**Town of Lake Santeetlah**

**Council Meeting Minutes (Zoom)**

**May 12, 2022**

Mayor Connie Gross called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. Councilmembers Tina Emerson, Diana Simon and Ralph Mitchell were present for the meeting. Town Administrator Kim Matheson, Town Clerk Emily Hooper, Town Technician Scott Kamps and Attorney Bo Carpenter were also present. Jim Hager was unavailable.

Scott Kamps presented the Invocation.

Scott Kamps and Ralph Mitchell presented the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Mayor Gross asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Emerson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mitchell seconded. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the April 18, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes:** Councilmember Emerson made a motion to approve the April 18, 2022 Council Meeting minutes as presented. Gross seconded. All approved. The motion unanimously.

**Approval of the April 21, 2022 Budget Workshop Minutes:** Councilmember Emerson made a motion to approve the April 21, 2022 Budget Workshop minutes as presented. Mitchell seconded. All approved. The motion unanimously.

**Approval of the April 28, 2022 Budget Workshop Minutes:** Councilmember Mitchell made a motion to approve the April 28, 2022 Budget Workshop minutes as presented. Emerson seconded. All approved. The motion unanimously.

**Financial/Tax Report:** Matheson reported the tax collection for April was $1,009.53. General operating balance $139,459.21 and Water operating $40,036.89. There are two months remaining in this budget year. The paving for Black Bear is coming up and approximately $1,000 left for the front entrance project in this budget year. Payment to the Aldridge Brothers for paving at the front entrance is shown on the financial reports.

**Request for Public Comment:**

**Jack Gross:** Gross thanked the Council for replacing the speed bumps with humps. Traffic slows for the humps but individuals are shaken when driving over them. Gross expressed his appreciation for this change.

**Bill Piel:** Questioned an item on the draft agenda concerning super majority required for surveys. Piel stated that if a super majority is needed in a survey then a super majority vote would also be needed in approving a change. This item has been removed from the final agenda.

**Keith Predmore:** Predmore welcomed Tina Emerson back to Lake Santeetlah. Predmore asked Mitchell what day it is?

**Old Business:**

1. **Update for front entrance progress:** Kamps reported the paving is complete. The cones in the area will be removed when the signage is received. Kamps thanked Kevin Haag, Aura Griffith and Diana Simon for their assistance with planting. Most of the planting is done and mulch will be spread over the next week. The bricks will be delivered Monday. Keith Predmore plans to assist Kamps with the installation of the bricks. Kamps stated that everything is on schedule to have everything completed by Memorial Day.
2. **Updated Water Policy:** The updated water policy was presented. Emerson made a motion to approve the Resolution revising the water connection fee. Mitchell seconded. Emerson shared that the updated policy requires the owner to pay the cost for a new connection. This will keep the Town from making or losing money. The cost will alternate from person to person and this policy will require the homeowner to cover the cost whatever that may be. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Estimate from Aldridge Brothers for Road Paving on Black Bear:** The updated proposal received from the Aldridge Brothers totals $26,595. Kamps reported that the updated quote from the Aldridge Brothers includes an additional area near 66 Snowbird Trail that needed repair to reach a culvert. The smaller area isn’t as bad as the other and could wait, but Kamps asked for a quote since they will have the equipment and be in the area doing the other work. The quote for 949ft. is $22,860 and the area to reach a culvert (approximately 100ft.) is an additional $3,735. Emerson suggested that it would be best to complete the whole project while they are there. Kamps talked with Aldridge and once approved he will provide a written quote for signature and get it on his schedule which would likely be end of May or first of June.

