

Town of Lake Santeetlah

Special Called Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2018

Mayor Jim Hager called the meeting to order at 10:05AM. Council Members Bob Wehr and Keith Predmore were present for the meeting. Councilman Patrick O'Donovan was not available for the meeting. Town Administrator Kim Matheson and Clerk Emily Hooper were also present.

The first order of business was the approval of the agenda. Councilman Bob Wehr made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Keith Predmore seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

New Business

#1 Proposed Budget for 2018/19 Fiscal Year: The proposed budget was displayed and printed for those present to review. Councilman Bob Wehr made a motion to open the public hearing. Councilman Keith Predmore seconded. All others approved. The motion carried.

Discussion:

Town Administrator Kim Matheson explained the changes that had been made to the budget after the May 2018 Budget workshop. There was an increase in the water budget for chemicals. The last two years a budget amendment has been necessary due to increasing costs. The change was displayed on line item 40 from \$1500 to \$3000. The Town is hosting a block party on July 8, 2018. \$1000 was set aside for this event.

Matheson explained that per request of Roger Schilf an asterisk had been placed by each item within the budget that is split between the water and general account.

Roger Schilf: Questioned the Powell Bill allocation for the upcoming year. The roads within Lakeside were taken over by the Town but have not been certified at this time. The Town plans to complete that this year and the Powell Bill funds will increase.

Line Item #15, Land Sale portrays the expected revenue from Santeetlah Trail. This figure is the total minimum value of each parcel. Schilf asked how could "expected" revenue be added into the budget for use by the Town. The State Treasurer's office has confirmed the Town could include this revenue in the upcoming budget according to Town Administrator Kim Matheson.

Jack Gross asked about a loan from the general account to the water that still has one payment remaining. Town Administrator Matheson explained, the general account owes the water \$10,000 for a loan obtained in 2014. This was a series of three payments and one payment is still remaining to complete the payback. This was not included this year's budget due to pending litigations and other areas where funds are necessary. The payback will likely occur in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Gross pointed out that \$500.00 was loaned to the TDA (Travel Development Authority) from the Town. Gross asked if there was a line in the budgeted showing those funds being received back from the TDA. Matheson explained that the TDA had only used \$284.00 of the \$500.00. There is not a line item displaying that revenue but it would be in the TDA budget to refund the Town.

Tina Emerson asked if the \$83,000 is received by the Town for Land Sale and the pending lawsuit is lost. Those who purchase the land could then request the money back. The money at that time would be allotted for items within the budget. Emerson asked what the Town would do in that situation.

The funds for employee cell phone increased as Town Technician Eric Hayes got a new cell phone making the payment higher each month.

Employee salary is partially paid from the water account. 10% of Kim Matheson (Administrator) and Emily Hooper's (Clerk) salary comes from water and 30% of Eric's, the Town Technician.

Roger Schilf asked for an explanation of the pending litigations. Mayor Hager explained that an overview would be time consuming for a budget hearing. Copies of the lawsuits and court orders were public record and an explanation could be provided if he would like to stay after today's meeting.

Gross asked if the Council Member meeting fee should decrease since there is only one meeting per month. Mayor Hager explained that there was no policy on how the members were paid. The fee is not defined as a payment per meeting rather just a monthly payment for the services rendered as Councilmember.

The contribution to the Santeetlah Fire Department has decreased within the budget. There has been no request for donation this year, and the prior year the Town had to approach the Department to provide the donation. The Town asked for a financial statement from the Fire Department prior to future donations which has not been received.

The steps behind Town Hall are in need of repair and funds have been placed in the budget to complete the repair during this year.

Raymond Williams, Contract Public Safety Officer, did not complete the maximum number of hours during the winter months, therefore there are extra funds left over there.

The water leak on Thunderbird Trail cost approximately \$3,000 from the water department for repairs. The water department continues to show signs of aging as valves leak and pumps need replaced. The water tank will require painting within the next year or two. The insurance company is requiring a fence be installed around the water tank. The long term maintenance for the water budget is increasing due to ongoing issues with the water system. The amount allotted will complete upcoming projects (such as fence and painting) and allow additional funds for unexpected expenses.

The town truck will be paid off within this fiscal year.

Contract Water Operator Lamar Williams salary increased as he was granted a 3% raise. Williams had not had a raise in over five years.

The supplies line item within the water increased to enable Eric Hayes to purchase additional tools to complete water repairs.

Anne Hager shared her thoughts of the \$9,000 currently allotted to fund the security officer's salary. What does the Town receive for that \$9,000? Throughout the past year there were possibly two incidents that occurred within the Town and both were from the water which cannot be prevented or deterred by the Security Officer at the guard shack. The officer can monitor traffic going the wrong way or request cars, trucks or trailers to move from the roadway. Hager suggested that is seemed like a large

amount to pay for such services. The Graham County Sherriff's department should agree to work with the Town and increase patrolling within the area. Hager stated that a marked police car would be more beneficial. Mayor Hager explained that the sheriff's office had been contacted numerous times and the Town could do so again after the upcoming election.

Announcements

Mayor Hager announced that there would be a Block Party July 8, 2018 at 5:00PM. Please RSVP as soon as possible. With no further business at this time Councilman Bob Wehr made a motion to close. Councilman Keith Predmore seconded. All others approved. The motion carried. Mayor Hager adjourned the meeting at 11:04AM.

Jim Hager, Mayor

Emily Hooper, Town Clerk