

**MINUTES OF JOINT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF SNOWFLAKE & TOWN OF TAYLOR
HELD 12/08/2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL at 6:00 p.m.

Snowflake: Mayor Tom Poscharsky, Vice Mayor Kerry Ballard, Terril Kay, Lynn Johnson, Byron Lewis, Stuart Hensley, Cory Johnson—excused

Taylor: Mayor Fay Hatch, Vice Mayor Shawn Palmer, David Smith, Jason Brubaker, Lynn DeWitt, Carl Cospers—attending by phone, Gary Solomon—absent

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE Hatch/Poscharsky

3. Consideration & Possible Approval of Resolution No. 15-11 Approving Intergovernmental Agreement with Other Jurisdictions for Regional Dispatch. (Brian Richards)

Poscharsky said a Joint Work Session was held in November to discuss this issue. He stated that both Councils were represented at a meeting held in November in Show Low where this issue was also discussed. He said there was a tour of the dispatch services at the Snowflake-Taylor Police Department on Monday, December 7th. He said that a memo from Chief of Police Larry Scarber expressing his findings regarding dispatch services was given to Town Managers Brian Richards and Gus Lundberg. Richards said he distributed the letter to his Council. Lundberg said he did not distribute the letter to his Council.

Comments by Council Members:

Stuart Hensley expressed concern at having only 30 days to vote on the plan. He feels that if there is an option to opt in then it can be done anytime. He said it is tough to get dispatch back after letting it go.

Byron Lewis understands the process is tiered with other communities having the plan implemented first. He questioned if there would be money to implement the plan in Snowflake if costs increase during the process. He questioned if the dollars would be available for the first entity to go live first and then leftovers for each successive entity. He also questioned if any data would be lost during the conversion process.

Gus Lundberg said that the issue of complete conversion was brought up amongst managers and the working group. He said Show Low was looking into this issue. He said that a level of conversion needs to be identified along with costs. Gus Lundberg said the costs would be across all entities.

Brian Richards said that Show Low must have been satisfied because they approved the IGA. He feels sure that there would be money for all of the conversion.

Lynn Johnson stated he is skeptical about the motives of the parties involved. He said he has asked employees about the change and they don't want to drive to Show Low or Holbrook for their jobs.

Stuart Hensley asked if there is liability involved when pilots leaving our area are in charge of their flights until close enough to the valley to turn over control.

Bob Hall said that the answer is yes when reading the IGA but when facts are gathered there might be a division of responsibilities.

Terril Kay said both towns have done a good job working on emergency services. He said that after looking at the costs of the new proposed program he would rather use the money to enhance what the towns have currently. He said he does not want to see jobs leave the community.

Kerry Ballard said he knows there are problems with the plan but feels they can be ironed out. He sees the need to upgrade and feels that as the community grows there will be more traffic for dispatch.

Tom Poscharsky feels a lot can be done to improve the current dispatch system and he does not want to give up our Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). He said he understands it would be difficult to get back.

Stuart Hensley, in answer to a question by Fay Hatch, said that two of the computers needed for upgrading the current dispatch system are now online. He said that consoles would be the next equipment needed along with new headsets and foot pedals to switch between calls.

Gus Lundberg said he learned during the tour of dispatch services that the cost to upgrade was close to \$60,000 which he feels is more manageable than what he previously thought. He feels there are significant pros to going with regional dispatch but can see updating as possible.

Lynn DeWitt said he would pay extra money to maintain independence. He feels if dispatch is given up there is no way to go back.

Jason Brubaker said he left the meeting in Show Low thinking it could be a positive benefit for our hospital. He said the hospital has put a lot of money into having up to date trauma centers and regional dispatch only helps that function better. He feels that a lot of work has been done on this issue. He asked with the deadline coming up if it was going to cost more to opt into regional dispatch in the future.

Gus Lundberg said the vendor is offering a 75% discount for conversion if agreement is reached by the 31st. He feels the deadline could be extended a little. He said the other deadline is with parties who as investors are contributing their PSAP. He said that if and when the plan for regional dispatch goes forward, if fiscally viable, then future subscribers would pay a higher cost to join.

Jason Brubaker sees benefits with regional dispatch. He feels we should continue with our changes to dispatch but seriously look at opting into regional dispatch at a future time.

David Smith agrees with Lynn DeWitt's comments. He asked if opting in would be possible in the future. He asked how our dispatch system will be able to communicate with the other system. He said he would like to keep dispatch and our people here.

Fay Hatch said he was told that our dispatch system could communicate with the other system.

Shawn Palmer said he appreciated the meeting in Show Low and sees a lot of pluses to regional dispatch. He feels one of the biggest problems would be losing our PSAP because once it is given up it is gone. He feels that Councils represent the people in the community to give them a voice. He feels regional dispatch is not the only option. He questions whether we can afford the cost even with a discount. He said we need to put money into upgrades on our own system and maintain local control.

Gus Lundberg said the current model for regional dispatch does not work without all the communities.

Tom Poscharsky said he feels Councils should approve or disapprove and then if more information is given the issue can be considered again.

Gus Lundberg asked if there is anything that can be counter proposed as part of the motion.

Tom Poscharsky said questions have been asked in the past and answers were not received.

Snowflake:

Motion by Poscharsky, 2nd by Kay-, to disapprove IGA with other jurisdictions for Regional Dispatch. Motion passed; five (5) for—Poscharsky, Kay, Johnson L., Lewis, Hensley and one (1) against—Ballard

Taylor:

Motion by Hatch, 2nd by Palmer, to disapprove IGA with other jurisdictions for Regional Dispatch. Motion passed; unanimous—Hatch, Palmer, Smith, Brubaker, DeWitt, Cospers (by phone)

Lynn DeWitt said he is not opposed to making things work but feels there has to be another way to interface without giving up control.

Shawn Palmer feels updating our dispatch services is doable.

Byron Lewis said timing is an issue and he would like more clarification.

4. ADJOURNMENT at 6:45 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Town of Snowflake Council meeting held December 8, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Barbara Flake, Town Clerk