



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WORKSHOP TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF THE  
LAKE LURE TOWN COUNCIL HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020, 2:00 P.M. AT  
THE LAKE LURE MUNICIPAL CENTER**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Carol C. Pritchett  
Mayor Pro Tem John W. Moore  
Commissioner Patrick Bryant  
Commissioner David DiOrio  
Commissioner John Kilby  
Shannon Baldwin, Town Manager  
Michelle Jolley, Town Clerk  
Sam Karr, Finance Director  
Kurt Wright, SDG Engineering

**ABSENT:** N/A

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Carol Pritchett called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**II. APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Commissioner John Moore made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner John Kilby seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**III. INFRASTRUCTURE WORKSHOP WITH SDG ENGINEERING TO  
SECURE FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE**

Mr. Baldwin provided an overview stating that the Town cannot self-fund its sewer project, dam renovation or a new dam and outside resources are needed to help. He noted that Mr. Wright put together a proposal to help lobby for needed funds. Mr. Wright then put together a list of PR firms and lobbyists for Council to review to help the Town in its efforts to lobby for funds.

Mr. Wright shared his thoughts based on his research. He mentioned that he randomly called NP Strategy from the list and had a lengthy conversation with Ernie Pearson. Mr. Pearson was very enthusiastic and has a lot of connections in western NC. He expressed intimate

## **Page 2- Minutes of the April 15, 2020 Special Town Council Workshop Teleconference Meeting**

knowledge of Lake Lure, the area surrounding Lake Lure and the larger western NC region around Lake Lure and has over 40 years of experience.

Mr. DiOrio noted that a decision needs to be made on whether to replace or repair the Dam first. Mr. Baldwin conveyed that there are four alternatives relative to the dam: do nothing, renovate as is, a new dam without hydro, or a new dam with hydro. Mr. Wright shared two recent news reports regarding two trillion dollar infrastructure packages as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. He pointed out that stimulus payments were sent out in 2009 and only minimum information was needed to get money. He mentioned that enough money could be available that building a new hydro-plant may not be an issue. Commissioner DiOrio commented that a new dam is needed because the current one has met its service life. Mr. Wright added that a new sewer system is also needed.

Mr. Wright explained that there may be green energy components in the infrastructure bill noting that the Dam is green energy. The Town could potentially get 150 million for both the sewer and the Dam. Commissioner DiOrio asked how long it would take Schnabel Engineering to put forth a proposal and Mr. Wright stated 30 days. Mr. Wright pointed out that the Town does not have the funds to repair or replace the Dam and therefore he suggested lobbying money to replace. Commissioner Bryant asked how much direct experience Schnabel and LaBella has lobbying for funding versus capital investment and if they have lobbying experience. Mr. Wright stated that the two firms may not have much experience but that they are both successful in getting projects done. Mr. Wright recommended a committee formed to interview firms. Then put the firms into two categories: firms who are well connected with state and federal legislatures and firms with high credentials with large success but no connections with legislatures. He suggested looking at the firms who have legislature connections. Once someone is chosen, he suggested having a meeting with them to see what information they need from the Town.

Mayor Pritchett stated that the scope of work needs to be well defined and a determination should be made as to whether or not Council wants a dam with or without a hydro-plant before entering into a relationship with a PR firm that will represent Lake Lure in lobbying for infrastructure funds. Council members agreed that they would feel comfortable with tasking Mr. Wright to select a few firms to bring back as a recommendation. Mayor Pritchett suggested looking at the rates based on the needs of the Town before selecting a firm.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to form a committee with Kurt Wright, David DiOrio, Patrick Bryant, and Shannon Baldwin to get started on interviewing for a PR firm and to bring in other members as needed. Commissioner Kilby seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner DiOrio suggested informing folks at the state level of the Town's needs and what the Town is facing so that Lake Lure is kept on the radar and high priority list. Once the infrastructure bill starts to firm up, the Senator's staff will start to ask the State what their priorities are. Mr. Baldwin noted that the April 16<sup>th</sup> Special Town Council Teleconference Meeting was not needed and could be cancelled and the newly formed committee could meet at the same date and time instead and all agreed.

**Page 3- Minutes of the April 15, 2020 Special Town Council Workshop Teleconference Meeting**

Mr. Wright reported that he met with Magnatech Tuesday and noted that items 1-4 of the FM Global Report have been completed and a report will be ready before meeting with David Peckham on Tuesday. The gate hoist work is scheduled to start on Monday. Dam Operator Dean Lindsay has coordinated with Public Works Director David Arrowood and Parks, Recreation and Lake Director Dean Givens to go out on the lake with a large barge and excavator to lift the hoist up. This will take 2-3 days and should be certified by Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Baldwin noted that the operational side of the budget is almost done and we are still waiting on CIP information from WR Martin. We will come back for a review hopefully sometime in May. Mr. Baldwin noted that there are two possible workshops: May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup> for review of the CIP.

**ADJOURN THE MEETING**

With no further business, Commissioner John Kilby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Patrick Bryant seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

ATTEST:

  
Michelle Jolley,  
Town Clerk

  
Mayor Carol Pritchett

