**Town of Lake Santeetlah**

**Council Meeting Minutes (Zoom)**

**August 12, 2021**

Mayor Hager called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Councilmembers Predmore, Haag, Simon, and Carlton were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Matheson and Attorney Brian Gulden were also present for the meeting.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Councilmember Hager amended the agenda by adding three items: Update on TPOA Fundraiser for Front Entrance (Old Business), Discussion of Labor Day Block Party (New Business) and Scheduling the Continuation of the Zoning Workshop (Discussion). Councilmember Carlton added, Update of Lakeside Variance (Old Business) and Desecration of the United States Flag from the property owner above Town Hall (New Business). Carlton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Simons seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the July 8, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes:** Councilmember Simons made a motion to approve the July 8, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Carlton seconded. All others approved. The motion passed unanimously.

The approval of the July 20,2021 workshop minutes was deferred.

**Financial/Tax Report:** Town Administrator Matheson provided an update. The tax collection for July was $30,571.52. This is the first month in the fiscal year therefore not much to report. The reports are posted on the website for review for those interested.

**Request for Public Comment:**

**Property Owner Gross:**  Addressed an article referencing the America Rescue Plan Act posted on Coats Cannons, on August 10, 2021. It doesn’t appear that the Town will qualify for a significant amount of funds. Gross recommended the Council review the article.

New Business #1, Speed Bumps and Speed Limit in Lakeside. Gross stated he is in favor. Gross also pointed out that there is no Stop sign coming out of Lakeside onto 129. There are other signs missing throughout the Town and advised Council to drive through and locate.

Gross commended the Town for donating $45,000 to the Fire Department according to the financial report.

**Old Business:**

1. **Request from Nash to Cut Road for Internet Service:** Mayor Hager reviewed that Richard Nash and Dr. Han would benefit from the conduit. The line would be approximately one foot underneath the roadway. In this location it cannot be tunneled under the road. The road must be cut. Nash plans to hire Scott Kamps to complete the work. Carlton made a motion to authorize Town Administrator and Town Attorney to move forward with the project following all necessary guidelines. Hagg seconded. All others were polled. Predmore opposed. The motion passed four to one.
2. **Water Testing – Wastewater Report:** The Town has completed water testing and all reports prove that the lake is exceptionally clean. A third test will be completed after Labor Day will finalize the testing process. A final report will be provided after the results are received.
3. **Kudzu Update:** The Town passed a Resolution approximately one year ago that offered support of those effected by Kudzu. The efforts to eradicate the Kudzu would be voluntary according to that Resolution. Carlton pointed out that at that time there were six homeowners effected and that number has grown to nine. Carlton asked if the Council would be interested in moving forward to mandate eradication rather than leaving it voluntary. Matheson explained that Scott Kamps is currently working with some of those property owners and that removing Kudzu is a slow process. Mayor Hager recommended that Kamps provide an update of who he is working with, and Town Staff send a direct letter to those who aren’t currently treating the Kudzu offering recommendations of how to treat and remove Kudzu from their property.
4. **Notary Public Certification for Administrator and Clerk:** Matheson stated that the fee had been paid for recertification for both Administrator and Clerk’s Notary license. The next step is a test that will be taken when the authorization to proceed is received. Both should receive an updated Notary certification within the next month or two.
5. **Use of Settlement Funds:** Mayor Hager explained the funds are currently in the Town Attorney’s Escrow account. Hager suggested that when the funds are received, they be placed in an Escrow account to hold. An infrastructure bill that was recently passed, could allow matching funds. The Council agreed that the funds be deposited into the Escrow account until a decision is made of how the money will be used.
6. **Update on TPOA Fundraiser for Front Entrance:** Hager received a request from the TPOA that this fundraiser be wrapped up and the bricks be ordered for the front entrance. Hager suggested that at the Labor Day block party and September water billing additional request for donations be made and then finalize the fundraiser at that point. TPOA president, Bill Piel agreed with that idea.
7. **Update of Lakeside Variance:** Carlton asked for an update from the Attorney. Matheson explained that Attorney Justus has not had a chance to review the changes presented by the developers. Attorney Gulden stated he would pass the request on to expedite this review. Zoning Administrator Farley is waiting on advice from the Attorney.

