

**TOWN OF PRESCOTT VALLEY
WORK STUDY SESSION MEETING
MINUTES
June 16, 2016**

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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Skoog called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Harvey Skoog, Vice Mayor Rick Anderson, Council members: Marty Grossman, Mary Mallory, Stephen Marshall, Lora Lee Nye, and Michael Whiting.

3. Presentation: Pool Usage Report

Robert Kieren, Parks and Recreation Aquatics Coordinator, said the pool is in full swing. They offer many programs including open swim, aqua aerobics, therapy swim, lap swim, family night, and recreational swim team (ages 6-17). They have seen increases in some of the larger programs. Over 266 kids signed up for group swim lessons. Open swim from 1:00 to 4:30 Monday through Sunday is popular and has a 52 percent increase. They have a huge jump on family nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:05 p.m. Swimming lessons are up 23 percent in both sessions 1 and 2. Usage has gone up over the last 3 years. June 25 is the session 3 swim lesson signups. July 8 is scheduled for session 4 swim lesson signups. July 4 is sign up day for the 2nd session recreational swim team. Additional information can be found on the town website at www.pvaz.net. All fees at the pool are based on age groups.

4. Public Hearing: Upstart of Public Transit Services

Mayor Skoog opened the Public Hearing

Public Works Director Norm Davis said they work with CYMPO pm transit issues as Federal Administration dollars come to them to fund studies and transit systems. Back in 2007 a needs study was done followed up in 2009 with an implementation plan for a regional transit system. This was right at the height of the economic downturn so the plan sat on the shelf. In October of 2014 they decided they would like to move forward with regional transit so they sent a letter to CYMPO stating that. The other member agencies didn't want to participate. The decision was made to move forward to do a study and get the transit advocates involved. A study was completed with regional expansion opportunities for Prescott Valley through a consultant, all paid for with FTA funds. Davis cautioned that we need to be mindful that this is a new service and needs a dedicated funding source. The study recommendation was to fund it through a

property tax. A property tax would require a public vote to have the voters consider this upstart transit service. May 2017 was the suggested date for an election. Transit advocates are here to share what the need is in Prescott Valley.

Public Comments:

1. David Siegler Executive Director of New Horizons Center – They are the voice of the disabled. He is also a small business owner with 5 of his 8 employees who need public transportation. He is an advocate for transit on many different sides. Council asked the advocates the last time they came before Council, to show some public support. They were not requested to get registered voters, just residents. In response they collected 516 signatures through very little time and effort. Twelve of the signatures are from the American Legion Post and forty American Legion Riders who do not reside here but felt they had a stake in what was going on here. These signatures represent not only those with disabilities, but also those who recognize that transit is critical for commerce, for medical care, for young families and the elderly. It is the difference between isolation and independence. Without mobility you cannot get to a job, or doctor or visit. Siegler handed the petitions off to Town Manager Larry Tarkowski.
2. Ron Romley with YRT said they are running a transit system into Prescott Valley with 3 stops and a lot of diversions. What was presented to Council by Suzanne O’Neil at a prior meeting was a broader proposal that would hit the entire town. Because their grant from the FTA is a rural grant and we are urban they cannot service the town like they would really like to. There is money through CYMPO that can substantiate the majority of the cost. They are looking for the match money to that grant. There are a lot of people who are leaving Prescott and coming into Prescott Valley who want that means of transportation. If the proposal does pass the first buses would not be here until 2019 as it takes a while to get the buses. YRT started with 2 buses and are waiting for delivery of bus 5. The need is there and people are using it. Riders bring economic development into our community. YRT has spent over \$2 million. A study shows that for every dollar spent on a transit system \$4.00 comes back to the community. There are a lot of people in the quad city area who are getting to an age when they just can’t get out and are therefore moving back to the valley – a lose/lose situation. He asks that Council give it a fair assessment - constituents would really like it.

Vice Mayor Anderson commented that he would not be prepared to vote on this issue today. A lot needs to be considered; all information will be looked at then they will make the decision they think is proper. This is not a council driven initiative – council will be staying neutral. This would have to be a brand new tax that the voters will be making the decision on. He cautioned about control of costs. The figure of \$30 requires more information. Council will want to see an indication of the willingness of the citizens of Prescott Valley to take this to the vote. There is still a lot of missing information and he would like to see that missing information.

