

**TONOPAH TOWN BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2014**

Tonopah Town Board Chairman Horace Carlyle called the meeting to order November 26, 2014 at 9:01 a.m. Also present were Duane Downing, Janet Hatch and Tom Seley; Ron Kipp was absent. Six others were present. Chairman Carlyle led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Town Board recessed to the Library Board of Trustees at 9:38 a.m. and reconvened as the Town Board at 9:57 a.m.

1. Public Comment

James Eason introduced the new Deputy Town Clerk Kat Galli and explained the interview process.

2. Review and approval of minutes, in context, from the regular meeting held on November 12, 2014.

Duane Downing motioned to approve the minutes, in context, from the regular meeting held on November 12, 2014 as presented. Janet Hatch seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Discussion, deliberation, and possible action to approve Amendment #9 to the agreement dated March 4, 2011 between Shaw Engineering and Town of Tonopah/Tonopah Public Utilities in the amount \$35,000.00, cost to be paid from the USDA remaining grant funds. Amendment #9 would include engineering services for construction of fixed generators for the water transmission system- costs of the construction of this project also to come from the USDA remaining grant funds

Chairman Horace Carlyle had concerns regarding the short notice of this item and asked Town Manager James Eason to explain why this item was put on the agenda. Mr. Eason clarified that the funding from the USDA would go back into the general pool of funds and the Town of Tonopah would lose it if not used. That is why the idea of purchasing stationary, self-contained generators to prevent brown-outs was brought up. Up to an additional \$60,000.00 from the Town of Tonopah and Tonopah Public Utilities may be needed. Mr. Eason pointed out that the generators could be moved easily with forks and that they would provide 100% redundancy in most areas of town. The Town of Tonopah would be able to pump water even during a power-outage. Chairman Horace Carlyle noted the tremendous public health benefit coming from being able to provide water even during a power-outage.

Duane Downing motioned to approve Amendment #9. Janet Hatch seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-1. 1 abstention.

4. Discussion, deliberation, and possible action to approve request from Tonopah Senior Center to waive large water bill due to leak

Phyllis Sorhouet and Margot Phillips representing the Tonopah Senior Center Project Council explained that the Senior Center Garden usually has a water bill of no more than \$45 even during summer months and that there must have been a leak on their grounds which the employees did not report to the Council so they could have known to have the water shut off. They understand the leak is their responsibility but they ask the Board to waive it because of the very limited funding of the Senior Center. Administrative Supervisor Chris Mulkerns explained that the

service to the Senior Center Garden was shut off in the middle of September because the large amount was red-flagged by Tonopah Public Utilities. TPU staff went to the Garden to check the meter and water was seemingly watering the trees. Janet Hatch questioned why the staff of the Senior Center was not noticing the problem.

Duane Downing voiced concerns about waiving the bill because the Town Board has not done so in the past. Horace Carlyle supported waiving the bill as it was that of the Senior Center which provides a public service and has very limited operating funds. He also stated that the Senior Center staff should be responsible for the observation.

Duane Downing suggested payments be made by the Senior Center Council so the Board would not set a precedence in waiving the bill. Horace Carlyle had concerns about penalty fees but Chris Mulkerns explained that the Senior Center was already exempt from penalty fees.

Janet Hatch suggested cutting the bill in half and letting the Senior Center make payments towards the rest of the amount. She added the Board would not be setting precedence as the Senior Center is a Public Service Project, not a business or an individual. Horace Carlyle suggested a minimum payment of \$20 a month.

James Eason stated the bill could be reduced as far as the sewer charges are concerned, but Chris Mulkerns explained there are no sewer charges as it is a garden meter. She added that a so-called "promise to pay" could be signed.

Duane Downing motioned to have the bill paid in monthly increments. James Eason recommended the Senior Center be put on a payment plan to be discussed with the employees of the Tonopah Town Office/ Tonopah Public Utilities and to give them a one-time reduction. Mr. Downing asked if a 50% reduction would be acceptable for the Town and in compliance with the USDA. James Eason and Chris Mulkerns affirmed this.

Duane Downing motioned to set the Senior Center water bill on a payment plan to be discussed with the employees of the Tonopah Town Office/ Tonopah Public Utilities and a reduction of 50% contingent upon the approval of the Senior Center Council. Janet Hatch seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Tonopah Development Corporation Report None.

