

Greg Moffet has served multiple terms on the Vail Town Council while being a vendor to the Town via his TIGA advertising company that placed ads on the Town of Vail buses.

## Letters to Vail

## VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

February 21, 2023

## **TOV Victory in Moffet Lawsuit**

**Thousands Owed to TOV.** As the VHA reported in 2019, after years of default dating back to 2017, the TOV finally sued Greg Moffet and his company, TIGA Advertising. The Town claimed that TIGA owed it thousands of dollars in revenue fees and that Moffet aided and abetted the default. Moffet responded with a counterclaim, claiming that TIGA's contract had been modified. The lawsuit was politically motivated because of his vote on Booth Heights, and the Town acted illegally because the decision to bring the lawsuit was made in Executive Session without giving the required notice.

In a 2019 interview with VHA, Moffet admitted that the money had not been paid to the Town but that he would win the case because of his counterclaims and the Town would end up owing him money when the case was all over. He also admitted that the TIGA contract was a conflict of interest but claimed that the Town Council voted in 1999 to waive the conflict as a "minor incidental transaction."

Now, on the eve of trial, the Town has won an important victory. On Friday, the Court entered judgment on part of the case. The Court rejected Moffet's claim that the contract had been modified and ruled that TIGA is indebted to the Town to the tune of \$88,000.00, something that is hardly a "minor" matter. Left undecided for the

forthcoming trial is Moffet's personal liability for "aiding and abetting" and his claim that the lawsuit was politically motivated and illegally instituted.

**Need for an Ethical Conduct Code.** Now that we know the debt was always due and owing and that Moffet could ignore his company's financial obligations while he served on the Town Council and that years passed before anything was done about it is appalling. Conflicts of interest, and even just the appearance of a conflict, undermine the integrity of government. This sordid affair does not reflect well on the Town. It once again highlights that there is a serious, long-term blind spot within the TOV on conflicts of interest and ethical violations. The fact that for years no one raised even the slightest question about the existence of the TIGA contract or the ever-increasing amounts due under that contract underscores the need for a comprehensive code of ethics and conflict of interest law, something that <u>VHA has long advocated for</u>. At a minimum, the community should expect that its leaders will act ethically and comply with their contractual obligations.

Even worse, if true as Moffet claims, is that Moffet's 1999 peers would consider the TIGA contract a "minor" transaction.

Enacting an appropriate code of conduct and conflict of interest law is not rocket science. Examples abound all around Vail. And a draft law was recently circulated within the Council. The VHA believes there is no legitimate reason why Vail still does not have such a code.

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VHA provides clear and concise discussions of matters affecting the Vail community in the belief that an informed citizenry will be an engaged citizenry. Our intent is to promote more citizen involvement and community discussions of issues facing the Town. If this is an issue that concerns you, please make your views known to town officials. By joining with VHA, as a member, paid-subscriber or reader you can add your voice to sustain what is good about our community and to shine a spotlight on important issues.

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To receive VHA letters and reports as a Reader, Paid-Subscriber or Member.

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