

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA, HELD FEBRUARY 4, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Mayor Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Udall, Town Manager; Rosemary Rosales, Town Attorney; Lu Anne Frost, Town Clerk; Paul Esparza, Community Development Director; Jessica Grey, Library Director; and Woody Eldredge, Chief of Police.

ITEM NO. 2, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION:

The Pledge of Allegiance was said, followed with an invocation by Vice Mayor Crockett.

ITEM NO. 3, CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Smith explained the rules for Call to the Public.

Wes Alderson stated he loves the Town and said they need to focus on solutions to problems. He said the police force is the top priority. He said if taxes are to be raised, a coalition of towns should work together. He said they must change emphasis against just retail, as there is a need to attract businesses with more currency flow. He said they need to eliminate the idea that rooftops mean money and know that people pay taxes. He said the recent cooperation from the Advertising and Promotion Committee and Sunrise Ski Resort has increased awareness of local winter sports. He added they need to do better to increase citizens' awareness of why and how Council decisions are made. He said everyone has to pay their share and said there are businesses that do not pay taxes. He said they can save the police force by temporarily furloughing Main Street.

Lloyd Pentecost stated he is representing the Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross, He said there is a disaster trailer next to St. Vincent de Paul, which can be deployed within one hour of notification. He added the Red Cross in Arizona had up to ten shelters during the last storm, with over 300 people sheltered and several thousand meals served with the assistance of the Salvation Army and Meals on Wheels. He said he came tonight to acknowledge and thank Officers Chad Davis, Joe Hite and Commander Dan Barnes who dug the shelter trailer out. He added when they brought the trailer back, Town staff assisted with the process, and he thanked them. He said the Red Cross meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Summit Health Care Conference Room 2, and reminded everyone they always need volunteers.

David Krigbaum stated the *Arizona Republic* reports the weather every day and shows no report for Pinetop. He asked what the problem is and asked why there is no report. Councilman Dodd stated years ago, there was one person who did the official record, but said that recording station was closed down. He said he personally offered to do this, but said it did not meet certain parameters, so the National Weather Service decided to shut it down. Mr. Krigbaum asked if the police or fire stations could take on that task. He asked if they would look into it.

Larry Lopez, President of AZCOPS, stated the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Officers Association is an affiliate. He stated he is here to oppose a reduction in force. He said he understands they are all dealing with the current economic situation, and said many entities are battling economic shortfalls and looking at reducing the police force to satisfy budget woes. He said the City of Tucson has exempted public safety from any reductions; and said Flagstaff and Oro Valley could not reduce the police force because it would affect the people in the community. He said if the proposal is followed, Pinetop-Lakeside would be the only police force to lay off police officers. He said on holiday weekends during the summer, they would all have to be on high alert because there would not be enough officers on patrol.

Joe Hite stated he has been a police officer with the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department for 4 ½ years and in law enforcement for 28 years. He said when he first heard of the furloughs, he told Sgt. Sargent he would take the time of the new officers. He said an officer received a letter requesting him to retire and said he was just short of 48 years of service. He said the Town Manager told him to retire or he would find a police officer with a family and would fire him. He said the Town Manager said he would not fill any vacant positions; and said he is processing out because of the arrogance he sees. He added a good percentage of the police force would be gone. He said they all take oaths as cops to protect human life and property; and said some take a higher oath to provide for their family. He said everybody in this Town is extended family.

Joe Russell stated last year he reprimanded the Council about spending too much on the retreat held in the Valley. He said he did not know if they listened to him or not, but said this year's retreat was held in Pinetop-Lakeside and the money was kept where it belongs. He thanked the Council and said he hopes future retreats are held in Town until the economic downturn is over.

ITEM NO. 4, CONSENT AGENDA:

The consent agenda consisted of the Minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of January 21, 2010; Resolution No. 10-1102 Adopting a Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for FY 2010, as required under Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as Amended; and the Check Register for December 2009.

Councilwoman Wessel stated a correction was made to the minutes on pages 7-8 to clarify the motion on Item No. 9.

