

## TONOPAH TOWN BOARD

### WORKSHOP MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22, 2012

Town Board Vice Chairman Horace Carlyle was the only Board member present. The workshop was not officially called to order as there was no quorum. There were twelve other people in attendance. Horace Carlyle opened the floor for general comments from the public at 6:18 pm.

Horace Carlyle explained that those in attendance can review the documents and return comments to the Town Office at a later date if they would like.

James Eason explained that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee is represented by every community in Nye County. The committee asked for a set of goals at the kickoff meeting. Both he and Horace Carlyle are on the committee along with Ken Meier, a member of the public at large, Amy Meier, who is connected to University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension and Mike Farris, a member from the community at large.

James Eason went through all the goals in the Tonopah section of the CEDS document. He explained that the document has the overall view for Nye County and the view for the individual sections. He explained that the committee is looking for long-term goals and strategies of the community and what the vision of the community will be for the next five years.

The Century Plan has not been reviewed and updated. The Town has pulled pieces from it to apply for existing grants. James Eason explained that TDC applied for a grant for the Pocket Park. Unfortunately the grant was denied. He noted the Town purchased the property and existing structures, demolished those structures, and cleaned up the area. The other area used for a grant is the Union Plaza Parking Lot across from the Mizpah. This was incorporated into the Belvada Project. The grant was to rehab the parking lot, as outlined in the Century Plan. That grant was also denied.

James Eason explained that the Town did not receive the congressional appropriations for the firehouse but it was still constructed.

The lack of public transportation in Tonopah and Nye County is still a problem. There is currently no funding for this. There used to be a bus that ran through Tonopah from Las Vegas to Reno, however this service has been suspended due to lack of funding.

The past water and sewer projects for Tonopah have been completed. James Eason noted that the sewer project is online and it is still the only one of its kind in Nevada. TPU reports the readings coming out of the sewer treatment plant monthly. He noted that the Town does have the ability for growth with the sewer system. He explained that the Town is in the process of working on the transmission and arsenic problem for Tonopah. The Town will be going out to bid in June and starting construction in August.

The Department of Transportation had awarded the Town of Tonopah a grant of \$250,000 to address the sidewalk problem. There were different issues NDOT was concerned with including the freight elevators and the glass tiles in front of the Belvada. James Eason explained that after the Town purchased the Union Plaza parking lot, there was a subsidence issue with an old freight elevator. The Town went out to bid, removed the elevator and the old concrete, brought in new material, compacted it and replaced the sidewalk in that area. During that time NDOT backed away from the project to address historical, structural and right-of-way issues. All of those issues have been addressed. Nye County owns the 10 feet on both sides and has taken on the sidewalk project down town. Currently Nye County is working on the transition plan. This works at putting in the pedestrian crossings at intersections for handicapped individuals. The County will go out to bid in the spring for another round of fixing the sidewalks.

When the document was put together, there were two mines looking to open. Neither of those materialized. They are still doing drilling and exploration.

The Nevada Commission on Tourism nationwide advertising project was finished. The State funded the banners that are along Main Street, the sandwich boards and the brochures. It has increased tourism in Tonopah. Revenue for the Mining Park and the room tax has increased. One of the adverse affects of the dark skies designation is that the National Park Service is asking that Nye County put restrictions on new growth with regards to lighting. They want to preserve the dark skies countywide.

Burger King, Chevron, Subway, and the Mizpah are all new since the creation of the document. They are all businesses that the Town or Nye County have worked with. He noted that Michael Lach has also been working on a project that is in line with the document.

James Eason explained that there has always been a question of whether Nye County could sell airport property. They cannot. They can only lease the property. They can do leases up to 99 years. They cleared up some old outstanding agreements out there.

There are still plans to improve the energy efficiency of the Town's public buildings. The Convention Center Project falls in line with this. The intent is to work with the architect to reduce energy costs for the Convention Center. The water project will help improve the efficiency of pumping water to town. Booster 1 will be taken offline, saving TPU around \$40,000 per year in power. The Town also had NV Energy grants for the Convention Center. The ballast was replaced with lower energy using ones. The water heaters were also upgraded.

The plan for the lake and future golf course at Rye Patch was a strategy that was carried over from the last CEDS document. The pond out at Rye Patch has been dug. It is lined with bentonite but there was not enough so the pond did not hold. The lease has been given back to the BLM. Nye County cleaned up the facility and removed the old tires that were placed in there to establish the habitat for fish. The site has been cleaned up and is off the books.

Solar Reserve, located off the Gabbs Pole Line Road, is currently being built. This was part of the plan to diversify the economy. There are four leases for the Tonopah Airport. All of these are

renewable energy companies. An air ambulance has been brought into the area for Nye Regional and a new hanger was built for that. There is a contract that has been signed with Solaro, a milling and environmental mining company. They clean up old mine sites and reprocess old tailings to remove any contaminants, such as mercury and arsenic.

Michael Lach feels that furnishing water is one of the most important things for economic growth. He feels the Town should really utilize its water rights and figure out what it will take to get water to where it can be put to use.

James Eason explained that Michael Lach owns the old Lambertucci property on the North end of Town. Michael Lach explained that he is putting in some RV sites and housing for the workers who will be building new structures. The plan is to have one or two of the new structures will be a gas station, laundromat, and a truck stop that includes separate pumps for the truck and 30-35 electrical spaces for the trucks. The plan is to also build a pizza restaurant and bar and subdividing the area between the highway and Sierra Vista for different types of housing and smaller community stuff for seniors. He explained that the two-year outlook is to continue to try and develop and handle the housing needs.

Doug Farinholdt noted that under the Nevada Science and Technology Corridor Plan section it talks about fiber optics. He noted that fiber optics already exist in most of the state coming through this corridor. He explained that there is a new initiative to complete the 160 miles of cabling that is not in place. James Eason explained that this is mostly for the Amargosa area.

James Eason explained that under the new water project, the Town will be developing two new wells 4.5-5 miles from the existing well field. This is new pipe that will be going into the ground back to the existing right-of-way. There will now be approximately 19 mile of transmission line. Once this phase of the water project is complete, the Town will be in compliance with NDEP and the threat of a fine will go away. All of the new pipe being placed in the ground will be 14 inch. There are currently bottlenecks in the system and all new future pipe will be 14 inch. The Town has already placed itself on the State Revolving Loan fund for future funding to replace the remainder of the transmission line. He noted that the water storage capacity is adequate. The Town will work on updating the sewer collection lines. The Town will also continue to work on the effluent project. There is funding for the first phase of that project and it will also be going out to bid in June. He noted that Tonopah does have fiber optics. NV Energy has upgraded some of the different substations in the area.

James Eason noted that Ken Meier has talked about arts in the area and Amy Meier has talked about education in the area. He noted that these areas were not addressed in the previous CEDS document.