

**MINUTES**  
**EAGAR & SPRINGERVILLE JOINT COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Eagar Council Chambers – 22 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Eagar, AZ**  
**May 12, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.**

EAGAR COUNCIL PRESENT:     Kim Holaway, Mayor  
                                      James Nelson, Jr. Vice Mayor  
                                      Byron Smith  
                                      Tim Rasmussen  
                                      Debbie Rogers

EAGAR COUNCIL ABSENT:     Steve Erhart  
                                      Gary Finch

SPRINGERVILLE COUNCIL PRESENT: Eric Baca, Mayor  
  Susie Silva  
  Daniel Muth  
  Ron Thebeau

SPRINGERVILLE COUNCIL ABSENT:   Connie Hunt

EAGAR STAFF PRESENT:        Bill Greenwood, Town Manager  
                                      Eva Wilson, Town Clerk  
                                      Bruce Ray, Community Development Director

SPRINGERVILLE STAFF PRESENT:     Steve West, Town Manager

**ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mayor Kim Holaway called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Introductions were made to all the presenters and public in attendance.

**ITEM #2: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE JOINT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Upcoming Legislative Redistricting

Mayor Holaway reported that according to the 2010 Census an increase in Arizona's population has occurred entitling Arizona to receive at least one additional U.S. Legislative Representative and perhaps two, therefore redistricting will occur around the State. Unfortunately the members for the committee chosen to recommend the redistricting are all from Maricopa and Pima Counties.

A group that has formed from rural areas will be making presentations around the State regarding redistricting and they would like to meet with the rural communities. Mayor Holaway asked if it would be appropriate to invite this group to give a presentation to both

councils at a future joint council meeting. For example Mayor Holaway added that our district, District 1, represented by Representative Gosart is very large and unmanageable to travel.

All councilors consented to scheduling a presentation on legislative redistricting at a future joint council meeting. Mayor Holaway will make the arrangements.

#### Supporting Existing Community Events

Mayor Holaway stated that at past joint council meetings the councils had discussed supporting existing events.

Councilor Debbie Rogers would like to have future discussion for the towns to support the Arizona Centennial Celebration that will take place February 2012. She also would like to see a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July event held in 2012, as it is the Sheriff's Posse Rodeo 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in conjunction with the Arizona Centennial.

#### Evaluation and Consideration of Financially Beneficial Areas of Cooperation

The recent League of Arizona Cities and Towns article regarding the cost savings for Snowflake-Taylor combining of services had spurred Vice-Mayor James Nelson, Jr. to suggest that the two towns evaluate combining services in the police, fire and public works departments. Vice-Mayor Nelson gave the example that both police departments coordinate exceptionally well, and financially there could be a benefit there.

A thorough study will need to be conducted to investigate the pros and cons. Start in the police departments because these two departments work so well together now, and then possibly follow with the public works departments. The fire departments may be a different situation because Eagar has full-time staff, whereas Springerville is an entirely volunteer department. The councils would need to evaluate the economic impacts (to citizens and employees), benefit costs or savings, and the social impacts as both towns have their heritage disparities.

Councilor Dan Muth added that a commission or group of councilors could be assembled to investigate combining services or it could be an ongoing discussion at joint council meetings.

Vice-Mayor Nelson is just suggesting with these economic times and loss of state funding that the towns need to look at every avenue that will provide the best service to our citizens while saving money.

Councilor Muth asked Vice-Mayor Nelson if this is merely a suggestion to cooperate with resources and not necessarily a move toward consolidation. Vice-Mayor Nelson replied that it would be up for discussion.

Mayor Eric Baca recommended contacting Snowflake and Taylor to find out the impacts there; they did have a lot of debate on the subject and would be a good place to start.

Councilor Byron Smith added that Pinetop-Lakeside has combined and they would also be a good resource.

Vice-Mayor Nelson is strongly suggesting that a committee be set up to look into the possibility of combining resources and that this committee report back at a joint council meeting.

