
Fw: Ticaboo meeting 2-7-2024

Tom Hill <hilcodil@yahoo.com>
To: Alexa Wilson <alexawilson@ticabooid.com>

Wed, Feb 7, 2024 at 3:35 PM

Alexa,

In my haste to get this out last night I didn't realize that you weren't on my Ticaboo bulk mailing list. Here is a copy for the district. Would you please enter it into the record for tonight's meeting. I plan to speak at both meetings and promise to keep my comments as brief as possible.

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 07:44:20 PM MST
Subject: Ticaboo meeting 2-7-2024

2-6-2022

Dear Ticaboo Property owner.

My name is Tom Hill. I am writing to you today to make you aware of several concerns regarding the Ticaboo Utility Improvement District and actions of its board of directors over the past year and proposed actions for the meeting tomorrow night and in the future.

For those that don't know me, here is a little background information. I have been involved in Ticaboo since early 1997. Starting with keeping my travel trailer in the RV park to building my second home here in 2000 with the intention of one day being able to retire here.

Over this timeframe, I have seen many changes to this little town. Some I believe have been beneficial and some, not so much.

As the town progressed from the stewardship of the uranium mining industry to what it is today, I was asked to share my experience in local government and property management with the community and join the Ticaboo Utility Improvement District Board. I cannot remember the exact year; however I was appointed to the board of TUID by the Garfield County Commissioners in 2009 or 2010 and served as a director and eventually its Chairman until I was forced to resign in 2022.

My resignation, and the subsequent resignation of Mr Jim Bell came after years of harassment, false accusations, complaints of overcharging for utilities, and being accused of deliberately attempting to sabotage and hinder the operation of North Lake Powell, formally Ticaboo Resorts by Mr. Ray Golden, General manager of North Lake Powell. Always at the top of the list of controversies was and is still the cost of electricity and while I agree that these costs are extremely high, the TUID board during my tenure spent copious amounts of time investigating different scenarios of alternate power production other than the current expensive diesel fueled generators.

Unfortunately, when evaluated, the net cost of any of these scenarios to the end users of the system would have been more than what we are all paying now. We investigated grants, subsidies, and loans to fund alternate energy projects and even extending existing public utility lines from the national grid.

Fast forward to where we as a community find ourselves over the last few years. Although the TUID relationship with North Lake Powell NLP) has been tumultuous at times to say the least, we were always able to work things out. I have found Mr. Dave Curtis and Mr. Robert Mitchell, the two principals in NLP, tough but also reasonable negotiators. I support their many goals for growth in Ticaboo, and the surrounding areas of Garfield County.

Unfortunately, with the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Golden as on site management for North Lake Powell the relationship with TUID quickly went downhill. Rays's relationship with TUID management quickly grew from simple business disagreements to being disturbingly personal and downright dangerous. His attitude and threats toward our district manager and board was unprofessional at the least and at times downright threatening. While I understand that Mr. Chip Shortreed, district manager, could at times come off as being brash and disagreeable, I can assure you and others will also agree that he always put the people of Ticaboo and its survival at the top of his priorities.

There were constant unfounded allegations made against TUID and its general manager in 2021 and 2022 by Mr. Golden to Garfield County, the Utah state Auditor, the Public Utilities Commission, and other government agencies. He even went as far as claiming the MR. Shortreed was a threat to his and his wife's safety and lives, stating falsely that Mr. Shortreed brandished a gun threatening them. He then filed no trespass orders of protection with the Garfield County Sheriff.

There was one incident during a meeting with Mr. Golden when he told me that he was willing to do anything that he could to run Mr. Shortreed out of town.

Well folks, he succeeded. Chip is gone, and TUID now sits with a new board.

The representatives of the new board are Alexa Wilson who works for Utah State lands and is also their representative for managing the land lease between State lands and North Lake Powell in Ticaboo and surrounding areas.

There is Amy Golden, the wife of Mr. Ray Golden. Amy works for North Lake Powell in a management capacity.

The third member is MR. Mike Morlang. Mike grew up in Ticaboo and is the only member of the board that owns property there Mike brings experience in serving on special district boards from his current service as president of a local district in Colorado.

Since the appointment of this new board in 2023, under the guidance of Alexa Wilson as chair, with support from Amy Golden, and often times over objections from Mike Morlang this board has,

Awarded a loosely written contract with North Lake Powell for "management of TUID" at a cost to the district of almost one hundred thousand dollars a year.

They have numerous times failed to follow State rules and laws on the posting of meetings and agendas.

They have combined the district's financial statements so that almost impossible, or at least difficult to show the true operational costs of each service provided by TUID.

Alexa Wilson, as chairperson, has limited knowledge to run a structured meeting. Rules of proper decorum are lax. Public meetings are run haphazardly at best. To her credit, she readily has admitted that this is all new to her and at times is confused about proper procedures. Many times she has admitted that she is unfamiliar with the details of topics brought up for discussion and vote.

Amy Golden, in her capacity as board representative, has many times in public meetings and comments to private citizens shown the definite conflict of interest she has in representing TUID and NLP. Through her own derogatory comments, she repeatedly shows malice and bias toward the people of Ticaboo.