**COUNCILWOMAN WESSEL MOVED THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILMAN DODD SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM NO. 5, MAYOR'S SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS – RED DEVIL PIZZA AND MCDONALDS OF PINETOP:

Mayor Smith stated this is a new program. He said they had to postpone January's Spotlight due to snow, so they are combining January and February. He said this is an informal recognition of businesses for their services to the community. He said Red Devil Pizza contributed generously to the PLAAD program in October. Vice Mayor Crockett presented a plaque to Mike Digeno of Red Devil. Councilman Biscoe presented a plaque to McDonalds for their generous contribution to the Pinetop-Lakeside Senior Citizen Christmas Lights Tour. Abe Martinez said the community needs more positive things and said McDonalds wants to give back to the students and senior citizens. He added it is important to recognize businesses that give back to the community. He thanked Mayor Smith and the Council for the recognition.

Lynn Krigbaum stated she was a teacher for 25 years and said her philosophy was to catch them being good. She thanked Red Devil Pizza for their continual help provided to the Save Our Park Committee.

ITEM NO. 6, PRESENTATION OF VFW POST 2364 AWARDS TO THE PINETOP-LAKESIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT, PINETOP AND LAKESIDE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMT PERSONNEL:

John Beeler introduced Wilford Case, Al Jones, Roger Stephens, Mike Digeno, Rusty Rogers, and Elizabeth Hatting, President of Ladies Auxiliary. He stated Mr. Digeno also feeds them when they do their work.

Mr. Beeler stated this program has been going on for many years, as the Post was started in 1985 and since has been very involved in the community. He said the first responders in the community are people dedicated to serving the community, and stated the VFW program is nationwide. He said they went to the Navajo County Sheriff's Office, Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department, and the Pinetop and Lakeside Fire Departments who nominated those being honored tonight. He said the nominees are judged and forwarded to the posts of Eagar, Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Payson, Tonto Basin, Superior, Miami and Globe. He said they are judged at the district level, and then are judged at State level. He said all nominees from Pinetop-Lakeside and Navajo County were honored at both the post and district levels. He said they are very emphatic about supporting the first responders.

The awards were as follows: Navajo County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Steven Birdsong; Pinetop-Lakeside Officer of the Year, Jeffrey Overton; Lakeside Fire Department Firefighter of the Year, William Rova, Sr.; Lakeside EMT of the Year, Chuck Connor; Pinetop-Fire Department Firefighter of the Year, Omar Apodaca; and Pinetop EMT of the Year, Tina Oetting. Blue Penrod thanked the VFW for their continued support.

ITEM NO. 7, WHITE MOUNTAIN HUMANE SOCIETY QUARTERLY REPORT:

This item was heard during the work session.

ITEM NO. 8, PRESENTATION ON THE CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT BY JULIA PATRICK OF PATRICK MEDIA GROUP AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE:

Julia Patrick stated this project was the first time Arizona had the opportunity to provide the Christmas Tree for the Capitol. She said the tree was an 85-foot Blue Spruce cut from the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest. She said the tree was on tour for 10 days, with 29 public events. She explained they shared stories about the White Mountains along the route from Arizona to Washington, D.C. She said this project was made possible by private funding, in-kind donations and support from many Arizona communities. She said the Town was the first stop on their amazing journey. She said this was the first tour to use biodiesel fuel, Twitter, Facebook, a travel blog and photo journal. She thanked the Town for their support.

Rick Diavolos, Capitol Christmas Tree Coordinator and District Ranger, stated this tree represented Arizona and the White Mountains. He said the media exposure and sponsor support were tremendous and said it was a great example of partnerships. Councilman Dodd stated this was a great effort and said the eagles soaring overhead during the cutting were a bonus. Councilman Biscoe commented about the millions of advertising dollars gained for the community. He said it is something that will be positive for the community for a long time. Vice Mayor Crockett asked about the condition of the tree. Mr. Diavolos said it was fresh when it reached its destination. Councilwoman Wessel thanked the community members who helped make this event possible.

ITEM NO. 9, COUNCIL DECISION REQUEST REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF A RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE LARSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY:

Jessica Grey stated this was the first step in the process to improve Library security and the check-out system. She explained the radio frequency identification system would provide alarmed security gates at both front doors. Mayor Smith asked about an estimate of lost inventory. Ms. Grey said less than \$500 per year. She said the majority of funds are from a LSTA State grant and the remainder from the Friends of the Library and the Grace Rupke bequest. Councilman Dodd asked about the number of patrons. Ms. Grey responded there were 56,370 patrons in 2009. She said they average about 4,200 individuals per month. Councilwoman Wessel thanked the Library staff for their hard work.