**New Business:**

1. **Report from Kim Matheson on Water line location:** Randy Welch has arranged for Consolidated to visit Lake Santeetlah on June 14th at 9:00AM. The representative will bring a machine that day to demonstrate how water lines can be located. A report will be provided after his visit.
2. **Budget Amendment for road repair on Black Bear:** Mitchell made a motion approve the budget amendment as presented. Emerson seconded. Simon asked if this amendment would cover the full quote from Aldridge Brothers ($26,595). Matheson confirmed that this would include all proposed paving on Black Bear. All approved. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Acknowledgement of the Planning Board Recommendations:** Simon presented the Planning Board’s recommendations to the Town Council from their meeting on May 11th. Simon read a portion of the Planning Board minutes. The recommendations included, the request to the Town Council to reverse the decision to eliminate funding for the Zoning Administrator position this fiscal year. The Planning Board asked that the Town Council consider restoring the line item Zoning Administrator into the proposed budget for FY2022-23. Simon made a motion that the Town Council reverse the decision eliminate the Zoning Administrator for this fiscal year and restore funding for the next budget year. There was no second on this motion. Simon asked Attorney Bo Carpenter to please confirm that the Town of Lake Santeetlah is required to have a Zoning Administrator. Carpenter referenced an email sent to the Town Council approximately one month ago that stated his legal opinion regarding a Zoning Administrator. Carpenter acknowledged that the legal advice had not changed. Gross informed Carpenter that the Town Administrator was actively searching for an interterm Zoning Administrator from another Town.

**Discussion:**

1. **Santeetlah Fire Department Appreciation Day:** Gross is planning an appreciation/fundraising event for the Santeetlah Fire Department July 7th at 5:00PM. A BBQ dinner will be provided. This will be a great opportunity to meet the local firefighters. Bring a desert and a chair to Maniere Park at 5:00PM if you would like to come.
2. **Town Website Update:** Matheson reported that Miranda Moody, a teacher at Robbinsville High School, will be updating the website as needed. Moody was able to change the meeting links on the website to be accessed by clicking on the link. Moody added additional pages for minutes and can add the video recordings of the meetings if the Council would like to do so.

Emerson suggested adding a page for other committees: Planning Board and TDA.

1. **Ethics Course from NC School of Government for Town Council:** Gross is taking the Ethics course on May 26th, Simon has already taken it with Southwestern Commission. Simon’s certificate is on file at Town Hall. Emerson, Mitchell and Hager will take it on demand anytime after June 6th. Matheson will send a link out to the Council members to complete the course.
2. **Town Directory Update:** The ads are being sold for the directory until May 31st. The edits will be completed and a draft is expected in early June. After review the directory will go to printing. An updated directory should be received by mid-July. A mass email will be sent when the directories are available at Town Hall.
3. **TPOA Report – Betty Lobue:** Lobue provided a report of TDA events:

The first meeting for TPOA is Monday June 13, 2022 at 7:00PM at Town Hall.

The flyers for meetings and socials will be posted on the bulletin board at the front entrance.

The spring newsletter will be sent out next week. Lobue asked if you do not receive a copy by May 31st let her know and she will update the contact information.

Lobue asked Gross if she would like to add an insert about the Firefighter Appreciation event. Gross provided the information.

One additional volunteer is needed for the TPOA planning committee in charge of the social events and speakers. Keith Predmore volunteered.

Liter pick up will be June 14th at 9:00AM. Meet at Town Hall, spread the word.

The Welcome Party will be June 11th from 4:00-7:00PM. Bring a chair to Chalet Village.

Lobue requested that extra pages be added in the directory for notes and information of new residents.

**Final Public Comment:**

Keith Predmore requested a peer review for every contract by a competent contractor.

Jack Gross asked that residents and Council members stop bullying Ralph Mitchell.

Dean Davidson offered his perspective and review of contracts if needed.

**Announcements:**

* There will be a Public Hearing to discuss Zoning changes on Thursday May 26, 2022 at 5:30PM. This meeting will be held by Zoom. A link will be posted on the website and sent by mass email.
* There will be a Public Hearing to discuss the FY 2022-23 Budget on Saturday May 28, 2022 at 10:00AM. This meeting will be held by Zoom. A link will be posted on the website and sent by mass email.
* The next regular scheduled Council Meeting will be held June 9, 2022 at 5:30PM.

**Motion to Adjourn.**

Councilmember Emerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mitchell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21PM.

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Connie Gross, Mayor Emily Hooper, Town Clerk