

August 23, 2016

Utah Public Service Commission
Commissioners Thad LeVar, David Clark, and Jordan White
P.O. Box 14671
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6751

RE: Docket 15-2508-01 Marian Seamons vs. Ticaboo Utility Improvement District (TUID)

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter regarding the current claims against TUID. I am aware that there have been complaints regarding the utility service located in Ticaboo Utah.

Although I am not a permanent resident, residing in Ticaboo year round. I am a native of that area, being born and raised there for 15 years and working or visiting ever since, So I am all too familiar with the ebb and flow of the economy located there. Growing up there my father was the marina manager for near 20 years. My mother was a bus driver and substitute teacher, she also owned and operated a beauty salon located in the Ticaboo lodge from 1995-2000 and was the manager of the Ticaboo bar and grill from 1996-1998. My family and I relocated in 2000 to Colorado in hopes of attending and graduating from a larger high school with greater opportunity. However, my family and I have continued to own property in Ticaboo ever since. My mom at one period in time was also a realtor there from 1998-2014 and sold many of the town sites as well as the resort. We now own a home and two lots located in the Ticaboo town site lots 99 and 100.

While owning these properties we have paid the utilities all along, rarely falling behind except in times of high usage or additional fees, whether we were a permanent resident or not. I am however writing this letter to voice my concerns with many of the rules, regulations and management of the TUID. Having been a native of that area I am all too familiar with and understand the level of income versus the cost of utilities. Many of the individuals whom are residents there are either retired, low income or employed at one of the few employment opportunities there. I will first start off with saying that the utilities are high for everyone whom lives there not just those whom own "vacation" properties. The amount in utilities that we pay is on average \$155 per month on the months when we are not using any additional utilities (during the winter and spring). This amount is only the base rate that my family pays just to have "access" to water, sewer, and trash at Ticaboo. I own my home in Colorado and pay utilities there year round and on average we pay about \$160 per month, we occupy this home 365 days a year. The cost for utilities in Ticaboo is outrageous based on the cost of living and average income.

I am not writing this letter in any way on behalf of either parties. Many of which are long time family friends and acquaintances. I am writing this letter to express my individual frustrations with the board and management of the TUID and I would love for my side and those in the same position as myself to be heard. There are many of my neighbors there whom own property, pay monthly bills (many of them who have no buildings on their lots) and still we pay the monthly "access" amount.

I will first start with the district and the supposed amount that the manager and those employed by TUID are paid. It has been rumored that one manager is paid in the ball park of \$50,000 per year. This is an astronomical amount to be paid for the work done. I was employed as a 911 dispatcher in the state of Colorado and I was not even paid that much for a position where people's lives were literally in my hands to care for. This is no such position. I understand that there is a lot of paperwork and management involved however, I do not see the payment to be worth the work. One possible solution for the cost of the utilities could be decreasing said managers wage in order to decrease the amount that all town site owners pay. Prior to this manager's position the last person whom was to "manage" the town site was fired for embezzlement. One solution could also be to have a board with an active president, treasurer, secretary etc. so that any monies paid in and out are present and accounted for. This information could/should also be disseminated to all town site owners and be public record. This could be a means as a checks and balances allowing for more accountability on the board and managers part. Allowing residents to see where their hard earned money was being paid to.

My next matter again is related to the management. My father and I were sent a letter regarding a manifold box located on the property. We were advised in approximately march 2016 that we would be charged 5 dollars per gallon for water that was coming from a broken pipe on our property we were also being accused of illegally taking water from this pipe for our home as the air conditioning line was also located in this manifold box. As more research was done it was found that this manifold that was located on our property did not actually provide water to our home or lots, it instead belonged to the town site itself and was to provide water to the "park" located next to the lots we own. As an aside there has not been water to this supposed park, nor does this park look like a park, there is no maintenance done on it, no grass growing in fact it has a few over grown bushes and dilapidated trees and goat heads. When I attended school in Ticaboo from 1989 until 1996 when the new school in Bullfrog was built it was actually a park with a few benches and some grass and trees that provided shade. For the last 10 years my family and I have provided the water for the bushes that are located near our property and in this park because there does not appear to be water accessible to it. Once the dispute was settled and it was discovered by the TUID manager that this pipe was indeed belonging to TUID and Ticaboo town site, Permission was given for the employees of TUID and management to do what was needed to cap off the broken pipe. What was done as an added extra however was not given permission for. The manifold box was pulled up, any pipes belonging to the property were removed from the manifold box, thrown in the dirt and the line running to our air conditioner was cut (none of these pipes or lines in any way were using water that did not belong to the property and could have been placed back in this manifold box, they were still run from the main water meter to the home on the lot in which we pay for). This was what I believe to have been a malicious act on the manager's part as he has had issues with my father for many years prior to his becoming the town site manager. This could also be charged as a criminal offense for tampering and damage of personal property. Once we began our summer season down there this year we asked to have our water turned on to the property (with a fee of \$100) which is only a turn of a key and a walk across the street, not a drive across town as many utility companies may have to do. The response from the manager when asked how we were to get water to our air conditioner as the line was unnecessarily cut his reply was "People figure it out" So now we were left to "Figure out" how to gain water access to our air conditioner for the hot summer season.

My issue is not with the fact that I as a property owner and "vacationer" must pay utilities there even when not in use. My issue is with the amount requested to pay. If TUID wants to charge its users to turn the water on at the beginning of the season for \$100 dollars and again to charge another \$100 at the end of the season for water to be turned off to allow those of us whom do not live there the ability to winterize, we should not also be charged a "standby" fee of \$38 if we have requested that the water be turned on and off. I would also apply this to the electricity if TUID requests to charge to have services turned on and then off then owners should also not have to pay the \$75 stand by fee for electricity. It is also my belief that these fees and prices do not coincide with the economy. Should fees be required and even usage cots they should be at a fair market price.

My issue is also with the management of this town site. I believe that this board; which is to rotate on a certain number of years should be required to consist of half of those whom live and reside at the town site 365 days a year and half of those own property there but do not reside. This would allow for a fair perspective on how things are run and taken care of with perspectives and input from both sides. I would also request that TUID release all financial reports be released to all town site owners this information should be a matter of public record. This would allow a better check and balances system so that each owner is treated and responded to fairly. This information would be trackable to allow all resident to see where their money is going to and what progress, upgrades and/or maintenance are made to the town site. It would also be my recommendation that the management position be a revolving and voted on position to change each term. I also believe that ALL town site owners should be allowed to vote on matter of change within the district and to be done so by a mail in ballot. This information should be mailed to all residents with a request for a response in a reasonable manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration in the matter. I hope that the resolutions that are agreed upon are fair and reasonable for ALL whom live, work and play in Ticaboo.

Sincerely,



Kasandra Salvati
Lot # 99 and 100