

**TONOPAH TOWN BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2014**

Tonopah Town Board Chairman Horace Carlyle called the meeting to order April 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Also present was Ron Kipp and Duane Downing. Six others were present. Chairman Carlyle led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Town Board recessed to the Library Board of Trustees at 7:30 p.m. and reconvened as the Town Board at 7:40 p.m.

1. Public Comment.

Duane Downing presented a plaque honoring Harvey Gonzalez for his service to the Town, to Harvey's wife.

Town Manager James Eason reminded the Board that a consensus was needed for voting as only three Board Members were present.

2. Review and approval of minutes, in context, from the regular meeting held on March 26, 2014.

Duane Downing motioned to approve the minutes, in context, from the regular meeting held on March 26, 2014 as presented. Ron Kipp seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Deliberation, discussion and possible action regarding the sewer rate for Fiscal Year 2014/15 pursuant to Tonopah Town Resolution No. 08-05.

Chairman Carlyle stated he did not support any change at this time.

James Eason explained that the way the Resolution is written, effective July 1, 2014 they can raise the rate \$0.50 a month per customer, or keep it as it is. The money would go into the General Fund. A discussion ensued regarding Budget Workshop talks. Duane Downing said they had discussed not increasing the rate until next year and leaving it as it is this year.

Chairman Carlyle was concerned about making an informed decision due to the fact that they have not received the Water Study. Mr. Carlyle stated he could not support the motion because so many sewer lines need to be replaced. Mr. Carlyle felt the general public needed to know about the poor condition of the 100 year old sewer system and the tens of millions of dollars that are required to upgrade the 100 year old system. The Town of Tonopah sewer system could fail which would result in the contamination of the system by NDEP. He also stated any number of projects could come up that those funds could be used for. He said other towns have had issues and did not have the money to make corrections. Without a sewer system Tonopah's property values would drastically shrink, and one cannot use water in most of Tonopah without a working

sewer system. He said he wanted to sit down with their public engineer and water/sewer operator to get the information he needs to make an informed decision.

Duane Downing motioned that pursuant to Tonopah Town Resolution 08-05 that they do not increase the sewer rate for FY 2014/15 and let it remain at its current standing and then leave it eligible for them to re-evaluate during the next budget year. Ron Kipp seconded. Motion denied 2-1. Ayes: Duane Downing, Ron Kipp. Nays: Horace Carlyle.

James Eason made a statement clarifying sewer charges would go up to \$23.50 a month.

4. **Deliberation, discussion and possible action to approve the Tentative Budget for the Town of Tonopah/Tonopah Public Utilities for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.**

Chris Mulkerns handed out updated worksheets and gave a brief explanation of the figures.

Budgeted dollars for the Fire Department were discussed. Reseeding BLM land from the water project as well as Capital Projects budget were also discussed.

Duane Downing motioned to approve the Tentative Budget for the Town of Tonopah/Tonopah Public Utilities for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Ron Kipp seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

5. **Deliberation, discussion and possible action to set the date, time and place of FY 14/15 Tentative Budget Public Hearing for the Town of Tonopah/Tonopah Public Utilities.**

Duane Downing motioned to approve the date as Friday, May 16, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. at the Tonopah Convention Center for the Tentative Budget Public Hearing for the Town of Tonopah/Tonopah Public Utilities. Ron Kipp seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

6. **Department Budget Reports** None.

7. **Deliberation, discussion and possible action to designate the firm of Daniel C. McArthur, Ltd. As auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014**

Duane Downing motioned to approve the firm of Daniel C. McArthur, Ltd. as auditor for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Ron Kipp seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

8. **Deliberation, discussion and possible action to approve use of Joe Friel Baseball/Softball Fields and Highland Park Fields for the 2014 Tonopah Little League Season.**

Chuck Fox presented himself to the Board and explained that they had enough kids sign up to have a co-ed team as well as 3 T-ball teams although numbers are down from previous years.