**VICE MAYOR CROCKETT MOVED TO AWARD THE BID TO SIRSIDYNIX ITG IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,893 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A RFID SYSTEM FOR THE LARSON LIBRARY. COUNCILMAN DODD SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM NO. 10, UPDATE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO “TOWN CODE CHAPTER 16.20 MOUNTAINSIDE DEVELOPMENT FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE PROTECTION,” “TOWN CODE CHAPTER 17.92 LANDSCAPING REGULATIONS,” AND “TOWN CODE CHAPTER 17.96 FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE PROTECTION”:

Paul Esparza stated he wanted to update the Council on the progress of the Forest Health and Fire Protection text amendments. He said a committee was put together with representatives

from the State Land Department, Council, Town staff, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, and the Pinetop and Lakeside Fire Departments. He said the plan is to provide a means to bring property owners in compliance, and said they looked at public education and a demonstration site to assist their efforts. He stated a fire assistance grant was transferred from the Lakeside Fire District. He explained this item would come back to the Council for a public hearing regarding these three chapters of the Town Code. He stated they looked at the Code from the beginning. He said they are proposing to change the word, “defensible” to “survivable” space, and added the canopy closure definition. He said the Code identifies a three-zone approach with recommended or required actions that need to be taken within each zone. He stated Zone 1 is 0 to 10 feet from structures, Zone 2 is 10 to 30 feet, and Zone 3 is 30 feet to the property line. He said the Committee wants to go to the property line to make the entire property safe. He said they discussed compliance, and said they are proposing that Zone 1 come into compliance within one additional year, Zone 2 within two years, and Zone 3 within four years. He said the Table shows required, rather and recommended actions. He referred to Section 17.96.080, where they added criteria for undeveloped parcels. He said they looked at the enforcement section with the Town Attorney. He said they wanted to be consistent with mountainside development, landscaping, and the forest health chapters. He said they feel comfortable with the changes and said this would help the citizens with compliance.

Councilwoman Wessel referred to page 68 and asked for an example of non-fire resistant brush. Lloyd Wilmes stated there are many good replacement shrubs that could be placed next to a house, such as lilac and roses; and said he would rather not see manzanita and other flammable species near the structures. She asked if juniper trees are ladders. Mr. Wilmes stated they want to get the ladder fuels away from the houses. Councilman Dodd thanked Mr. Wilmes for his involvement and said it is an energized group. He said this is one element of a multi-pronged, comprehensive approach to get the job done through education and demonstrations. He said the Code is important, and said they need to look at the enforcement part. He added enforcement is important, but said he hopes it does not take enforcement for it to happen. Councilman Webb stated a defensible space is created when people clean up their yards, as the fire burns around them. Councilwoman Irwin asked if the grant would be available to all residents or just those in the Lakeside Fire District. Mr. Esparza stated it would be available to all Town residents, and said it would be a 50/50 cost share. Councilman Dodd stated it might extend beyond the Town boundaries. He stated the White Mountain Wildlife and Nature Center is holding a forest health and firewise presentation on June 5 to get the word out and educate the citizens.

ITEM NO. 11, UPDATE ON TOWN BUDGET INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF FURLOUGHS AND POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN FORCE:

Kelly Udall stated he is concerned about the safety of the residents and officers, and said nothing is more important than providing services to the residents. He said the Police Department is a big part of that. He added they also provide other services, such as public works, planning, and the legal department and Clerk’s services. He stated they all do a great job and said he is very proud of the staff throughout the organization. He said he gives them all credit, given the Town’s resources and the complexity of the work. He said last year, General Fund revenues were down from the budgeted revenues by 23%, or \$1 million, which hurt. He said the bulk of the budget includes personnel expenses. He said they knew they would be down this year, after coming in from the black last year, with slightly more rollover than anticipated. He explained they began this year’s budget knowing it would be down, but said it was down another 10% this

year, or \$400,000. He said the budget has dropped \$1.4 million in 18 months, and said they have been doing creative things to keep the services high and not expend more than what comes in. He said they knew revenues would be down, but said they were down an additional \$200,000 from where they thought it would be. He said they knew in October that the Town would be in trouble with this year's budget.

