

MINUTES OF THE JOINT STUDY SESSION OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL AND PINETOP-LAKESIDE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE MAIN DINING ROOM AT TORREON GOLF CLUB, 651 SOUTH TORREON LOOP, SHOW LOW, NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA

Mayor Rick Fernau of the City of Show Low called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Luke Smith	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Stephanie Irwin	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Vice Mayor Rich Crockett	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Kim Webb	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Woody Biscoe	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	Leslee Wessel	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>
Norris Dodd	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>			

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Udall, Town Manager; Rosemary Rosales, Town Attorney; Tom Thomas, Public Works Director; and Lu Anne Frost, Town Clerk.

SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Rick Fernau; Vice Mayor Rennie Crittenden; Council members Gene Kelley, Daryl Seymore, Gerry Whipple, and Michael Allsop.

CITY OF SHOW LOW STAFF PRESENT:

Ed Muder, City Manager; Joel Weeks, Deputy City Manager/Community Services Director; F. Morgan Brown, City Attorney; Holiday Van Sciver, Grants/Housing Coordinator; Steve North, Business Development Coordinator; Bill Kopp, Public Works Engineering Director; and Ann Kurasaki, City Clerk.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Navajo County Manager James Jayne; Saryn Jayne; and Mike Leiby.

ITEM NO. 3, INVOCATION:

Mayor Fernau (Show Low) gave the invocation.

ITEM NO. 4, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Smith (Pinetop-Lakeside) led the Councils and audience in the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM NO. 5, INTRODUCTIONS:

Introductions were made by all present.

ITEM NO. 6, DISCUSSION REGARDING RECYCLING:

Steve North reviewed the following recycling activities in the region: (1) the Northeast Arizona Recycling Committee, was established in 2007 to serve as an idea exchange and handle area-wide recycling coordination; (2) recycling partnerships with the Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District, Waste Management, green waste facilities, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Mesa-based Green Tech Assets for an e-waste collection event held in August; and (3) recycling grant opportunities.

Mr. North said that the City of Show Low and Town of Pinetop-Lakeside were awarded a \$60,000 grant from ADEQ to study the feasibility of a material recovery facility (MRF), with a possible component of a value-added recycling park. Unfortunately, the grant funds were recently swept by the State Legislature. Staff hoped that funding for the feasibility study would be restored next fiscal year.

Mr. North outlined future recycling possibilities, namely, exploring a curbside pickup component, holding an annual combined e-waste and household hazardous waste event beginning in 2010, and a combined MRF and value-added recycling park concept (if funding became available).

Mayor Fernau asked if compulsory refuse pickup had been discussed. Mr. North said yes, it was, and there had been interest shown from refuse companies. Mr. Muder said he and Mr. Udall talked about it but the idea was put on hold because of the swept ADEQ grant funds. They were waiting for the results of the feasibility study to determine whether to proceed.

Mayor Fernau asked if it would take a lot of Waste Management's time to pick up refuse in both Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside. Mr. Muder said he and Mr. Udall had talked about regional collection but the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside would have to make that decision. Mr. Udall said that residents in Pinetop-Lakeside used three different refuse vendors. Consequently, it would be a difficult political decision to require mandatory refuse pickup using one vendor. It would be an easier decision if refuse collection could be combined with recycling because this additional component was something the community wanted and supported. Because Pinetop-Lakeside didn't provide utility services and didn't do any billing, it was a problem that would have to be overcome.

Mr. Udall referred to the recycling feasibility study and expressed concern that if the study was done too narrowly, the results might show it wasn't doable. Mr. North said the study would cover all of Navajo County. Apache County just completed a study on recycling, so it might be feasible to join forces with Apache County and provide recycling over both counties.

Mr. Udall clarified that the feasibility study only covered recycling. Mandatory refuse collection was a separate discussion. Mr. North said the lack of a material recovery facility was the main drawback.

Mayor Fernau asked how often the Northeast Arizona Recycling Committee met. Mr. North said infrequently, but there were now enough ideas that they might try to re-energize the group and meet more regularly.