Duane Downing motioned to approve the use of Joe Friel Baseball/Softball Fields and Highland Park Fields for the 2014 Tonopah Little League Season. Ron Kipp seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

9. **Deliberation, discussion and possible action to approve replacement of flower planters on Main Street**

Chuck Fox appeared for Suzie Lieski stating she wanted to build new redwood planters to replace the existing concrete planters on Main Street. Chris Mulkerns explained some of the figures Suzie had given her. Mr. Fox explained they would need help in removing the concrete planters. Chairman Carlyle had concerns about having enough volunteers to water the plants. He stated that not only should the Town help with the initial set up but also to help maintain the flower planters because it supports tourism, the appeal of the town and is a very positive contribution. He didn't feel the Town should have to do it all but to help when it was needed to sustain the project. Mr. Fox explained that is why there are silk flowers in the hanging baskets now, because she couldn't find enough people to help her water them when she was out of town. James Eason stated that these planters are not owned by the Town. Mr. Fox said the plan is for each planter to have a sponsor. The business that sponsored the planter would be responsible to maintain and care for it. He also said she plans to plant trees rather than flowers.

Ron Kipp clarified to Mr. Fox that Ms. Lieski was not asking for monetary funds at this time but just asking help removing the old concrete planters. Mr. Fox said that is correct. He said Ms. Lieski is out of Town currently and is not sure where she is financially for all the planters she wants to do.

Duane Downing said that she is only asking for help with the replacement of the flower planters at this time so they can decide on that tonight but if she wanted financial assistance she could come to them with a separate agenda item.

Duane Downing motioned to approve the replacement of flower planters on Main Street. Ron Kipp seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

10. **Tonopah Development Corporation Report** None.

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

James Eason discussed the sidewalk project, brick color and design are to be determined. They did a walk through on the firehouse roof project, they will come back next week to finish up. Regarding the water project, the shutoff took a little longer than expected but there was only one complaint.

Horace Carlyle discussed Emergency Services in Nye County and wants the BOCC to tell them what they are going to do regarding dispatch and radios and how they are going to work. There is concern about welfare and public safety since the radios have had malfunctions in the past. He wants the staff to draft a letter to the BOCC and ask them how they plan to move forward with their equipment and keep it from failing.

Duane Downing stated this is a clear and concise conflict of interest for him as a supervisor at the Sheriff's Office and cannot comment in any way, shape or form.

Ron Kipp was concerned about what kind of lawsuit they are setting themselves up for when someone dies because they didn't get to them due to radio failure. He said the County is liable for that because it is their system.

12. **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.

13. **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

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

15. **Correspondence**

Tonopah Convention Center Revenue Report, April 2, 2014

Round Mountain Town Board Agenda, April 8, 2014

Tonopah Room Tax Report, February 2014

Nevada Economic Report, March 2014

Nye County Population Estimates, April 8, 2014

Appraisal Report of vacant property on Main Street, April 3, 2014

16. **Public Comment**

Chuck Fox from Nevada Division of Forestry explained that he is shorthanded right now but will make a great effort to get the Town crews as often as he can.

Patty Winters presented herself to the Board stating she also has concerns about the switch of dispatch. She runs on the ambulance here. She said this is an untested system and when it comes to the Sheriff's Office and officer safety that is a huge concern. She explained the fire trucks and ambulance run off the old system and being activated out of Pahrump it will be even less predictable than it is now. She stated it is a matter of public safety whether or not you can get a crew to show up. She said they also operate off a different telephone system than Pahrump. Ms. Winters said there are not a lot of us volunteers (EMT's & fire) and she doesn't think this will help recruitment and will hurt retention and will definitely hurt the people who live here and drive through here.

Ed Tomany, also a volunteer, presented himself and stated they just had a medical call and it took them an hour to get the information, he said it was a 911 call that was routed somewhere else. Mr. Tomany then read a letter that he had published in the Newspaper regarding dispatch

and emergency services in Nye County. He stated this is a great safety concern for the entire County.

17. **Approval of vouchers for payment**

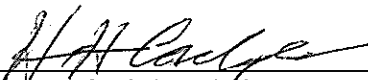
The Board reviewed and signed the vouchers. Duane Downing motioned to approve the vouchers as presented for payment. Ron Kipp seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

18. **Adjourn** The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

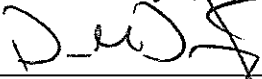
Minutes transcribed by:

Arlene Neiderman, Deputy Town Clerk


Approved:



Horace Carlyle, Chairman



Duane Downing, Vice Chairman



Ron Kipp, Clerk

Vacant, Member

Janet Hatch, Member