanks have been repaired and the total cost was \$29,400. There will be a budget amendment later in the meeting to move funds in order to cover this expense. There are no large transactions in the general fund to report this month. Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Councilmember Predmore seconded, all others approved. The motion carried.

Request for Public Comment:

Jack Gross: Presented general statute information to remind the council that if meeting dates are changed the council should vote on this change and post the new meeting schedule at least seven days in advance.

According to Mr. Gross any councilmembers attending the meetings electronically are not counted in a quorum or cannot be counted as part of the vote. They are only in attendance for discussion purposes unless the Town has a policy stating otherwise.

The Resolution passed at last month's Council meeting to amend the Town charter must be put on the ballot for vote prior to implementation.

Gross is concerned about a budget amendment posted later on the agenda that moves funds from line item: Quiet Title Action to Planning Board fees.

Gross pointed out that Town Meetings should be run and directed by the Mayor instead of an attorney.

Old Business:

#1: Water System Repair and Upgrades: Town Technician Eric Hayes explained before and after pictures as they were presented of the water tanks. The first tank had fourteen holes that were repaired after sandblasting and the second tank had six. The metal was thin due to aging and rust. Hayes reported the work completed by Scott I. Enterprise was very thorough and detailed. "They take pride in their work and really done a great job." According to Icenhower these repairs should last at least 20 years.

#2: County Commission Inaction on Alcohol Resolution: The resolution passed by the Town Council was on the Graham County Board of Commissioners agenda but no action was taken. Councilmember Carlton suggested that in the future Town Staff request copies of the monthly agendas so that a representative from the Town Council could attend if needed. Anne Hager reported that despite no action being taken by the Board of Commissioners this is moving forward. If Graham County declines to put Alcohol on the upcoming ballot, the Town of Robbinsville will do so.

New Business

#1: Town Technician Maintenance Report: Hayes reported the paving repairs on Nantahala Terrace had been completed by The Aldridge Brothers.

The light out at the flag pole is a sensor and will be replaced.

#2: Budget Amendment:

A Budget Amendment will be necessary for All Pending Litigation. \$25,000 will be charged back to the 2018-19 fiscal year, per Joe Turchetti, TOLS auditor. The funds will be moved from the escrow account to general in line item: All Pending litigation.

There will be a budget amendment for the Planning Board. A line item will be created with \$6,000. These funds will be moved from quiet title action to the new line item. Councilmember Predmore made a motion to approve the amendment presented. Councilmember Carlton seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

Two line items will be created for legal fees for Jim Hager and Bob Wehr. Each of these will have \$10,000. These funds will be moved from the escrow account to general. Councilmember Predmore made a motion to approve the amendment presented. Councilmember Carlton seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

An amendment is needed to complete paving and road repairs due to recent water leaks. This amendment will require a \$2,000 amendment. These funds will be moved from the \$32,000 transfer in savings to Line item: Paving. Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the amendment presented. Councilmember Predmore seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

An additional amendment is needed for the water tank repairs. \$29,000 will be moved from First Citizens Money Market to UCB Water Operating. These funds will be placed in line item: Long Term Maintenance and used to pay Scott I Enterprise for the repairs. Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the amendment presented. Councilmember Predmore seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

#3: Discussion of County Commission Rejection of Proposed Amendments to the Regional Transportation Comprehensive Plan: Councilmember Carlton is the representative from Lake Santeetlah on the Southwest Regional Commission board. A subset group of this organization is called the Regional Planning Organization (RPO) which allocates funds for transportation projects such as: the new road to Robbinsville High School and the recent re-striping of all major roads within the County. The RPO proposed an amendment to the Graham County Board of Commissioners to re-designate certain roads in Graham County that would have potentially helped receive additional funding for Corridor K. This request was rejected by the Commissioners. Despite the rejection the work continues. According to many there are three key components to improving the economic status in Graham County is a better road, Alcohol Sales and internet.

#4: Acceptance of the 2018-19 TOLS Audit: The TOLS audit report is posted on the website and available at Town Hall for those interested. The audit has been reviewed and accepted by the State. Councilmember Carlton acknowledged that the audit was clean and all accounts were balanced. Carlton made a motion to accept the audit as presented. Councilmember Predmore seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

Discussion:

#1: Report of steps to Complete TOLS Water Repair: Councilmember Predmore developed a presentation to explain the process in repairing the aging water system. Predmore stated, "We have to eat the elephant one bite at a time." The system has been in place for over 25 years with very little maintenance. There are few records that provide detail of the system, therefore there are lots of things to break down and process. Predmore presented the key components: Make a plan, prioritize and budget. The project will be completed in phases. The presentation explained what should occur in the acquisition phase and distribution phase. The information gathered by Mr. Predmore was included in a spreadsheet that the Town can use as a guide when (planning, prioritizing and budgeting over the coming years). Predmore stressed that the figures in the spreadsheet are estimates and does not include exact figures for cost. Predmore pointed out that the spreadsheet will change and will be updated as more information is available. Town staff will email this report to Randy Welch who has been helping with water repair planning. The report will also be posted on the website and available at Town Hall for those interested.

#2: Monthly Workshop Session for the Town Council: The Town Council would like more communication from the public and plans to begin by having workshop meetings. A recent survey sent out by the Planning Board clearly identifies the need for greater communication efforts between the public and the council. A Zoom account could be created for those who aren't able to attend. The new Council will be sworn in on December 2nd and will discuss and develop a plan for workshops or planning sessions beginning in January.

Announcements:

There will be a Public Hearing December 9, 2019 at 10:00AM at Town Hall to discuss amendments to the Town Charter followed by the Council meeting.

With no further business at this time Councilmember Predmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Carlton seconded, all others agreed. The motion carried. Mayor Hager adjourned the meeting at 11:08AM.

Meeting Adjourned

Jim Hager, Mayor

Emily Hooper, Town Clerk