**New Business:**

1. **Speed Bumps and Speed Limit Sign in Lakeside:** Councilman Carlton has spoken with Lakeside homeowners and confirmed that all agree on the installation of two speed bumps. One at the intersection of Little Falls Trail and Lakeside Trail and the other between Dragonfly and Twin Falls cottage with proper signage in both locations. Speed limit signs will also be placed at both entrances establishing a 10mph limit in Lakeside. A One-Way sign will be installed making the area from the North side of the pavilion to Steve Poole’s property line a one-way street. Appropriate informational signage will be located near Town Hall to warn vehicles of the one-way ahead. Town Attorney advised that an email be sent to Lakeside Homeowners notifying of the change. Matheson sent the email as recommended. Haag asked for a financial analysis of the project. Carlton explained that Lakeside Homeowners Association would be willing to provide financial assistance if they preferred different signs than those throughout other areas in the Town. Hager explained that Lakeside roads were Town roads therefore the cost would be covered by the Town for the speed bumps and signs. Simon recommended Children at Play signs be installed in the area as well. Attorney Gulden stated that an Ordinance may be necessary in order to enforce the speed limit and one way change. Hager explained that Town Staff would proceed with installation of the speed bumps while further researching the need for Ordinance change. Predmore made a motion to provide an Ordinance for speed limit. Haag seconded. Carlton offered an amendment to the motion by adding the approval of Public Hearing notice that may be needed for speed limit signs and one way street signs. Predmore withdrew his motion. Carlton made a motion to authorize speed bumps to be installed. Authorize the one-way street signs to be installed. If a Public Hearing is needed schedule, it on the same day as the next Council Meeting. The same for the speed limit signs. Predmore offered an amendment to the motion stating: upon completion of an appropriate Ordinance. Simon seconded. All others were polled. The motion passed unanimously. The Speed limit will be set town wide if necessary by Ordinance not only in Lakeside.
2. **Make Marina Drive one way from the Pavilion:** This item was discussed above.
3. **Zoom Meetings vs. In-person – or combination of both:** Mayor Hager recommended that the Town of Lake Santeetlah should continue to meet by Zoom due to the current rise in Covid cases in Graham County. All Council members agreed.
4. **Labor Day Block Party:** Frances Connor (town resident) plans to schedule a band at Mannere Park for Labor Day. Mayor Hager explained the Town would supply the tent, food, drinks and utensils. A quote was received from The Hub for $850.00 for pulled pork, slaw, potato salad and buns. The Block Party will be held Sunday afternoon September 5th.
5. **Desecration of the United States Flag from the property owner above Town Hall:** There are flags installed on the fence above Town Hall. The flags are torn, rotten and some have fell to the ground. Carlton asked the owner of this property to please dispose of these flags in the proper manner.

**Discussion:**

1. **Infrastructure Program Application Process and how to set Priorities:** Carlton attended a workshop of the County Commission concerning COVID relief funds available. The program of infrastructure has moved through the Senate and now moving to the House has funds for broadband. There are multiple sources of money that could likely be attained by retaining a consultant who would be knowledgeable of how to apply and receive these funds. A survey was completed with Town Hall residents and all but one who answered said they would switch providers if a better option was available. Hager will follow up with a provider from Balsam West to see what is available at this time and ask for recommendations for moving forward.
2. **Date for Continuation of Zoning Workshop:** A date will need to be scheduled with Attorney Justus then Matheson will check with all Council members to confirm. August 24th works with all Council members if Justus is available.

**Announcements:**

* The next Council Meeting will be held September 9, 2021 at 10:00AM. This meeting will be held via Zoom unless otherwise notified. Information will be sent out at a later date.

Attorney Gulden confirmed by reading the statues that the Council would have to adopt an Ordinance in order to change the speed limit. Speed limit and One Way Street town-wide will be an item on the September Agenda. The General Statutes to review for this procedure is: NCGS 20-141

**Motion to Adjourn.**

Councilmember Haag made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Simon seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35AM.

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Jim Hager, Mayor Emily Hooper, Town Clerk