Mr. Udall stated a three-phase plan was presented to Council on how to balance the budget by the end of the year, based on projections by the State in hopes it has hit that mark and would not go lower. He said he hopes this is the bottom of the economic downturn. He said capital improvement projects were cut by \$93,000, as they needed to make up \$600,000 in the budget last October. He stated they looked at the budget item by item, and found a few things that could be reduced; such as \$15,000 from the bus system, \$1,500 from Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee, cut the contingency budget to zero, and other programs that affected personnel. He said they offered early retirement, but said the Town has been only in the Arizona State Retirement System for five years and said there were only two employees eligible for early retirement, one in ASRS and one in PSPRS.

He said they discussed voluntary furloughs and reducing health insurance contributions; while at the same time received notice the carrier would increase premiums by 65% as of January 1. He said they had to locate another insurance vendor to provide insurance for the employees, and found a lesser benefit for the same cost. He said there was no choice but to settle for that; but said they did not reduce the health savings accounts and carried over the hiring freeze. He explained they thought Phase 1 would generate about \$350,000. He stated when they met with Council and staff; they explained if trending did not improve, they would have to implement Phase 2. He said Phase 2 reduced the contribution for the Woodland Lake Park acquisition and implemented furloughs, which is source of many misunderstandings. He explained he told the department directors together they would have to implement furloughs, and asked each one to speak to employees to think about the program and come back for discussion at a future meeting. He said he asked the Police Chief to look at two conditions: public safety and officers, because he did not want to compromise. He explained the department directors reported back and figured out a way to make it work. He added the Police Department came back and said they could do it, except for dispatchers, as it would jeopardize public safety. He said, with that information, he moved forward with implementing a 50 hour furlough for each employee, with department directors to work through without interruption of services; but said if trending did not improve, so they would have to go to Phase 3, which included layoffs. He said on Monday morning, he looked three great employees in the eye, with families to feed, and had to lay them off. He said he is grateful for a job. He said he does not know if there would be additional layoffs as it depends on the economy. He stated he looked under every rock prior to layoffs, but said there were no alternatives. He said the employees understood, but it was a hard thing to do.

Mr. Udall stated the Town has placed a big emphasis on public safety in this community and explained how it played out in the budget. He said there are now 49 employees, 25 of those belong to the Police Department, which is more than half of the Town's employees. He emphasized the Council is using resources towards public safety in this community; and said using the furlough program; they could save approximately \$64,000. He emphasized the importance of getting buy-in from the Police Department because they are half of that amount, or \$37,000. He said personnel costs for the Town include the Police Department at 47% of the entire cost. He said in the General Fund, the Police Department comprises 34%, and of the entire

budget, the Police Department comprises 25%. He stated that is appropriate and said he is glad they can do it. He said he has strong feelings toward the employees and tries to protect them in the budget process. He said it is important that everyone understand the budget conditions and the commitment to public safety.

Vice Mayor Crockett asked how many Town employees took advantage of the voluntary furlough program. Mr. Udall stated there was only a handful, as everyone is going through the downturn, and said it did not surprise him. Councilman Dodd stated he heard the issue of furloughs, layoffs, early retirement and not filling vacancies. He said when it came to light to him was when he read the article in the paper. He stressed they are committed to listening, getting the issues out on the table, and addressing the misconceptions. Councilwoman Wessel stated when the revenues did not come in as planned; the Council was made aware of this and the three phase strategy. She said they all hoped they would not have to go through all three phases, but said with what is happening in the community, state and nation; they unfortunately had to go through all three phases.

Chief Eldredge stated one of the things they had done proactively was to change schedules to have additional people during busy times. He said when Mr. Udall came forward with the furlough program, he said went to the Sergeants and asked them if they could do the 50 hour furlough. He said they worked diligently and reported they could do it with the officers, but not the dispatchers. He said the minimum strength is two officers, which has been for quite some time, and said they would never go below two officers, even if they had to pay overtime. He said he informed Mr. Udall if it got to a certain point; they would not have officers on during certain hours of the evening because they could not afford to have officers out by themselves. He said, even today, they went through the gamut of calls. He said they would never jeopardize officers' safety. Councilwoman Wessel asked if overtime was budgeted. Chief Eldredge confirmed. He said the officers are extremely active and their court appearances are on overtime. He said they probably do over 130% in overtime budget. Vice Mayor Crockett asked if the minimum of two officers are on weekends. Chief Eldredge stated yes, but said during the summer, it was up to four officers. Vice Mayor Crockett clarified they would not furlough on the weekend. Chief Eldredge stated they are assigning furlough days during times when extra officers are on duty. He gave an example of a 6-hour shift on weekends; one officer would be furloughed, but not be reduced below two. Mayor Smith asked if there are other sources of funding. Chief Eldredge stated there are two grants, \$40,000 for aggressive driving, and a \$10,000 DUI grant that pays for officers working DUI details. Councilman Dodd asked if there are officers on call. Chief Eldredge stated they are not ever going to fall below two officers.

