

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA, HELD OCTOBER 1, 2009 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Mayor Smith called the Work Session to order at 6:30 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:

L. Kelly Udall, Town Manager; Rosemary Rosales, Town Attorney; Lu Anne Frost, Town Clerk; Susan Stein, Deputy Town Clerk; Jessica Grey, Library Director; Tom Thomas, Public Works Director; and Sherwood Eldredge, Chief of Police.

ITEM NO. 6, PRESENTATION ON THE FOUR SEASONS CONNECTION TRANSIT SERVICE AND THE WHITE MOUNTAIN CONNECTION BY TOM THOMAS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Tom Thomas provided the Council with information on the Four Seasons Connection and the White Mountain Connection. He stated there are now two bus systems. He said the White Mountain Connection is the bus line that goes to Holbrook and said it has been a very successful program. He added the logo was designed by a student as part of a contest. He stated the current schedule was included in the Council packet, and said the schedule is in flux and may be adjusted as needed. He stated an article in a June edition of the *White Mountain Independent* indicated Navajo County was footing the bill for the White Mountain Connection. He said the Four Seasons Connection facility is being expanded again. He stated there are three new bus shelters under construction. He said transit system meetings are held on a quarterly basis on the third Wednesday of every third month at 3:00 p.m. at the Show Low Library.

Holiday VanSciver stated he appreciated working with Town staff on the TIGER Grant and stated this community is very fortunate to have staff of this caliber. He said next week at the joint meeting they would be talking on this item more in detail. He said both transit systems are very successful. He said the bus system is picking up approximately 5,000 Pinetop-Lakeside residents every month, and said many of whom are wheelchair-bound or disabled. He stated they are servicing the non-profit organizations, such as the Love Kitchen and the SafeHouse. He stated the information provided to the Council contains information on ridership, which has increased. He said they have noticed a small downturn, which may be related to immigration. He directed the Council to the income/loss statement and said some numbers would change by the next statement. He said MV Transportation pays \$600 per month for the use of the facility. He stated advertising income shows only \$1,000, but said they have increased the amount to \$20,000 for this fiscal period. He added they want to increase revenue to decrease expenses. He said this year; they received an FDA 5311 grant for \$380,000 and a stimulus grant for \$529,000. He said \$371,000 will go toward expansion of the facility to add four new bays. He said the

additional funding will be put towards a new bus and a truck. He stated the LTAF II funding has decreased substantially. He stated the White Mountain Apache Tribe is increasing their contribution to \$1,000 per month.

Councilman Dodd stated this is a true success story. Mr. VanSciver stated the majority of the passengers are seniors or disabled. He said about 48% are using the bus system to get to work, and said 22% are using it for medical purposes. Councilman Dodd asked if there is a ridership breakdown on the White Mountain Connection, and said he wondered if there was a split between riders traveling to the County or Northland Pioneer College. Mr. VanSciver stated most are going to the County Complex and said the average service is approximately 1,100 riders per month. He stated they noticed a slight drop when the County began the 4/10 schedule.

ITEM NO. 5, UPDATE ON THE LARSON MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY ACTIVITIES BY JESSICA GREY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR:

Jessica Grey stated a survey was made available to the public when the hours changed on March 2, and said those survey results were provided in the Council packet. She stated there were a total of 186 responses. She said the most important question is number 3, which asks for comments on the new expanded hours. She stated the results were: 1/3 like the new hours, 1/3 have no preference, and 1/3 do not like the hours. Councilwoman Irwin asked Ms. Grey if she has noticed any changes since they started the new schedule. Ms. Grey stated an average of 7.7 people came in between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.; and said over the summer, they were constantly busy. She said when school started the attendance fell, but said it has since increased. Councilwoman Irwin asked if the general public has gotten used to the hours, and asked if they do not dislike them anymore. Ms. Grey confirmed. Kelly Udall stated the Town is monitoring the Library hours very closely. He stated 39% like it and 31% have no preference, with 29% disliking the new hours. He said he is receiving and interpreting the information that the extended hours are working. Mayor Smith asked about the possible energy savings. Ms. Grey stated they have saved over \$800 on utilities since March; and said they also changed to digital thermostats, which have helped. Councilman Biscoe asked if a survey was done prior to changing the hours. Ms. Grey stated a survey was not conducted. Mayor Smith stated the survey indicates 68% of the responders said they used the Library once per week or more; and commented this is a good indicator they like the hours. He stated 21% came in once per month. Ms. Grey stated the check-out period is 3 weeks, which might indicate why they come in once per month. Councilman Dodd thanked Jessica and her staff for the excellent job they are doing and stated the survey is invaluable. Ms. Grey stated she counted the number of people who have come in the door. She said compared to last year, the numbers have not decreased; and said the average count is 255 people per day.

Ms. Grey stated 270 pounds of food have been donated in lieu of fines, which will be given to the Love Kitchen and the Senior Center. She stated the Lakeside and Pinetop Fire Departments came to “Story Time” yesterday with a fire truck to tour. She stated they are very busy at the Library.

The Work Session was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Dated this 7th day of October 2009.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE TOWN COUNCIL

/s/ Lu Anne Frost, Town Clerk