

BUGLE COMMENTARY
Mismanagement caused closure

Bill Smith
My Turn

In all the years I've been in business, (having run my own business for 37 years) I have never seen such an abuse of power and mismanagement as I've witnessed with Maggie Holt and Janet Aniol.

As a Board member since March, I never received sales reports or financial statements that were still "being worked on."

At the meeting last Wednesday afternoon, June 19, Janet stated that she is closing the restaurant the very next day due to lack of revenue. I mentioned that most businesses do not operate at a profit for at least a couple of years. We have only been open since September of last year! I pleaded to leave it open at least one more week to investigate new options to keep it together. Or keep it open through July 4, since the parade is ending at the Ranch House.

Without any discussion or vote, Janet stated that she is closing the restaurant and Maggie agreed.

Every board meeting I attended was conducted unprofessionally with verbal insults and intimidating, aggressive behavior as the norm. I have donated over \$10K in installation/service and security monitoring for the property for close to two years. Board meetings were often held secretly or at inconvenient times. I and others were not notified of many meetings. I (one of five members) was called less than 30 minutes before the last illegal meeting on Sunday, June 23, then chastised for entering 5 minutes late, at which time they (three of five members) had already voted to close the restaurant immediately. They also voted in three new additional members.

I too am concerned about Janet and Maggie's intent to sell the golf course and restaurant to parties whose main interest may be the water rights. I want it known that I had never been in favor of any sale of the property that included intent to jeopardize the water rights and I opposed its consideration. This is why I contacted local entities that might have an interest in protecting water rights and keeping our water in Verde Valley. In the meantime, we're investigating local entities who could also partner with us to develop the golf course and our community in a business-like manner, and protect the water rights.

We need to get all of the investors and the community together to permanently oust Janet and Maggie ASAP!

Bill Smith is a resident of Lake Montezuma and a member of the Beaver Creek Community Development Corporation's Board of Directors.