

**TOWN OF PRESCOTT VALLEY
WORK STUDY MEETING
MINUTES
June 5, 2014**

Library Auditorium
7401 E. Civic Circle
Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314

1. Call to Order

Council member Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Member Mallory, Council Member Anderson, Council Member Whiting, Council Member Marshall, and Council Member Grossman.

Absent: Mayor Skoog, and Vice Mayor Nye.

3. Presentation: Yavapai County Jail Tax Issue, Phil Bourdon

Mr. Phil Bourdon, Yavapai County Administrator, gave an overview of the Jail District History, formed in 1999, with the Board of Supervisors as the Board of Directors. That same year a ¼ percent sales tax was approved by the voters. This dedicated revenue source ends June 30, 2020. That fund helped with the Camp Verde Jail expansion. In 2004, the District began having an issue whereby the expenditures exceeded the revenue. Yavapai County began to fund the Jail District in 2007 at a rate of \$3 million a year - at \$7 million. Therefore the Prescott Jail was closed in 2009 to reduce those costs and prisoners were transferred to the Camp Verde Jail which has 600 beds. In 1998 the Deputy of Justice did an investigation enabling the County to resolve the safety and overcrowding issue. Following that municipalities were no longer charged to house prisoners at the County jails. Following the Jail District, that no longer occurs. The County realizes 35 percent of the taxes from non-residents of the county through the sales tax.

To reduce inmate population and costs, an early Disposition Court was put in place to keep the population down by expediting early court proceedings. The Sheriff has also instituted inmate co-pay programs for medical and food which brings money back into the jail system. Excess beds are rented out to the Marshall's offices and others to bring in more revenue. The Restoration to Competency program was instituted for cases in which an inmate was not able to participate in their own defense. They were sent to the Arizona State Hospital which cost \$670 per day, per inmate. That cost was shifted to the Jail District. The County Attorney and Sheriff's Office developed the in-house Restoration of Competency program at the jail providing those services and reducing costs to approximately \$240 per day, per inmate. The Sheriff had Contract Medical Services verses having to have in-house medical staff provide those services. All these have all helped reduce inmate population costs.

Mr. Bourdon said that Sheriff Scott Mascher said the jail system is nearing capacity and he recommends that a new jail be constructed as a long time solution to meet the needs of the County jail system. He stated several reasons for not reopening the existing Prescott Jail – high cost, inefficiency, limited beds and no expansion opportunities. Factors such as gender, risk level, mental health, physical health and disciplinary segregation have to be taken into capacity consideration. Given these separation classification requirements, it is estimated that 83 percent of the beds are available for occupancy. Therefore there is an estimated 498 of the 600 available for actual use by inmates. Occupancy of County inmates dropped during the recession and is now increasing and nearing capacity. The maximum capacity will be reached at the Camp Verde Jail within the next year. With the three percent increase in occupancy per year we need to look at building a new jail in the Prescott area with an anticipated opening in 2019.

Bourdon offered three scenarios and detailed the impacts of each. The scenarios presented were: 1) continue with the existing ¼ cent sales tax which expires in 2020, 2) renew the existing sales tax, or 3) voter approval for the Board of Directors to increase the jails sales tax up to a maximum of 1/2 cent based (maximum allowed by law) on financial need and extending it for 20 years. The first two scenarios would have a major impact on the general services provided by the County. This general funds 49 percent of it and goes to the courts and general law enforcement (County Attorneys, Adult Probation, Sheriffs, Juvenile Probation, and Public Defender). Reducing general services in our General Fund has a great impact on these systems. The third scenario provides the necessary funding for the jail district and construction of the new Prescott Jail and operation of both it and the Camp Verde Jail.

Mr. Bourdon summarized that he covered the history of the jail districts, some of the benefits, some of their ongoing efforts to keep costs and inmate population down, Sheriff Mascher's recommendation to construct a new jail due to his capacity issues, discussed the issue of reopening the existing Prescott Jail which would not meet the long term needs of the Prescott Jail system, some of the adult population projection, evaluation of the increase of the sales tax up to ½ cent and the increase to the property taxes of the County and to have a reduction in General Fund services. The Board of Directors has asked that they move forward with increasing the sales tax to ½ cent for 20 years. That will be on the November 14, 2014 election. Early voting begins October 9th. They are beginning their public information program as of tonight.

The property tax would not be increased if the increase up to the ½ cent sales tax for 20 years passes. The estimated cost of the jail is \$26 million for design and construction. The current concept of the Prescott Jail is to build it for 300 beds with expansion in the future.

Sheriff Scott Mascher said that health centers outside of the jail will continue programs began in the jail to lessen the recidivism. Very few of the inmates at the jail are for just drug possession charges alone. The population consists mostly of serious felons, violent type crimes involving victims. The Camp Verde Jail is a very modern and efficient design with several programs in place. The existing Prescott Jail only has 120 beds and often times over 250 inmates at a time need to attend court in Prescott and therefore must be transported back up from the Camp Verde Jail. It doesn't suit the long-term needs or short-term needs. It does not meet fire code standards, is much outdated, doesn't meet certain Federal requirements and is more of an office building than a jail.