Councilor Ron Thebeau would like to take this issue to his citizens before he commits Springerville to sit on any committee to discuss these issues. Mayor Holaway agreed and reported that Eagar has in fact conducted several citizen and business surveys and that at least 85% of Eagar citizens have stated that they would like the two towns to work cooperatively. There was a lower percentage in favor of consolidation, however it was still a majority of the citizens.

Mayor Baca agreed that a citizen survey for Springerville would be appropriate first before a committee is formed.

Councilors discussed a date for a future joint council meeting to discuss supporting existing community events and a legislative redistricting presentation. The Councils determined that the next Eagar and Springerville Joint Council meeting would be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 starting at 6:00 p.m. to be held in Springerville.

### **ITEM #3: PRESENTATION AND OPEN HOUSE – ROUND VALLEY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) representatives introduced themselves and stated that in cooperation with the Town of Springerville and the Town of Eagar whom have been selected through an application process to prepare a comprehensive Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Round Valley area.

ADOT stated that a LRTP is the process of developing a transportation plan that will guide planning and programming of transportation improvements over a 20-year horizon and will provide a published report that will be helpful and necessary when the towns are seeking funding for transportation projects.

The study includes many modes of transportation including roads, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian facilities. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the ADOT Planning Assistance for Rural Areas program (PARA) funds the study.

The LRTP study expects to:

- Identify current and future transportation deficiencies,
- Provide transportation recommendations,
- Identify potential funding sources,
- Provide the towns with a phased transportation implementation plan.

Goals of the study are to preserve existing transportation systems and enhance safety and efficiency, enhance mobility, accessibility, and reliability of travel by providing additional transportation modes, and to keep continued communication with the public and stakeholders. To meet these goals the LRTP must inventory current transportation modes, evaluate future uses, collect stakeholder input, identify deficiencies, forecast future needs, and present these findings to the public once the report is published. This finalized report is often required to obtain funding for transportation projects.

The study area includes the Town of Eagar, Town of Springerville, and portions of Apache County. This is a land area of 44 square miles, with a population of 7,337, with occupied housing units of 2,830, total employment for the area is 1,802, median age of the population is 37.4, and a median household income is \$34,019.

The existing transportation use summary includes:

- Intersections with high crash rates,
- Crashes with wild game or livestock,
- Corridors with high crash rates,
- Intersections with moderate to heavy congestion issues,
- Corridors with moderate traffic congestion,
- Access management issues,
- Intersections with potential configuration, sight distance etc. issues,
- Potential roadway flooding,
- Bridge eligible for replacement or rehabilitation.

The crash analysis consisted of 343 crashes over a five-year period with less than 1% fatalities, 3.5% pedestrian/cyclist related, and 7% wild game related. The high crash rate corridors were shown to be on U.S. 60 (U.S. 180 to South Mountain Avenue), and the high crash intersections are Butler Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, U.S. 60 and U.S. 180, and Main Street and SR 260.

All areas in the study showed current low congestion areas with possible moderate congestion areas starting in 2015 through 2030 at various points starting at the intersection of U.S. 60 and South Mountain Avenue continuing into Eagar to the intersection of SR 260 and Main Street.

In summary ADOT has found that there is no connectivity to U.S. 60 from SR 260 on the west end of Eagar and that there is no connectivity to Springerville from Eagar on the east end of Eagar without going to the rodeo grounds. There has been much input about improving access to the Springerville Airport.

Instructions were given to the public and council members on how to include their input by marking on the display boards that were set up around the room for the Open House. Display boards intended to capture the thoughts, ideas and comments from the public to include but not limited to:

- Are the stated goals that were presented in line with expectations?
- Are there any other specific goals that the study should focus on?
- Identify other needs.

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- What do you see as the top three transportation needs that would benefit the area and what solutions could be suggested to meet these needs?
- What transportation issues will the area face 20 years from now?
- What can be done now to prepare for the future?
- If alternative modes of transportation were more readily available, which would most likely be used – bus, walk, bike?

**ITEM #4: ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Byron Smith moved to adjourn the Joint Council Meeting at 6:55 p.m. Councilor Ron Thebeau seconded; all were in favor and the meeting adjourned. The Round Valley Area Transportation Study Open House commenced.