

**MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF SNOWFLAKE
HELD 01/13/2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Tom Poscharsky, Kerry Ballard, Lynn Johnson, Stuart Hensley, Cory Johnson, Terril Kay STAFF: Paul Watson, Bob Hall, Barbara Flake, Terry Cooper, Cathie McDowell

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE Johnson/Ballard

3. MAYOR'S PROCLAMATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Retirement of Steve Schneider, Golf Pro and Manager of Snowflake Golf Course

Steve Schneider thanked the Town Councils that have supported the golf course. He said there has been a lot of growth, tournaments, great golfers, and successes including 10 State High School Championships. He said the Snowflake Golf Course has helped the community and is known throughout the State. Schneider has worked for the Snowflake Golf Course for 32 years and coached High School Golf for 29 years.

Mayor Poscharsky thanked Schneider for all he has done and said his service is appreciated. Paul Watson said Schneider has been stalwart and dedicated to the Snowflake Golf Course, the High School Golf Program and the community. Watson said Schneider will be inducted into the Coaches Hall of Fame for that service. He said there are several golfers coached by Schneider that may someday be seen on television.

Mayor Poscharsky presented Schneider with a plaque and iPad Air thanking him for his years of dedicated service.

4. CALL TO PUBLIC

Margaret White, employee of Northland Pioneer College (NPC), stated that the announcement by NPC President Swarthout of the reinvention of the Snowflake Campus came as a surprise to the staff and community. She said that the Mayors of Snowflake and Taylor met with Swarthout on January 6th regarding this matter and the matter was tabled and placed on the NPC Board agenda for January 20th where it will be discussed and the public will be allowed to make comments. White asked the Council and interested individuals to attend the January 20th meeting and also any other events where this matter is discussed. She said the changes to the NPC Snowflake Campus would be the loss of advising services, face to face classes, student assistance and registration, and the library. She said the library will be administration offices. She asked the Council to make a stand with the students, future students, kids, and grandkids in expressing concerns regarding the reinvention of the NPC Snowflake Campus. She said she is sure it will go forward but wants it to go forward with our input.

Fire Chief Pat Hancock stated that \$66,000 of extrication equipment is on display at the back of the Council Chambers. He said the equipment was obtained through a grant with the Town's match of \$3,300. He thanked Council for their support in obtaining this asset

to the community. He said there would be an in-service training for use of the equipment on January 24th.

Hancock announced that PFFJ is donating the sausage for the Groundhog Day Breakfast to be held Saturday, February 7th at 5 a.m. Council was invited to serve breakfast.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Council Meeting minutes dated 12/09/2014.

B. Approval of Invoice from Emmett Engineering, LLC dated Oct, Nov, Dec 2014.

Motion by Ballard, 2nd by Johnson C., to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed; unanimous

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration & Possible Approval of Resolution No. 15-01 Supporting Legislation to Equalize Tax Credit for Donations to Qualified Charitable Organizations, Private Schools, and Public Schools. (Paul Watson)

Watson explained that there was interest expressed by neighboring communities at the Apache & Navajo Counties Mayors & Council Members Association meeting held recently to send support to the legislature regarding the equalization of donation amounts and tax credits received for donations to public schools, private schools, and charitable organizations. He said that not having this equalization creates a strain on the public education system. He said Council is being asked to take this first step of approving a resolution. Poscharsky said the main point of the resolution is to equalize the playing field for all by extending the date for donations to April 15, making the dollar amount limits for donations the same, and clarifying tax credits available. Watson stated that the backup documents stated that this may be more important to rural areas than other areas. Johnson C. asked what the donation dollar amounts were. Poscharsky said currently the amount for public schools is \$400/yr and for private schools it is \$2,000/yr.

Motion by Ballard, 2nd by Johnson C., to approve Resolution No. 15-01. Motion passed; unanimous

B. Consideration & Possible Acceptance of Boundary Lines as shown in Record of Survey. Location: Snowflake Golf Course and Adjacent Properties. (Paul Watson)
Kirk Brimhall explained that he approached David Decker to trade a piece of land located mostly in the wash bottom. He said during the surveying process discrepancies in the boundary lines between Snowflake Golf Course and adjacent properties were discovered ranging from 2 feet to 16 feet. Watson said the Town engineer contacted Ron Matkin, the engineer doing the surveying for Brimhall, and understands the surveyor used the same points that were used for the subdivision. Watson said staff feels it is valid and legitimate to use for determining the boundaries and is asking Council's approval of the boundaries. He said other issues will be brought back at a later date regarding right of way. Attorney Hall said the Town relied heavily on the information provided by the engineer who looked at it at different angles to be correct. He said he would like to review some of the issues but Council could approve with that stipulation.