Mr. Udall stated they discussed worst case scenarios. Councilwoman Irwin asked if other police agencies in the region have 24 hour coverage. Chief Eldredge stated he did not believe DPS was on for 24 hours, and said he is not sure if the County has 24 hour coverage. Vice Mayor Crockett asked if he and the Sergeants decided on what they needed to do. Chief said he asked them if this could work and their response was that they could do it, with the exception of the dispatchers. Councilman Dodd asked if there were any layoffs. Chief Eldredge stated not in the Police Department. Councilman Dodd asked if they are encouraging retirements. Chief Eldredge stated one officer had been offered early retirement, but said he is not inclined to leave. Mr. Udall stated it was an invitation, not a mandate. Councilman Dodd asked about hiring freeze. Chief Eldredge stated the Commander's position was frozen and said they now have an interim Commander, so they are one below what was authorized. Councilman Dodd stated they

recognize that not filling vacancies would not be beneficial. Chief Eldredge stated it would be ill-advised to not fill the positions in the Police Department. Councilman Dodd discussed the influx of population on weekends, and said they are probably adequately staffed for 5,000 people. Chief Eldredge stated he is amazed at how the department handles the additional population.

Mayor Smith stated Officer Hite mentioned they have their families and extended families, and said he feels it is important to realize the decisions being made are not to be offensive. He said in his real job, he gets to interact with the officers. He said he appreciates their professionalism and how interconnected people are. He said the intent is not to offend anyone. He said it is important the public expects and demands the Town be run as efficiently as possible, especially now. He said the Town has no ability to go into the red or deficit spend. He said they cannot, under any circumstance, compromise public safety. He added none of the officers have been laid off. He said he does not want to see any officers laid off, but said there are things that have to occur and be in place to be a Town. He stated that safety is the basis of everything they do, and said in light of that, everyone on staff is doing their job.

Sgt. David Sargent stated he is the President of the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Officers Association. He asked for an extension on the five minute time limit. He said he did not mean the press release to be offensive. He said he is proud to represent his fellow officers and dispatchers. He said DPS is talking about losing squads, but to his knowledge, they have not lost any yet. He said he was under the impression this would be a last ditch effort to save the Town, and said he informed the Chief there is no way to furlough the dispatchers, as they are required to have two. He said hopefully they are on the same page and said they want to be part of the solution, not the problem. He said over the last 10 years, the calls of service and crimes of violence have increased, but not the number of officers. He said a few years ago, they were told they were the priority. He said when Commander Rogers retired they lost a position, and said furlough is the equivalent of losing an officer. He said today between 9:00 a.m. and noon, they had an aggravated assault, a business burglary, attempted residential burglary, warrant arrest with drug evaluation and blood draw, road rage, and two students drinking at school. He said when they put officers at the school, they have to pull officers from the street. He said they could manage today, but said on a Friday, there would only have been two officers. He said they have a moral conflict about telling people they would be back soon, and then could not get back to them for a number of hours. He said a couple of years ago; they had an injury accident to transport to the hospital which took one of the officers with no radio communication; and had another officer on an intruder call with no back up. He said this officer violated policy by walking into the apartment when he heard cries for help; and saw a man holding a woman, both covered in blood. He said there was a victim in another room, who was deceased. He said the officer then deployed his canine, but due to bad weather conditions, he ended up returning to the scene to protect the victim. He said the suspect was loose for hours because the back up was not there. He said they are not trying to be part of the problem as they have not asked for raises, nor pay for pagers. He said society and the economy are going down and said when people lose everything, they lose focus. He said two officers on a Friday night during the summer is not enough. He said they have been fortunate that they have not had two critical incidents at once. He said the Police Officers Association has tried to approach the Town on many occasions but were shut down. He said they have only spoken up when there were serious issues to be addressed. He said the press release was not to offend anyone, but said they were told they could

not speak, so they used the paper. He said all the talk about openness is great, but said no one listens.

