

**TOWN OF LAKE LURE
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION AND
ACTION MEETING**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.
Lake Lure Inn



Attendees:

Mayor, Carol C, Pritchett
Commissioner, Scott Doster
Commissioner, Jim Proctor
Commissioner, Patrick Bryant

Town Staff:

Town Manager, Olivia Stewman
Finance Director, Steve Ford
Fire Chief, Dustin Waycaster
Assistant Fire Chief, Chris Melton
Police Chief, Sean Humphries P&R
Director, Dana Bradley
Public Works Director, Dean Lindsey Communications
Director, Laura Krejci

Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem, Dave DiOrio

I. Call to Order

Mayor called the meeting to order at 8:35 am

II. Agenda Adoption

Commissioner Scott Doster made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Commissioner Jim proctor seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

III. Mayors Communication

Commissioner Dave DiOrio is in Washington today trying to plead for us to be able to get funds to help the town.

IV. Town Manager's Communication

Meeting with the FEMA PDMG today at 2pm. Holding interviews for the town clerks position today, but in the meantime we will be appointing Rick Carpenter as deputy town clerk.

V. Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 24-11-20 – Appointing Richard Carpenter as Deputy Town Clerk

Commissioner Jim Proctor made a motion to accept the resolution as presented, Commissioner Scott Doster Seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

VI. New Business

- Discuss the Budget Amendment for a Fire Vehicle

Chief Waycaster: the vehicle we need to replace we have fixed several times, also issued an insurance claim, they asked us to send it to the mechanic again and it's not able to get fixed. We got 3 bids, would like to proceed the medium price, because the package is a lot better. The cost of the vehicle its 70k.

Commissioner Jim Proctor made a motion to let the Manager allow approve the purchase of the vehicle and use the inter fund balance transfer, Commissioner Patrick Bryant seconded, and they all voted in favor.

- Finance Department Updates | Presented by Steve Ford

ICF has been a lot of help with the insurance and we have had significant response from the League. We need to make decisions quick to replace the vehicles that several department are in need of.

- Fire Department Updates | Presented by Chief Dustin Waycaster

Staff did speak to Fairfield Fire Department about consolidation, they have hired a consultant to dissolve their incorporation, they need to figure out where their funds will go. Chief Waycaster did request to have a meeting with their department to try and keep all of the volunteers that we can if they are in agreement, as long as they pass our criteria. Fairfield department signed the building over to Rumbling Bald, so we will have to work out a lease agreement to be able to operate out of that building. Their chief advised there was some funds in their savings account and he asked to keep the funds in Lake Lure. They still have some more discussion with the fire board to be able to use those funds before they to the county. The only issue with the building is that there are no bedrooms so that needs to be added to make it code compliant. We will need council approval to add additional paid staff and then we will apply for a SAFER grant. The transition will be in April 2025.

- Parks and Recreation Department Updates | Presented by Dana Bradley

Yesterday we were able to open the green space and a few other trails. The army corp of engineers will be removing the debris Morse Park. Ashbritt is trying to figure out the time frame to raise the water level. Weekly water testing will resume.

The more clear water we have the better it will get and hopefully get rid of the E.coli.

Rumbling Bald reported that they have very few boats to remove, they are just waiting on the water level to be raised.

- Public Works Department Updates | Presented by Dean Lindsey

Dean Lindsey gave update with Olivia regarding sewer easement issues and Boys Camp Road.

Ms. Stewman & Commissioner Doster discussed issues regarding the easement options at 160 Boys Camp. The property owner requests may not be granted by the town.

Ms. Stewman discussed proposed legal action and the condemnation process with a private property owner & easements. Town legal counsel provided an opinion regarding this matter.

Mr. Lindsey commented the property is on a no flush order at the moment, and that the new proposed line is not an option without a pump station. The property owner wants the town to install and pay for a new pump station.

Mayor asked which is better, re-routing to avoid easement, working through requests, or eminent domain.

Mr. Lindsey is confident that working around the easement would not increase the timeline, and may not be a significant increase in cost. The cost of the new road could be high, and utilities may be an issue but costs are unknown. Condemnation of the easement could be an option but could prove to be a time consuming issue and may result in legal hardship.

Council and Mr. Lindsey discussed available options based on cost and what should be granted. The Town does not want to maintain the lagoon in perpetuity. Mayor Pritchett mentioned the owner wanted to sue if the town did not agree to all of the terms. Discussion about standing occurred and no liability issue was found. Councilman Proctor would like to have plans to review all options. Staff discussed forthcoming plans and other easement option upstream of Boys Camp. Council asked questions about the newly proposed pressure system north of Boys Camp into Chimney Rock (future -4' deep HDPE pipe). Mr. Lindsey is projecting 4-6 weeks to complete the sewer installation, and the project should not conflict with the upcoming Boys Camp bridge project.

ICF gave a brief update about pump stations and FEMA funding for various directions to obtain funding reimbursement. FEMA may reimburse town for re-paving Boys Camp road related to the sewer project if that takes place .

Monday and Tuesday contractors will be installing the boy's camp temporary bridge, all easements have been signed.

Chief Waycaster: Laura Krejci sent out the communication on the schedules for the bridge and we will send it out again on Friday.

- Community Development Department Updates | Presented by Mike Williams

Rick Carpenter noted that people are exempt from land disturbance permitting until December 31st. Sediment & erosion control will still be required but not the normal documentation. Beyond December 31st all permitting is required.

The department is continuing to permit projects. A recent dumping incident has mostly been resolved along Mark Twain.

- Communications Department Updates | Presented by Laura Krejci

Continued to receive positive feedbacks on social media. The first design dam replacement has been submitted to FEMA for a grant and it's looking very positive.

There is a concert by the LLCA and a small tree lighting is scheduled for next Wednesday December 4, 2024 at 5:30pm.

- Police Department Updates | Presented by Chief Dean Humphries

At a previous meeting there was an incoming call about an issue in CRV and it was resolved.

VII. Public Comment

Pat Buede, Memorial HWY: hwy 9 going towards Ingles, is getting worse and asked if DOT can make repairs. Mayor responded that they will be repairing those roads.

Fae Nectar: wants to thank everyone and asked if we can continue to clean up specifically along Memorial Hwy to make it look like the Town is back into business.

An attendee expressed that the sediment is 2-4 feet above the typically water level and he cannot assess his lake structure. Mike Williams has come out to look at it. The attendee wanted to say that everyone has done a great job. If any kind of communication can be put out about that it will be helpful.

Charlie Ellis: Expressed that the Town should provide the community with additional information regarding the sewer and WWTP plans.

Steve Ford : Wendy Terry was happy for the opportunity she had as a deputy clerk, she said she is more than happy to help Rick with anything he needs.

VIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Patrick Bryant made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner

Scott Doster Seconded and the motion carried 3-0, the meeting ended at 9:55am.

ATTEST :

Elba A. Willette, Town Clerk



Carol C. Pritchett, Mayor