When discussing matters in TUID meetings, instead of representing the needs and desires of the district, she expresses and votes the desires of her employer. Ask yourself, is this the person that I want to represent me and my concerns on this board? For me, the answer is no.

The old board, in attempting positive steps to guarantee the future of TUID worked hard building saleable assets for use in the event immediate funds were needed to take care of unforeseen situations.

The new board sold almost all of this property in 2023 fund overruns in operating costs instead of reviewing and modifying the budget left to them by the previous board. The previous board had acknowledged in one of its last meetings that the budget was insufficient to properly fund TUID for 2023 and would need more attention and adjustments, however instead of incumbering the incoming board, they would let it stand at the same level of the 2022 budget with few adjustments in anticipation that the new board would take this up as one of its first priorities. This did not happen, and the district's general fund came up short.

Before Chip Shortreed was forced out of town by Ray Golden, TUID purchased his home as an investment in the future. The thought was that TUID would always have available housing for its employees. To further promote that idea, I decided to donate the two lots that the home is occupying with a deed restriction that the property remain forever in the hands of TUID for the purpose of benefiting the district. In the event TUID no longer has use for that land, ownership reverts to me. The board is now discussing selling the home and returning the land me. Please, come and participate in tomorrow's meeting and voice your thoughts either way. The board needs to hear them.

That brings me to the public meetings themselves. It appears that an awful lot of discussions on topics brought before the board have already been discussed in depth prior to the open meetings. I believe the board should pay more attention to the special district rules and keep those discussions open to the public before voting.

Where are all the "lost documents". Anyone who knew Mr. Shortreed knows that he kept meticulous records of everything he did. Whenever questioned, he could provide detailed records, copies of emails and correspondence on any topic he was involved with. The minutes of every meeting and all correspondence were kept by the year in separate files or 3 ring binders with digital copies on the districts Google Drive. The 2022 meeting minutes and other items that needed action were left on Chips desk when he left. Mike Morlang and Ray and Amy Golden were the only people that had access to that office after Chip, Jim Bell and I left the board. Mike tells me that he remembers seeing everything there when he was in the office taking care of vital business before Garfield County appointed a new board. So, I ask, what happened to everything? I will leave it up to all of you here to ponder on that. Chip and I could have easily helped recover these documents, but for one problem. Mysteriously, at about the same time Chip left, his, Jim Bells and my email address and access to the TUID google server was shut down. I understand the reasoning for that since we no longer represented TUID but when we offered to help locate the missing documents, we were advised that that all our saved files and historical records were also deleted.

If one were to analyze the relationship between the board and the North Lake Powell management team led by Mr. Golden, one may conclude that even though North Lake Powell was hired manage the day to day operations of TUID at the pleasure of the Board, that just the opposite is happening. Through persuasion and pressure, it appears that the TUID board is being cajoled into do the bidding of the Golden's and NLP rather than represent all its customers equally and fairly.

The board wants to impose a new rate charge on all of us in the form of a fuel surcharge rate to cover rising fuel prices. I fully understand this and support, but not before a full rate review and study is completed by an accredited outside firm to let everyone know what really needs to be done to ensure a successful future for TUID. Since TUID's inception, many professionals, PUC officials, Public Service Commission representatives, an administrative law judge from the Utah State Auditor's office, The Garfield County Commission, and you the customers have asked for this. The time to get this done is now, before any modifications to the Tariff.

I will leave you with a few of my own priorities.

1. Get the rate study done and get it done now.
2. Keep the employee housing and get it in good shape to rent and use the rental income to offset any costs to do that.
3. End the conflict of interest with NLP and replace Amy Golden on the board. When the county commissioners last asked for interested parties there were plenty of names thrown in the hat.
4. Change the board back to a five-member board. The more input we can get now the better. I will admit, I supported the move to a 3-three-member board and that was a mistake. Let's fix it.
5. There has also been talk of the need to rebuild several of our generators and not having available funds to do this. If really needs to be done now, then why isn't the money in reserves to do this. The funds realized in 2023 from the sale of lots and another district owned home that was also set aside for housing should have been placed in reserves. If they were borrowed from reserves to cover unforeseen expenses, there should be a plan in this year's budget to replace them.

So please, show your interest in TUID and the town of Ticaboo. Log in tomorrow night and listen to the meeting. Voice your concerns during the public meeting on the proposed fee increase. Voice your concerns on other topics during the public comments portion of the regular meeting. I fear that turning a blind eye now could only cost all of us more in the future.

Sincerely,

Tom Hill

Here is a link to the meeting.

NOTICE OF POSSIBLE ELECTRONIC OR TELEPHONIC PARTICIPATION. Pursuant to UCA 52 Ticaboo Utility Improvement District is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic:

TUID Board of Trustees meeting and Public Hearing on Fuel Surcharge Time: Feb 7, 2024 06:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93502958916?pwd=OUtTdDV1YmNzMUZUcHQzT1JacmRqUT09>

Meeting ID: 935 0295 8916 Passcode: 211663 ---

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Meeting ID: 935 0295 8916 Passcode: 211663 Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aAFITrFjv>