6. Public Comment

Jess Rosner of the NyE Communities Coalition explained that the Coalition started their Diabetes Workshop on November 10, 2014 and it will end December 15, 2014. The Workshop has about 5 students and is cost-free. The Coalition was also able to provide a no-cost car seat to one of the mothers at the WIC meeting. Mr. Rosner is hopeful that the Coalition will be able to provide more no-cost car seats at the next meeting. The JPO letter has been completed and it's in the process of being put on the agenda for the Board of County Commissioners meeting for next month. He also stated that the Coalition will announce a special training next month. Mr. Rosner is currently training to be able to handle all the youth and adult work himself, instead of sending the paperwork to Pahrump.

7. Town Board Member's/Department Manager's/Nye County Commissioner's Comments

Joe Westerlund, Maintenance Utility Supervisor, previously submitted the Tonopah Public Utilities Written Report for November to the Town Board for the Period September 25, 2014 through November 26, 2014

James Eason stated that the Town of Tonopah will offer various trainings for their employees as POOL/PACT requires this. He explained that Dean Roofing is currently doing stucco work on the Theater building at the Tonopah Historic Mining Park.

Mr. Eason stated that the pumping tests are looking good. The estimate is that there will only be a high-side 30 feet drop and the prediction is that there will only be a high-side 16 feet drop. There are currently about 800 gallons pumped per minute. The average drop a day is about 2 to 2.5 inches. The pumping test will run for 30 days. Horace Carlyle inquired whether the recharge was being tested. James Eason explained that the nitrate level has gone down and the arsenic level stayed the same despite the high amount of water being pumped. During the course of the test about 45 to 60 million gallons of water will be pumped. That amount would cover the entire winter's worth of water or a third of the summer's worth. Horace Carlyle inquired what wells are being monitored and James Eason gave a detailed account of the process and procedures. Tom Seley asked whether the re-infiltration was going well and James Eason affirmed this.

James Eason explained that the hospital's bankruptcy will be finalized December 15, 2014. The hospital and Nye County will retain all the assets, and the debt by various entities has been eliminated. The various entities will have to repay the hospital \$500,000 over a 10 year period. James Eason brought up the vacant seat for a new Board member. Janet Hatch stated she might reconsider staying on the Town Board. Chris Mulkerns explained that the deadline for applicants for the Town Board is December 15, 2014. The new member to replace Ron Kipp at the first meeting in January will be Doug Farinholt.

Janet Hatch explained that she spoke to Tom Metscher, Nye County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, that the County wants to fill the position of Juvenile Probation Officer in Tonopah. Ms. Hatch sees the importance of intervention as early as possible.

Duane Downing stated that several members of the public have brought to his attention that they wish for the speed limit to be reduced around parks and in residential streets. He suggested the speed to be reduced to 15 mph. He will bring this up to the Road Department at the beginning of 2015. Janet Hatch proposed he bring it up at the first meeting in January so that the Town and Road Department can find out about the cost for signs etc.

Tom Seley will be on the Tonopah Conservation District Board starting January 2015.

8. Closure of meeting, pursuant to NRS 288.220 for purposes of conferring with Town's Management Representative regarding labor negotiation issues, and other personnel issues. No action taken by the Board.

9. Closed meeting, Pursuant to NRS 288.220 for purposes of conferring with Town's Management Representative regarding labor negotiation issues, and other personnel issues No action taken by the Board.

10. Deliberation, discussion and possible decision on labor negotiations, issues and other personnel matters presented in the closed meeting No action taken by the Board.

11. Correspondence


Nye County BOCC Meeting Summary, November 12, 2014
Beatty Town Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, November 24, 2014
Nye County Water District Meeting Agenda, December 01, 2014
Round Mountain Town Board Meeting Agenda, November 25, 2014
USDA Town of Tonopah Opportunity Community- Discovery Meeting Public Notice, December 17, 2014
Nye County Board of Commissioners Teleconference, December 01, 2014
Nye County BOCC Meeting Agenda, December 02, 2014
E-mail from Lisa Westerlund (Newspaper Ad), November 25, 2014
E-mail from Lisa Westerlund (Board Application Form), November 25, 2014
E-mail from Kelly Harris (Info about US Census Surveys), November 26, 2014

12. Approval of vouchers for payment

The Board reviewed and signed the vouchers. Duane Downing motioned to approve the vouchers as presented for payment. Janet Hatch seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 4-0.


13. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Minutes transcribed by:



Kat Galli, Deputy Town Clerk

Approved:



Horace Carlyle, Chairman

Duane Downing, Vice Chairman

Ron Kipp, Clerk



Tom Seley, Member



Janet Hatch, Member