

Town of Lake Santeetlah

Council Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2023

Mayor Simon called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Councilmembers Kevin Haag, Jim Hager, Keith Predmore, and Ralph Strunk were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Kim Matheson, Town Clerk Kala Farley, and Town Technician Scott Kamps were also present.

Scott Kamps offered an Invocation and Predmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Hager made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business #7 Budget Amendment for the Town truck and New Business #8 Resolution to set the Town of Lake Santeetlah 2024-2025 scheduled meeting dates. Haag seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda for Approval of the September 14, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes, October 27, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes, November 9, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes, and December 11, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes: Hager made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Predmore Seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial/Tax Report as of November 2023: Matheson reported the tax collection as of November 2023 was \$77,033.66.

Brookfield-The representative did not attend the meeting.

Request for Public Comment:

Jack Gross-Gross spoke about the change of the meeting day and time and said while the change of the day will not have that big of an effect, the time change from 5:30PM to Noon and being described as a working lunch is a detrimental action for the new and growing demographic makeup of this community.

Alan Davidson-Davidson referenced sections of the North Carolina State Constitution and read Section 11 about property qualifications. He said there is some language in the Town of Santeetlah that needs to be cleaned up to adhere to the State Constitution.

Roger Carlton-Carlton spoke about Agenda item New Business #4 Appoint an oversight committee for Broadband/Internet. Carlton said the most important thing

is to decide what it is we really want. Do we want a system that is patched up quickly that may or may not have long term viability or do we want to try to find a new complete system that is more modern. We need to involve the citizens because the most successful system will be the one with the most subscribers.

Tina Emerson-Emerson said a survey was conducted in the past for desired meeting times and suggested the Council could do another survey to get that information. Simon replied the previous survey only had two choices to pick from.

Old Business:

1. Update on Golden Leaf: Matheson reported all the work for the Golden Leaf Grant had been completed. All the receipts for the work have been submitted and is under review and we are now just waiting on the funds to reimburse the Town.

New Business:

1. Brandon Emory will remain Zoning Administrator: Mayor Simon said Brandon Emory has decided that he will remain Zoning Administrator and we are reviewing the agreement.

2. Decision on Legal Counsel moving forward, review of agreements (action needed): Predmore presented the comparison he had done between the two proposals received from John Noor with Roberts & Stevens Attorneys At Law and Craig Justus with The Van Winkle Law Firm. After discussion, Haag made a motion to move forward with Craig Justus and have Predmore, as Contract Administrator, further discuss the terms of the contract with Justice. Predmore seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Support Letter for NCDOT: Hager made a motion for Mayor Simon to sign the support letter. Predmore seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Appoint an oversight committee for Broadband/Internet (action needed): Hager made a motion to appoint Kevin Haag, Roger Carlton, and Chris Bradley for the committee. Simon seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Town Truck Update: Kamps said the Truck will be here tomorrow. It is a 2024 white Ford F-350 and the trade-in allowance for the old truck was \$17,500, bringing the price of it down to \$35,675.

6. Ethics Course for Board Members notice: Matheson said the ethics course is available now as an on-demand course and the office will notify the Council when we get it set up and ready for them.

7. Budget Amendment: A budget amendment was to bring forward the \$19,000 from budget year 22/23 to budget year 23/24 and close out Truck Reserve Account to pay on the \$35,675 for the new Town truck between the General Fund and Water Fund. Hager made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Predmore seconded. All Approved. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Resolution to set the Town of Lake Santeetlah 2024-2025 scheduled meeting dates: A resolution to hold Council Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month was presented. Haag made a motion to approve the resolution. Strunk seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

1. Report on Audit postponed: The report on the audit has been postponed to be presented at the January 9, 2024 Meeting.

2. Awareness of Consumer Scams: There was discussion of a number of scams that had been going on and Mayor Simon said that we are receiving updates from the office of Attorney General Josh Stein to raise awareness and provide information on how to protect yourself from consumer scams.

Announcements:

- New water billing will be done the week before Christmas: Matheson said we will begin the new water billing on Monday, December 18, 2023, and asked that people please pay any outstanding balances if they haven't done so.
- The next regular scheduled Council Meeting will be held January 9, 2024 at 12PM. This meeting will be held at Town Hall and by Zoom.

Final Public Comment:

Chris Bradley-Bradley said Yes, he is willing to participate on the oversight committee. Bradley also said, in reference to the fraud discussion, he would like to make people aware that if you contact your local FBI office they may send somebody out, especially if they have the opportunity to address a substantial number of people, so you might want to make that available to the citizens, and the FBI agent can talk to you about what is currently out there and how to protect yourself.

Roger Carlton-Carlton said the County now offers the option to pay taxes by credit card. He also suggested, in reference to the water bills being mailed, that the

Council consider extending the water bill due date given the added strain on the postal service this time of year.

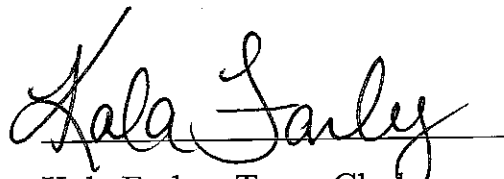
Jack Gross-Gross asked why it was stated during the meeting that the citizens would be asked about their preference for meeting times if the Council already had a resolution to adopt to lock in a specific time.

Motion to Adjourn.

Predmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Strunk seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 PM.



Diana Simon, Mayor



Kala Farley, Town Clerk