Town Manager Larry Tarkowski said a decision will have to be made by January in order to go to the ballot in May 2017. The cost associated with that will be \$40 - \$50,000 for an all-mail ballot election or \$90,000 for a polling place election.

Council member Mallory said she would like to see this be a voter initiative so that it is a clear, knowledgeable situation. Council member Marshall agreed. This needs to be actual registered voters and he wants to see that [on petitions] so the town would get more bang for our buck for an election.

Tarkowski said if Council wishes, staff could work with the advocates suggesting a formal initiative.

Town Clerk Diane Russell said initiative petitions would have to be turned in 120 days prior to the election date in order to qualify for the ballot and prepare for the election.

Council member Nye asked what percentage of the signatures on the petitions turned in this evening are Prescott Valley registered voters. Mr. Siegler responded that he could not fathom a guess. Council member Nye continued that she agrees with Council member Marshall that they have to be very cautious about this as it concerns a new funding source. Mr. Siegler agreed. He had hoped to skip the voter initiative piece due to the time it would take. The four nonprofits do not have the staff or resources to carry a petition to get over 1200 signatures. However, they will do what they have to do because this is a serious issue that must be decided by the voters.

Vice Mayor Anderson said we will have to bring this before a regular meeting. No decision can be made about this tonight.

3. Reed Winfrey questioned whether anyone knew what the loss is per rider. This is about a property tax so the citizens would have to subsidize the riders of the transit system. He is against it. "We are not a mass community that needs a lot of transportation. The people here knew that when they got here."
4. Don Reene is a senior citizen who lives in the area. He drives the bus on Fridays and most of the people he drives do not have transportation – people in wheelchairs, people with strollers - they all appreciate the service. If they only have 10 riders and everybody else is paying the taxes, he will pay the extra tax. He is willing to pay the extra \$36 to \$40 a month to help the senior citizens and those who do not have transportation.
5. Craig Arps said if the citizens are willing to pay \$30 - \$36 dollars a month for a transit system to help those people then it sounds like an opening for a charity. He doesn't understand why the government has to force people to pay the tax if all the people are already willing to help. Mayor Skoog clarified that it would not be the government it would be the people themselves. Arps added he understands that, but what you would be forced to pay [the tax] - it is not a voluntary option.

No additional comments were forthcoming. Mayor Skoog closed the public hearing.

5. Discussion: Roadway Access to Poquito Valley Land Area

Public Works Director Norm Davis said this is in reference to a current private access roadway into Poquito Valley. On the May 26 Council meeting, many Poquito Valley residents expressed concern over the road into Poquito Valley and that they would like to see it improved. Staff discussed a solution with the county which is willing to fund the improvements 100 percent, including a low water crossing. Then the town would take it over for maintenance through an IGA with Yavapai County. One of the issues is that the road could be moved depending on the development of the lots in Viewpoint. This is tentatively scheduled for a Board of Supervisors meeting in July. The road should be completed September 1 according to Yavapai County.

Council members Mallory, Nye and Grossman complimented all parties involved for working on this together to a resolution of mutual agreement in this short time period. Council member Grossman said this is obviously important to the people who live in Poquito Valley.

Legler said the County will not want to put public dollars into a roadway that they don't own. The property owner must deed or plat a right of way so that the County will then direct dollars to it. Flexibility to move the road would be through a FDP or replat and we will have to commit that. We will be flexible about letting him move the road. The developer will then have to pay to move it. This will need to be public right of way then changed formally when the development takes place.

Tarkowski added that the important thing to know is that this section being built by the County is not an asphalt 20-year road. It will be a temporary chip seal road free of pot holes and dust lasting for 3-7 years depending on development of the lots. The developer's road will have curb, gutter a deep pavement section and subgrade underneath it. It will be a significantly more expensive road than this temporary road that will serve the purposes needed today. Council member Nye stressed that no Prescott Valley tax dollars are being spent on putting this road in.