ITEM NO. 7, UPDATE ON RURAL TRANSIT SYSTEM:

Mr. Van Sciver presented an update on the rural transit system, which comprised the Four Seasons Connection and White Mountain Connection, the expanded route to and from Holbrook. He said the White Mountain Connection was launched on April 6, 2009, and it ran five days a week, with three round-trips a day. Both routes were operated under contract with MV Transportation. In addition, the system was overseen by the Transit Advisory Committee, with representatives from all the participating entities.

Mr. Van Sciver said that they had entered into a contract with Transit Marketing LLC to develop a marketing and advertising plan to generate more revenue.

Mr. Van Sciver shared annual and monthly ridership statistics from the inception of the Four Seasons Connection in the 1998-99 fiscal year to the present. He noted that ridership kept growing. Results showed there were 10,661 riders in September 2009, with approximately 51% riders boarding and disembarking in Pinetop-Lakeside and 49% in Show Low. He also shared statistics for disabled, senior, and wheelchair passengers by month for the past three calendar years, through September 2009. Statistics showed that there were approximately five boardings a day for people in wheelchairs.

Mr. Leiby asked if the reduction in ridership was because of cuts in workdays, such as the county's and Pinetop-Lakeside's move to 4/10s. Mr. Van Sciver wasn't sure, as the information was purely anecdotal. He agreed it could be a factor. People might also have left the area because of the economic downturn.

Mr. Van Sciver mentioned the expanded route, the White Mountain Connection, with participation from the county, community college, and all the municipalities along the route. He said that new buses were recently purchased and the bus facility would be expanded, with architect Don Overby doing the design. Also, new bus shelters were being manufactured and a new transfer station was proposed along Show Low Lake Road. He briefly reviewed the various grants and other funding that supported the transit system.

Mayor Fernau said that this system was probably the lowest cost-per-mile transit system in the state. In fact, this system served as a model for other communities. He was proud that even in difficult economic times; the system was able to expand. Mr. Van Sciver said that Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside had worked together for 12 years on this program. He acknowledged that the system was recognized at a recent transit conference as a model to emulate. Mayor Fernau agreed that, as a partnership, the region benefited from these types of programs.

ITEM NO. 8, UPDATE ON TIGER (TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS GENERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY) GRANT APPLICATION:

Mr. Jayne provided an update on the TIGER grant project. He noted that this grant application was a prime example of the partnership between the county, Pinetop-Lakeside, and Show Low. He was present tonight on behalf of the county, Chairman Brownlow, and Supervisor Tenney, both of whom represented southern Navajo County.

Mr. Jayne said the project was called the Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor (SNCRC). He explained that about three years ago, a regional transportation study of all of southern Navajo and Apache counties was done. The study looked at the region's major transportation needs. The conclusion was that Porter Mountain/Penrod Road was a major corridor. The county had repaved three miles of Porter Mountain Road and was hoping to chip-seal it sometime next year to the boundary with Apache County. The county viewed this as a regional project.

Mr. Jayne said the SNCRC project comprised, in order of priority, extending Scott Ranch Road from SR260 (White Mountain Road) to Penrod Road with a bridge over Show Low Creek; constructing a new four-lane vehicle and pedestrian bridge over Billy Creek and a pedestrian walkway along Porter Mountain Road from SR260 (White Mountain Boulevard) to the Blue Ridge Middle/Junior High School entrance; constructing a four-lane vehicle and pedestrian bridge over Porter Creek on Penrod Road; and widening Penrod/Porter Mountain Road to four lanes from US60 in Show Low to SR260 in Pinetop-Lakeside with a multiuse pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists. Portions of this project were shovel-ready and the project must be completed by 2012. The cost estimate for the entire project was \$47 million, with \$11.7 million for Scott Ranch Road, \$14.4 million for the Billy Creek Bridge, \$4.5 million for the Porter Creek Bridge, and \$16.4 million for Penrod/Porter Mountain Road. He noted that projects eligible for TIGER grants must be in the \$20 to \$300 million range.