David Skousen stated he appreciates the Mayor's remarks. He said he appreciates the Council and administration and said there has been a lot done. He said he has lived here most of his life, but does not live inside the Town boundaries. He said he was a proponent for annexation of the Wagon Wheel area and the incorporation. He said a lot of emphasis has been placed on safety. He said intruders were banging on his daughters' windows one night and said when he called 9-1-1, he was told to call the Sheriff's Department. He said 10-15 minutes later, he received a call that the Sheriff's office could not respond. He said within 10 minutes Sgt. Sargent arrived and pursued the suspects. He said, on another occasion, an intoxicated individual came to his door hollering and his wife called for emergency help. He said again no one but the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department responded. He said the third occasion included broken car windows with items stolen, to which the Sheriff's Department responded in six hours. He said in any way possible, keep the people.

Jim Plaster stated he knows the Council has many hard decisions to make, and said he served as Vice Mayor in Kearny for seven years. He said he volunteers and hears about the activity of the officers and calls from the Blue Ridge Schools.

Larry Valis stated he has been coming up here since the 1960's and said he has always felt safe. He said he drove a city bus and knows a lot of officers. He said they told him what is happening at night and said they need to increase the force, as there are not enough to cover the weekends and summer time. He said they need to make some money and pay for the cops, as they cannot do without them.

John Fasick stated they have some tough things to deal with, but said crime has skyrocketed and it is terrible. He asked if it is an option to call an off-duty officer as backup. He stated he used to be part of the problem as he is a recovering drug addict, and said he is a current volunteer. He suggested having more vehicles driving around Town as he rarely sees them anymore. He suggested the Town have a prudent reserve for the future and suggested increasing the volunteer police force.

Dennis Stern stated he represents the White Mountain Fire Fighters Association and said they are here in support of the local officers. He commented that officers responding to calls are at risk and said even fire fighters are at risk. He said they cannot go into a scene until the officers are on the scene, which poses a greater risk for the public. He said they need an adequate number of dispatchers to avoid further delays to customers they trying to serve and protect. He stated the answer to budget shortfalls is not through position freezes and furloughs, which would endanger citizens and officers.

Mr. Alderson stated his son is a California Highway Patrol Officer and he said he identifies with the Town. He said the idea of having more patrol cars would help and something has to be done. He volunteered to take care of the weather reporting as he is a former meteorologist. He said he agreed with Councilwoman Wessel that weather modification would be beneficial to the community. He stated volunteerism is valuable under the current economic conditions.

Mr. Russell stated he feels messing with the Police Department would be like taking ammunition from the soldiers and putting them on the front line with no weapons.

Rusty Rogers stated in 1984, incorporation was a hot topic and said those who were in favor of it wanted better law enforcement and animal control. He said there was also a lack of response time by the Navajo County Sheriff's Office. He said the number one priority was law enforcement and it is still the number one priority in this community. He said over the last ten years, the police force has remained the same. He said it is hard to fill the positions because the salary is low. He said for a majority of the time, the Police Department was operating understaffed. He said he heard the Town is laying off new officers. He said if they cut any more personnel, they would potentially compromise the safety of the citizens, as well as the officers.

Lanie Curbello stated when her husband told her they were thinking of laying an officer off and having only one on duty, she was afraid. She said she wants them to put themselves in her shoes; because one officer to a call is very scary to her. She said every time her husband goes on duty, she says a prayer for him to be safe. She said when she hears officers are leaving and the positions would not be filled, it is ridiculous. She said the officers put themselves on the line to protect the citizens.

Mayor Smith stated there are a lot of issues to deal with. He said this is the highest priority and said it is important to have the discussion. He said everyone addressed the issues in a way to come to reasonable decisions. He said the more they can look at these things rationally, the better; and said he appreciates everyone who spoke and the way they addressed the Council. He said they are not making any decisions on this item. He said no officers have been laid off and there is no intention of laying any off. He said the furloughs are an issue. Mr. Udall stated the length of time for the furloughs is January through June. Mayor Smith stated one of the nice things about a small town and a small budget is the way they can change things quickly. He said that is an advantage and said if the furloughs are not working and are compromising the safety of officers, it would be a quick fix. He said there cannot be any retribution because someone speaks up. He said it is important to realize there are standards. Mr. Udall stated disciplinary issues must be approved by him as the Manager. Mayor Smith stated the last thing they can afford is a lawsuit.