6. Discussion: Water Resource Update

Water Resources Manager John Munderloh said we live in the most highly regulated area in the state as far as water supply is concerned. Decisions are made by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and tracked by ADWR about what we do to ensure we stay within the law. The Groundwater Management Act of 1980 requires that we demonstrate a 100-year assured water supply a standard that applies to the 5 Active Management Areas in the state. Subdivisions cannot increase the draft of water from the aquifer. We have annual reporting requirements that we have to meet. We have a state set goal of reaching safe yield by 2025 as we over pump our aquifer.

We depend on the aquifer which is approximately 2.9 million acre feet of water (950 billion gallons). Seventeen thousand acre feet of water are pumped a year from the aquifer. Groundwater/aquifer pumping has decreased over the last 50 years.

Water for growth and new subdivisions cannot be pumped from the aquifer. Other water supplies must come from existing groundwater rights that have been extinguished (agricultural land),

from effluent that has been treated and recharged as credits, from senior surface water rights or from the Big Chino. The ADWR determines up front whether a new subdivision can be platted or not. There has not been a new subdivision in 17 years in Prescott Valley. The groundwater is reserved for current homes and the platted lots in subdivisions done seventeen years or more ago. Prescott Valley has lowered total water pumped despite population growth of 17,000 to 18,000 more people. We don't pump any more water now than we did in 2003. Water use per user has decreased too.

We have retained a legal right to receive water from the Big Chino aquifer to reach safe yield and supply water for growth. The Big Chino Project has been in the planning stages since the 20s. It is a replacement supply of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) water rights that are granted to the City of Prescott and Yavapai Indian Tribe from way back. Because we could not connect to the CAP canal, we conveyed the water rights into a legal source of supply to the Big Chino. As we developed further with the project we reached an agreement with Salt River Project to protect the flows of the Upper Verde River. This is an enforceable agreement not like any other water supply project in the history of the state. No other water users from the Big Chino Sub-basin are regulated except us and the City of Prescott. The Big Chino Sub-basin Agreements are between the City of Prescott, Salt River Project and Town of Prescott Valley.

The Watershed Stewardship Biomass project is needed as only 2 percent of our precipitation reaches the aquifer. The rest of it is consumed by plants. We have had a huge increase of woody vegetation that has invaded former grass land. We used to have a forest product industry in this area but none that dealt with the low value ground cover such as junipers and other brush. Private industry will address this growth and help us deal with the fire hazard and low infiltration rates on our water supply. Analyses and a pilot project are underway to attract the industry. About 1,400 acres have been restored so far, but over 1 Million acres need to be addressed.

Munderloh clarified that the Big Chino is outside the Prescott Active Management Area so all the regulatory standards and oversight of this restriction do not apply to other water users; just Prescott and Prescott Valley. Council member Nye commented that our area has very rigid restrictions, but we are an epitome to be emulated for other communities to treasure their water in the manner that we do.

7. Discussion: Volunteer Central Update

Volunteer Central Coordinator Heidi Foster said we continue to bring on new volunteers. We currently have 250 volunteers including those on boards and commissions. Two banquets, sponsored by the council, were held for the volunteers in recognition of their service and to honor distinguished volunteers. Two volunteer fairs were successfully held bringing on additional volunteers. Capital Project Coordinator Kim Moon has come up with some great projects that are unbudgeted for by the town. One project was the Park Asset Marking project. Another volunteer project in progress is the Trails Asset Study to inventory trail infrastructure, facilities and amenities. Magistrate Court had a successful file purging project done by volunteers. Two volunteers also man Heidi's office. Policing programs are growing too. Each department has a volunteer coordinator who takes on volunteer scheduling, training and providing meaningful work, not just busy work for the volunteers. They learn something and

benefit the town. Council expressed appreciation to the Heidi for the work she does and the volunteers for their service to assist in getting these things done. The Volunteer program saves the town funds and creates opportunities for the citizens to get involved. Heidi added that we have a community of people who are eager to engage in their community and to give back.

8. Adjournment

Mayor Skoog adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.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 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Prescott Valley, held on Thursday, June 16, 2016.

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

Dated this June 21, 2016

Diane Russell, Town Clerk