

**TONOPAH TOWN BOARD  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP AGENDA  
OCTOBER 4, 2019  
Tonopah Convention Center  
301 Brougner Avenue, Tonopah, NV 89049  
9:00 A.M.**

Tonopah Town Board Chairman Don Kaminski called the Public Workshop to order on October 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Also present were:

Vice Chairman Jerry Elliston

Member Mike Sain

Member Duane Downing was absent.

6 others were in attendance.

Chairman Kaminski led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comment

Town resident Horace Carlyle brought in a copy of a “secret contract” from the Northern Nye County Hospital District proposing to get rid of Renown. He said this was not made public.

He considers this a breach of public trust. Copy of contract was given to the Deputy Town Clerk to distribute via email to the Town Board Members.

2. Discussion and deliberation regarding the possibility of hiring a Town Manager

Chairman Kaminski stated this item was placed on the agenda per his request.

He wanted to discuss what a Town Manager “would get us.”

He stated it was decided under a prior Board, when former Town Manager James Eason left, to give Mr. Westerlund and Ms. Mulkerns a small raise in pay to run everything.

This was a 40 hour a week position being paid \$72,000.00 or there abouts and now is split amongst two people for a minimal amount of money to do that work.

He stated four years ago it was working. Today he wanted to bring this item up to everybody to see if it’s still working.

There was concern for stress on the two current managers.

Chairman Kaminski stated he had a conversation with Mr. Westerlund and Ms. Mulkerns yesterday regarding this issue.

Member Sain stated he doesn’t see this being full time; referring to a Town Manager position. He suggested a part time manager at a lower cost.

Vice Chairman Elliston indicated he was a little confused and frustrated that this matter was discussed with the current managers yesterday. He said the purpose of this workshop is to have these conversations that Chairman Kaminski had yesterday. He also stated he wanted to hear what was discussed.

Chairman Kaminski stated that wasn’t necessarily the purpose of their conversation, that it just came up.

Tonopah resident Horace Carlyle addressed the Board:  
He is suggesting Utility Manager Joe Westerlund for Town Manager. He stated Mr. Westerlund has the credentials for the utility side.  
He also suggested a sub-committee.  
He stated it would relieve stress that he feels is currently being felt in the Town Office.

Member Sain asked Ms. Mulkerns and Mr. Westerlund if they feel stressed. Ms. Mulkerns stated there is a perception that things aren't being done. Chairman Elliston agreed and asked; are things getting done? Can things be done differently?  
He also commended them on a great job.

Referring back to yesterday's meeting with Mr. Westerlund and Ms. Mulkerns; Chairman Kaminski stated that the Board should be more informed of what is going on with the town.

Ms. Mulkerns expressed again the perception that things aren't getting done. She stated the perception also is that there should only be one point of contact and that would be a Town Manager, opposed to her and Mr. Westerlund "co-managing." She suggested to the Board that they could "promote" Mr. Westerlund and then someone in his staff could possibly be promoted to utility manager and then they could hire someone to fill that worker's position. She stated she would remain administrative manager.

It was discussed that there is a perception from the public and from people who shall remain nameless that things are not being accomplished in the current office structure. Vice Chairman Elliston stated if there is public concern why isn't the public here attending the public workshop?

Vice Chairman Elliston stated he feels it is working the way it is.  
Chairman Kaminski stated he feels things are working fine the way they are.

Vice Chairman Elliston stated maybe make a qualified worker an assistant manager. To help relieve some responsibilities and pressures.

Mr. Carlyle commented again that there should be one manager.  
Convention Center Secretary Diane Perchetti stated she feels things are working fine with both Ms. Mulkerns and Mr. Westerlund managing the office.  
Chairman Kaminski and Vice Chairman Elliston agreed.

There was discussion of hiring more help in the office; part time/full time, to lend backup to the Administrative Manager's position. In the event she needs to be absent. It was suggested that Deputy Town Clerk Jennifer Mills possibly be trained for this duty. There was also discussion of hiring a qualified contract person.

Tonopah resident and business owner Cindy Kaminski expressed a need for a town manager. Opposed to 2 co-managers.

She expressed a need for a "figure head." Ms. Kaminski stated the two current managers already have full time jobs therefore she felt a need for a Town Manager. She also stated they are doing a great job.

Ms. Kaminski spoke of former Town Manager James Eason and the great job he did for the Town.

Vice Chairman Elliston stated "town manager is a namesake only"

Member Sain stated he is ok with Ms. Mulkerns and Mr. Westerlund.

He stated they are town manager when doing business for the town. Ms. Mulkerns was concerned that was a misrepresentation.

This position does not have to be advertised, Ms. Mulkerns stated this could be a promotion from within.

Requested on the record: Chairman Kaminski inquired did Ms. Kaminski vote for Ms. Mulkerns when she applied for the town job? She stated yes.

Vice Chairman Elliston inquired if they can represent the Town in their current role.

Ms. Mulkerns confirmed yes they can. It is in their job descriptions.

There was discussion of a public meeting with a closed session.

Discussing what the Board wants and then bring back into public meeting.

Vice Chairman Elliston stated this issue needs to be put on an agenda for a decision to be made.

**What the Board would like to see moving forward:**

Vice Chairman Elliston stated he would like to see the following:

Minutes by the next meeting. Ms. Mulkerns suggested a summary which is what she used to do when she was Deputy Town Clerk.

The vouchers listing needs to be emailed out sooner. Preferably submitted before 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Staff reports on both agendas.

Authorization by the Board for certain dollar amounts, other than emergency purchases.

Chairman Kaminski stated he would like to be informed of stuff that is happening so as not to be blindsided.

Regarding the Star Park, Chairman Kaminski stated the board didn't know about that project. Ms. Mulkerns stated that might have been discussed during a workshop.

The Board stated again they want to be apprised of projects such as the Star Park.

Ms. Mills stated, in regards to the minutes, she could come in at 7:00 a.m. while it's quiet to get caught up.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes transcribed by:

  
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Jennifer Mills, Deputy Town Clerk

Approved:

  
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Don Kaminski, Chairman

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Jerry W. Elliston, Vice-Chairman

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Vacant, Clerk

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Duane Downing, Member

  
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Michael Sain, Member

  
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Marc Grigory, Member

October 4, 2019 Tonopah Town Board Public Workshop Minutes  
Approved October 23, 2019