Mr. Jayne said there were additional funding sources, such as cost-sharing with stakeholders, contributions from private development, project bonds, and congressionally directed funding. Because it would benefit the entire region, the SNCRC had broad community support. In addition, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick had dispatched a letter to Secretary Ray LaHood of the U.S. Department of Transportation supporting the project.

Mr. Van Sciver added that the project met the grant's primary and secondary selection criteria.

Mr. Jayne said that \$1.5 billion was available nationally, with the funds spread over the 50 states. However, by the submittal deadline, \$56.5 billion in funds had been requested nationwide. Arizona would get about \$30 million in grant funds but, statewide, 38 applications totaling \$1.8 billion were submitted.

Mr. Jayne said the grants would be awarded in early January. The three participating entities hired a consultant, R&R Partners, to lobby and seek Congressional support.

Mayor Fernau thanked Mr. Jayne and Navajo County for supporting these regional efforts in southern Navajo County.

Mr. Leiby asked what the chances were that this project would be approved for grant funding. Mr. Jayne wasn't certain, noting that it was a very competitive and rigorous process. Mr. Van Sciver thought the project had an excellent chance of even a portion getting funded because of its regional significance. He added that this project had to be defined for future funding opportunities.

Mr. Udall expressed his appreciation for the cooperative and collaborative efforts of all the entities involved.

Mayor Smith asked if R&R Partners would continue to assist with the appropriations process if after the selection and award process was complete the project was not funded fully. Mr. Jayne said R&R Partners weren't currently contracted to assist beyond the application and selection process. However, because the three parties approached this project with a vision that it was very much needed for the region, efforts to seek funding would continue if the grant was not awarded in full.

Mr. Kopp said that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) should be providing final comments on the 30% design sometime this month, after which the final design could proceed.

ITEM NO. 9, COMMUNITY UPDATES:

Mayor Fernau reported on two noteworthy projects in Show Low. The first was the new library project, being constructed across from the existing library on 9th Street. In addition to the 13,500-square-foot library, the facility would house council chambers, and should be completed by next summer. When it was completed, the City would remodel the existing library into a city hall. The county, which purchased the existing city hall, would take occupancy as soon as the City vacated it. He noted that the existing library housed 156 employees when it was owned and staffed by Frontier communications. The second project was a veteran's memorial, which was being constructed in front of the existing library. The memorial, which is being constructed by an Eagle Scout with help from a local contractor, would be dedicated on November 11 (Veterans Day) at 11:00 a.m. He invited everyone to the ceremony.

Mayor Fernau announced that ADOT Globe District's snow management plan meeting (mentioned at Monday's Apache and Navajo Counties Mayors and Councilmember's Association meeting) would be held on Wednesday, October 21, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Show Low Public Library.

Mayor Smith said that Pinetop-Lakeside had three new Council members, Woody Biscoe, Stephanie Irwin, and Kim Webb, all of whom were elected in March 2009. He said he was also reelected this year and was now the longest-serving member on the Council. With so many new faces, there were lots of fresh ideas on the Council. He said that Pinetop-Lakeside recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Part of the commemoration included a challenge to its citizens to log 25,000 hours of community service. He was proud to announce that by the anniversary date, 33,000 hours had been logged. A key project in the current economic climate was a new 100-bed assisted living facility being built at the Maverick Center. The facility would create about 128 jobs. Another key goal for the Town was to acquire Woodland Lake Park, an ongoing process over the past 24 years. He noted, however, that enormous progress in the acquisition process had been made over the last 2-1/2 years.

ITEM NO. 10, ADJOURNMENT:

The joint study session of the Show Low City Council and the Pinetop-Lakeside Town Council of October 7, 2009 adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Dated this 15th day of October 2009.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE TOWN COUNCIL

/s/ Lu Anne Frost, Town Clerk