Motion by Poscharsky, 2nd by Kay, to accept the boundary lines as shown in the Record of Survey subject to review by Counsel. Motion passed; unanimous

C. Presentation of Snow Management Plan. (Terry Cooper)

Cooper reviewed the Town's Snow Management Plan for Council and to let the public know that if the Town has a snow event there is a plan in place. He said Emergency Services needs to know that the Public Works Department is available to help them get where they need to go. He explained the 4 levels of response and staff actions to response level. A description of available equipment was given along with their designated routes. Cooper explained that the main arterials would be addressed first and then the side streets. He said staff would then work on pushing more snow to help with mail delivery. Cooper stated that the Public Works Department is adequately staffed to handle a 12-hour event effectively. He said additional resources would be needed for around-the-clock operations. Watson said in the case of a major event private contractors will be contacted to arrange for the needed help. Cooper said staff will always be looking for ways to improve the plan.

D. Consideration & Possible Appointment to Vacancy on Town Council. (Paul Watson)

Mayor Poscharsky stated that the Town advertised for letters of interest in serving on the Town Council be submitted to the Town Clerk by December 31, 2014 and four letters were received by the deadline. He said Council received the submitted information after the deadline and has time to review the submissions since that time. He introduced those individuals that expressed interest in serving—Mark Keyser, Byron Lewis, Lauri Wong, and Daniel Prestwich. He said the law does not direct Council on a criteria. He said 5 questions were developed that Council thought were fair to help with the selection process and Council will base their decision on those questions to do what is best for Council and citizens. He encouraged everyone to continue to come to Council meetings and to not feel slighted if they are not chosen. He said there are opportunities to serve on boards and committees and there is one opening on the Planning and Zoning Commission which is a good place to start to see the issues of the Town. Poscharsky asked Council if they wanted to ask any questions of the candidates and then move to motion.

Kay asked the candidates if they had anything they wanted to share that was not included in their submission. He said it was interesting to see that all of them wanted to better the community.

Keyser thanked Council for taking time away from their families to serve the community.

Lewis stated that while running for Council he met hundreds of people when meeting with the churches in the area. He also said that he met with people in the community and saw how they wanted it run. He thanked Council for considering his application.

Wong thanked Council. She said that although she did not have Council experience she is all about leadership and synergy and has a lot to give. She said she is retired and her time is available and she would appreciate the opportunity to serve.

Prestwich thanked the Council and said he knows it is a thankless job. He said he has sat there before and knows there is scrutiny of decisions. He said he would be grateful to serve this town that he has been a part of for 33 years. He said that in the end you put forth a great effort to move the town forward because if it is not moving forward then it is dying. He said he does not want to see that happen here.

Motion by Hensley, 2nd by Ballard, to appoint Byron Lewis to fill the vacancy on Town Council. Motion passed; Hensley, Ballard, Poscharsky, Johnson C., Kay—for and Johnson L.—abstained

7. COUNCIL MEMBER'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Poscharsky said he attended a meeting regarding the changes with Northland Pioneer College. He said there will be a public meeting January 20th, 10 a.m., at the NPC Holbrook Campus.

Poscharsky said the Town is trying to save the train. He said Maverick is starting their new building within the month. He said the School Superintendent said the school system has lost students. He said a 2nd shift has been added at the Old Heber Mill and applications are being taken at Lumberjack Mill.

Ballard said that snow in Snowflake and Shumway was highlighted on the weather channel. He said a class regarding how to operate a ham radio is starting and he will provide more information as he receives it.

Kay said he is still working with Snowflake and Taylor to provide better fire and ambulance services.

8. MANAGER'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS AND REPORT

Watson said a meeting regarding joint fire services was held and attended by the 2 Town Managers and Town Attorneys. He said a draft IGA was reviewed and the final draft should be available within the week. He said the process is moving forward.

Concerning economic development, Watson said the priority for the community is job creation and that is being worked on. He explained that the Apache Railway was a part of the Catalyst Operation and when Catalyst declared bankruptcy the Town stepped in to have a voice. He said Apache Railway is still owned by investors of the Catalyst property and the Town is still working with them as well as federal, state, and local programs to get funds to pay off the investors. He said Apache Railway has migrated from carrier to car repair and storage for BNSF mail line. He said it is certified in car repair and has over 100 cars in the repair shop. He said it is self-sustaining and working on funding. Watson said that he has met with 6 to 7 different industries/organizations over the last 2 months who are looking at the area to establish industry. He stated where we are at today: Pellet Operation—20 to 30 employees, Molding Operation—19 employees, Biomass Plant in full operation and partnered with logging/trucking company to put in a mill—15 to 25

employees. He said the outlook is very positive. He said he is pleased with Council support and focus on economic development.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 8:06 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Town of Snowflake Council meeting held January 13, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Barbara Flake, Town Clerk