**Town of Lake Santeetlah**

**Council Meeting Minutes (Zoom)**

**September 9, 2021**

Mayor Hager called the meeting to order at 10:01AM. Councilmembers Predmore, Haag, Simon, and Carlton were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Matheson and Town Clerk Emily Hooper and Attorney Craig Justus were also present for the meeting.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Councilmember Simon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Haag seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the July 20, 2021 Special Called Workshop Minutes:** Councilmember Simon made a motion to approve the July 20, 2021 Special Called Workshop Minutes. Councilmember Haag seconded. All others approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the August 12, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes:** Councilmember Simon made a motion to approve the August 12, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Haag seconded. All others approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the August 24, 2021 Special Called Workshop Minutes:** Councilmember Predmore made a motion to approve the August 24, 2021 Special Called Workshop Minutes. Councilmember Simon seconded. All others approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial/Tax Report:** Town Administrator Matheson provided an update as of August 31, 2021. The general fund balance is $54,283.85, water fund $30,682.92. Tax collection for August was $23,047.79. QuickBooks has been unable to back-up effectively due to lack of storage. Charlton Buchanan is working with Town Staff to complete updates. The audit is in progress. Matheson has been working with Joseph Turchetti, auditor, to complete the audit. If a special meeting is needed to approve the audit it will be scheduled prior to the October 31 State deadline. A draft will be posted on the website when it is received.

**Request for Public Comment:**

**Property Owner Gross:**  Concerning speed limit – 10mph isn’t reasonable or prudent according to Mr. Gross.

**Old Business:**

1. **Developing Strategy for TLS Broadband Upgrade: Status Report from Chris Bradley:** Carlton will schedule Chris Bradley for the October meeting to provide a report.
2. **Report from Town Attorney on Town-wide Speed Bump/Humps, Speed Limit and One way Streets & Request to Change Speed Bumps to Humps:** Justus reported that an Ordinance is necessary to change/update the speed limit and One-way streets throughout Town. A Public Hearing for each item will be needed and an Ordinance adopted after the Hearing. A draft Ordinance has been prepared by the attorney. Speed Bumps/Humps would be an administrative decision. Public Comment could be considered by the Council but not necessary by law. Justus suggested that the Town use the DOT recommended Speed Bump/Hump, Speed Limit and One-Way signs.

Mayor Hager has set forth a proposal for a change in Town-wide speed limit to 15mph. This can be further discussed at a Public Hearing next month. Carlton suggested scheduling a workshop to consider Public Comment concerning speed bumps/humps and one way streets. According to Justus the majority of the Council has approved the speed bumps and they can be installed with proper signage.

Predmore stated that the One-way Street proposed (near Marina Drive) has no turn around spot other than a private driveway therefore he would be opposed.

Carlton made a motion to call a Public Hearing October 26, 2021 at 10AM on the subject of one way streets (town wide) based on the existing streets as well as a portion of Marina Drive. Haag seconded. Predmore opposed. All others agreed. The motion passed four to one. Justus clarified that a list should be created of all one-way streets and any new ones to be discussed at the Hearing.

Carlton made a second motion to schedule a Public Hearing for October 26, 2021 at 10AM to further discuss the proposed 15mph speed limit throughout Town. Haag seconded. All others approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hager asked that an agenda item be placed on the October agenda to allow public comment on the speed bumps/humps.

1. **Kudzu Report:** Scott Kamps provided a report that there are nine areas within the Town effected by Kudzu. Three of those homeowners are currently working with Kamps to treat the Kudzu. One area on Nantahala Trail, Town owned property, has also been treated. There are five other locations that Kamps has not treated (Emily Wehr, 63 Snowbird Trail, Gatewood, 730 Thunderbird Trail, Stephen Tidwell, 51 Snowbird Trail, James Martin, 147 Snowbird Trail, Bill Hudson, 72 Chalet Village). Simon reported that the Gatewood’s home had recently been treated. Mayor Hager asked that Matheson send a letter to the remaining five homeowners, providing information and phone numbers offering assistance to eradicate the Kudzu. Councilmember Haag asked for a copy of the Kudzu list. Carlton asked if the Council felt comfortable continuing a voluntary program to remove the Kudzu throughout Town as the number had grown over the last year and would continue to grow if not treated.

Mayor Hager suggested that the five homeowners be sent a letter asking for a response of action within 30 days. A follow up report will be provided at the October Council Meeting. Haag is concerned with the Town using funds to assist with the process. Carlton explained the money was discussed and set aside during budget preparation. Carlton stated that the Town has “kicked this ball down the court for a year and half” and the Town should assist financially if needed.

**New Business:**

1. **Reaffirmation of setting a Public Hearing for September 21, 2021, for the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Forms and Zoning Map at 10AM:** Councilmember Carlton made a motion to set the Public Hearing for September 21, 2021 at 10:00AM. Simon seconded. All others approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion:**

1. **Report from Keith Predmore on NC School of Government Class:** Predmore attended a Leadership Course in August. The classes included: Personal Leadership Courses, Public Speaking, Visioning for the Community, and Working with fellow Councilmembers. Predmore thanked the Council for allowing him to attend this class.

**Motion for Closed Session**

1. **Motion for Closed Session to discuss employee matters:** Predmore read the motion for the Lake Santeetlah Town Council to move into Closed Session. Simon seconded. All others approved. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Motion to discuss matters of attorney-client privilege:** Predmore read the motion. Simon seconded. All others approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Matheson polled the Council. Haag was not present for this part of the meeting. All other members were present.

The Town Council returned to Open Session.

**Action from Closed Session:** Carlton made a motion to increase the pay rate for Scott Kamps and Emily Hooper $1.00 per hour, effective at the next pay period. Predmore seconded. All others approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements:**

* The next regular scheduled Council Meeting will be held October 14, 2021 at 10:00AM. This meeting will be held via Zoom unless otherwise notified. Information will be sent out at a later date.
* Public Hearing regarding Zoning September 21, 2021 at 10:00AM
* Public Hearing to discuss One Way Streets on October 26, 2021 at 10:00AM
* Public Hearing to discuss Town wide speed limit on October 26, 2021 at 11:00AM.

**Motion to Adjourn.**

Councilmember Predmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Simon seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:22AM.

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Jim Hager, Mayor Emily Hooper, Town Clerk