Council member Whiting commented that the only additional revenue is from bed rentals from the Marshalls and questioned whether there are additional options available. Mascher said they generate a lot of additional revenue without the Marshalls. The Federal Marshall Rental services and population continue to increase with the Marshalls they were over capacity. They generated about \$2 million a year with bed rentals. But they will continue to rent to the Dept. of Corrections for which they charge daily rates and for medical services and meals to offset staffing costs. They are also afforded money from a Jail Enhancement Fund generated from fine assessments. The jail is at capacity and has been for the past year. The current ¼ cent sales tax provides \$7 million dollars currently. If it was a ½ cent it would generate about \$14 million. In addition to that the County provides an additional \$7 million in maintenance of effort.

Council member Grossman asked what plans do they have for the current Prescott Jail building. Mascher said ¼ of the building is used for the jail. The rest of it is currently used for Sheriff's Offices and County Attorney Offices and they will try to fill it with other offices. Council member Marshall said that the ½ cent increase in sales tax makes more sense than a property tax increase. Council member Anderson said the ½ cent sales tax question must go to the voters. Is there any need for the County to increase the property tax without going to the voters? Supervisor Smith said they can raise the property tax without going to the voters. The sales tax option lessens the burden to Yavapai County residents. The Board of Supervisors has been very conservative and is way below their available taxing level. They feel the need to take this step is now to get this jail built over the next three or four years. This is something they have to do - not what they want to do.

4. Presentation: Playful City USA

Brian Witty Parks and Recreation Director said the Town of Prescott Valley has received the designation as a National Playful City USA community. This designation is for those municipalities that have taken bold steps to ensure that all children have easy access to balance and active play in their communities. Families now more than ever want homes in proximity to streets to walk, trails to ride and places to play. For communities to be economically competitive they must attract to and retain these same families. The Town of Prescott Valley is recognized for this designation as it has made a commitment to transform our community to become more playful through its unique local active plans to increase quantity as well as quality of play. Prescott Valley is only one out of twelve in Arizona and one out of 212 in the USA to receive this designation. Play has been on the decline throughout America impacts in all facets of life. We need to realize that all kids need these benefits to build minds, healthy bodies, social opportunities and skills. Our 2025 Plan, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, include our 27 parks with 450 acres of park and open space, miles of walking paths, IGA with HUSD and local charter schools, revitalization efforts of Tonto South Park, IGA with the Boys & Girls Club, the many services and special events offered by the Town, the advisory services of the Parks and Recreation and Arts and Culture Commissions, our future planning for the Antelope Park expansion, the Tonto North Park investment, Bob Edwards Park and Agua Fria Parks that are coming in the future. Brian thanked Jessica Compton who did a lot of work toward Prescott Valley getting this national recognition.

Council said it is nice to get the recognition nationally and thanked them for it.

5. Discussion regarding extending the Town Engineer agreement with Dava and Associates, Inc. for two additional years with an expiration date of June 30, 2016

Deputy Public Works Director Boyd Robertson said Dava and Associates have been the engineers for the town for 26 years and have a lot of institutional knowledge. This is the fourth time he has presented this renewal and Staff recommends they continue to use Dava and Associates. No questions were forthcoming.

6. Discussion regarding the Annual Chip Seal Program Contract

Public Works Director Norm Davis said a flyer is being sent out to notify residents of the \$400,000 chip seal program indicating areas around the town to be chip sealed starting in June. They are on a 9-year maintenance cycle. The Town has to keep up a 9-year life cycle of chip sealing to keep our streets from deteriorating beyond repair. The cost went down about 5 percent this year. Sunland, Inc. was the low bidder.

Council member Mallory said maybe in the future the Town can get back to the old chip seal cycle consisting of more frequency. Davis said they investigate different methodology and technology for this process. The Town has 240 miles of pavement to maintain and constantly evaluate the product used and send staff to training to stay current about options and best practices.

7. Discussion regarding the Janitorial Contract for Annual Contract Services Program

Public Works Norm Davis said this five-year outsourced service contract had to be bid out this year. The existing contract was tuned up this year to reflect current needs and the bid came in at a zero percent increase. No questions were forthcoming.

8. Adjournment

Council member Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:31p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Diane Russell, Town Clerk

Harvey Skoog, Mayor

STATE OF ARIZONA)
COUNTY OF YAVAPAI) ss:
TOWN OF PRESCOTT VALLEY)

CERTIFICATE OF COUNCIL MINUTES

I, Diane Russell, Town Clerk of the Town of Prescott Valley, Arizona, hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Work Study Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Prescott Valley, held on Thursday, June 5, 2014.

I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this June 13, 2014

Diane Russell, Town Clerk