

Mammoth Lakes Town Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Town Council Dynamics and Staff Support

Council Meeting Date: 4/29/2026

Prepared by: Rob Patterson, Town Manager

Recommended Motion: No Action – Discussion and consensus

Summary: An elected board like the Town Council will naturally have a variety of ways they go about performing the job of a Town Council member. There are different goals, areas of interest, experiences, connections to the community, and styles in which they engage with constituents and staff. This variety is what provides the substance of the collective group. The role of the Town Manager is to work closely with each different approach to support the success and effectiveness of each member's time on the Town Council.

The primary goal of this discussion is to review the various members' philosophies on the role of a legislative, policy-making body for the community, and what success looks like in that role. This discussion should include the delicate balance between their legislative role and the overall output of the organization. This balance can be difficult because the difference between a hand on the overall direction and a hand in the overall output is often minute yet vastly different.

The second goal of this discussion is to discuss the approach staff should play with agenda item structure and development that will provide the largest benefit for an effective discussion on the dais. This can range from a presentation of key points and elements with a pathway of options, to a tightly packaged presentation around key objectives and staff recommendations. While no approach is effective on every item, it is important to understand the expectations of the current Town Council and decide what will provide the most support for their work.