

# Budgets in a crisis but no decisive action from board



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Around and around we go. I have been on our council for over eight years and the cycle of issues keep revolving. Our budgets are

in a crisis but no decisive action is undertaken and the board kicks the can further down the road. At the last council meeting, the council passed a continuing funding resolution for the divisions that were fiscally coming to an end. That means that last year's budgets continue, the same amount of money, the same structure, same personnel and the same expenditures. That does not address the current short fall in dollars, the changes in personal and equipment and the requests for needed improvements or upkeep of buildings.

We have gone through the budgets but most of the board is not satisfied at the information we are receiving and want more; more what, I don't know. Delays in making hard decisions is not productive but, like I said, I have

seen this over and over again. The council is reluctant to make decisions on the governmental side but seems relatively complacent to let our businesses fall apart with little support or planning to help them. Repeatedly over the years, we have reduced their operating capitol to run the government without fully funding the capitol improvements or employees. I have heard the board demand the casinos to increase the gross profit and for them to grab more of a share of the market but that is an impossible task that leaves everyone upset and disappointed. The trending nationwide is a downturn in gaming and the forecasts still show a downward trend.

The council tends to change focus after each election. That is fine except the items that were

being worked on and ironed out tend to be left languishing without direction and new concerns are raised to the forefront. These new concerns are usually old issues that were shelved or resolved but not to the satisfaction of the new council that didn't like or doesn't understand why it was done that way. After the 2012 election, many items changed in a hurry and some were good and some were a reversal of direction of the pervious councils. Now, some who supported the changes are seeing why those changes were done by a previous board and admit that they were reacting to a minor problem with a sledgehammer instead of using a screwdriver to tighten it up.

I have been on five different councils now and none of them are bad or have bad board mem-

bers. It is just we tend to not fully resolve or explain anything we do. This all leads to misunderstandings and distrust between the council and everyone else. I only touched on a couple items that repeat, but it is so many more — culture, membership, voting, Big Bear, child care, JKL, marketing, health, family services and so many more. It is our job to work through all of these things but we fail to see the good work previous councils have done and try to rewrite and reinvent everything over and over.

Thank you for all the e-mails and calls.

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