Councilman Dodd thanked all who spoke and said he thinks the comments were taken to heart. He said public safety and officer safety are of paramount importance. He added the number of officers on force has remained static, but said when they looked at revenues for past six years, they are going down and they have not assigned new priorities. He said he does not mean to minimize the discussion, but said it all comes back to revenue. He said the fire departments are funded by property tax. He said roads are not as important as public safety and officer safety, but the roads are a concern. He suggested targeting revenue solutions down the line to make sure furloughs and layoffs do not happen in the future. He said they have cut the fat, and said they are not funding the NEPA study for Woodland Lake Park.

Vice Mayor Crockett thanked the speakers for their passion; and said they stood and applauded everyone here tonight for the job they do. He said he once was going to be a police officer, but said the pay was too low and it was too dangerous. He said no officers have been laid off and would not be. He said if they hear a rumor to let it stop with them, as rumors were spread tonight. He stressed if they have questions, to go to the Manager or Council Members. He said

he would have loved to chat with these people before tonight. He said it hurts them just as much as it does the staff. He said he understands things are tough today and said unfortunately these decisions involve human beings. He thanked those who shared ideas and said there is nothing wrong with volunteers as they build the community. He said they are doing what they can to unite the community and get rid of the divisiveness.

Councilman Biscoe stated his retail business has decreased by 50% and said he can only dig so much deeper before he is gone. He said he has been laid off in the past and said he appreciates what they do for the community. He added he would not take their job if it was ten times the pay. He said what Mr. Udall did was a tough thing. He said Mr. Udall could have implemented an across the board pay cut, but said he felt the furlough was better. He stated if they have ideas to generate revenue, they are all ears.

Councilwoman Wessel thanked the law enforcement community for all they do, and said their service is valued. She asked if there are two officers on and two critical incident calls come in, if they have officers they could call in. Chief Eldredge stated they do, but said the response time could be longer. Councilwoman Wessel asked Sgt. Sargent if he had any suggestions on what they can do. Sgt. Sargent stated he presented ideas some years ago, and said he would share them outside of the meeting. Councilwoman Wessel stated they need suggestions and asked them to bring realistic and concrete suggestions. She stated the Town needs a designated revenue stream and said instead of worrying about the problems, they need to come up with solutions.

Councilwoman Irwin echoed what the other Council Members said and said she felt badly that Sgt. Sargent went to the newspaper before coming to the Council. She added their e-mail addresses and phone numbers are listed on the website and said they are accessible. She asked if there is an opportunity to call other agencies as back up. Chief Eldredge stated if they are available. Councilman Dodd stated, as a Game & Fish Officer, he was called in to assist at times. Sgt. Sargent stated Navajo County comes in to assist.

Sgt. Sargent said he felt he had to go to the newspaper because it was written in their policy in the past that if they talked to any of the Council, they had to report to the Chief. He said the reason it was brought up was because it happened in the past. Mr. Udall said his door is always open and said Sgt. Sargent has come to him many times. Sgt. Sargent said the only time he felt comfortable talking to Kelly is in uniform, with memo in hand; but said before tonight, the option was not available. Mr. Udall said he thought this idea was untrue and said his door is always open.

#### ITEM NO. 12, CURRENT EVENTS BY TOWN MANAGER:

Mr. Udall stated the forest demonstration thinning project is scheduled for Monday. He said the Navopache Electric site plan is in the final review process and should be submitted for approval in the near future. He said Woodland Lake Park has all the asphalt trails and roads cleared for public use. He added staff continues to assist the Public Works Department with snow plowing. He said they are proud of the Parks & Recreation Department and the programs they offer, such as fly tying and adult basketball. Councilwoman Wessel asked if there is a contingency plan when they might have to call in resources other than Town departments to assist. Mr. Udall

confirmed. Mr. Udall stated during the storm, V Mountain assisted, and said they used some County equipment when it was available.

ITEM NO. 13, TOWN COUNCIL CURRENT EVENT REPORTS ON ALL COUNCIL APPOINTED COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATES:

Councilwoman Wessel said she and Councilwoman Irwin discussed changing committee assignments. She said Councilwoman Irwin would now cover the Main Street Board if Councilman Biscoe was not available.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2010.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE TOWN COUNCIL

/s/ Lu Anne Frost, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I 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 Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2010.

/s/ Lu Anne Frost, Town Clerk