

Towns of Springerville and Eagar  
Joint Council Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2020  
6:00 p.m.

Town of Springerville  
Council Present:

Phil Hanson, Jr., Mayor  
Robert MacKenzie, Vice Mayor  
Richard Davis, Councilmember  
Ruben Llamas, Councilmember  
Shelly Reidhead, Councilmember

Town of Eagar  
Council Present:

Bryce Hamblin, Mayor  
Steve Erhart, Vice Mayor  
Marsha Tucker, Councilmember  
John Phelps, Councilmember  
Reese Hadlock, Councilmember  
Winslow McNeill, Councilmember  
Debra Seeley, Councilmember

Springerville Staff:

Joseph Jarvis, Town Manager  
Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk  
Heidi Wink, Finance Director  
Mike Nuttall, Chief of Police  
James Kemp, Patrol Sergeant  
Quintin McCue, Patrolman  
Max Sadler, Fire Chief  
Robert Pena Jr., Forman / Assistant Fire Chief  
Steven Vickers, Fire Lieutenant

1. CALL TO ORDER – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Mayor Hamblin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a Springerville quorum present and an Eagar quorum present. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited them to the Eagar Town Council meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. He explained to them that there may be some confusion based on some Facebook posts about what this meeting is for. He informed council, staff, and public that the Town of Springerville and Eagar have been planning a joint meeting prior to the Facebook posts, regardless both Councils are happy to see everyone.

2 a. PRESENTATION- WE LOVE ROUND VALLEY: Mayor Hamblin said we will be hearing a five minute presentation from Whitney Wiltbank with the group We Love Round Valley and the group Little Colorado Revitalization. Mr. Wiltbank introduced himself to the councils and public and thanked them for the opportunity to address them. He informed everyone that he is a citizen and business owner of this community. He gave a historical example of how our community has worked together. With the possibility of the Power Plants closing in the future he wanted to bring some items to both councils attention. He let them know he has provided them a copy of an Economic Impact Study completed by ASU from 2014 explaining the impacts of the Coronado and Springerville Generating Stations in Apache County. He explained the impacts these power plants make on our property tax values. He said their main reason for presenting tonight is to strongly urge both Councils to look at the advantages and disadvantages of merging the two towns. He pointed out some advantages his groups see. His group is requesting four items. First request is a feasibility study to be completed in the next six months being funded by the towns. Second request is a commitment to have quarterly joint council meetings. Third request is a committee created for accountability that includes two council members from Eagar, two council members from Springerville, two board members from the LCR, one representative from the Round Valley Coalition of Family Values, one representative from the Round Valley School District, and one board member from the hospital. The accountability meetings would be to support the already approved initiative to combine the Police and Fire

Departments. The fourth request is the commitment to hold semi-annual community meetings with the power plant managers. He asked if any council had questions, they did not.

3 a. SUBJECT ITEM: Discussion and consideration of conducting a feasibility study regarding the consolidation of Police and Fire Departments.

Mayor Hamblin informed council and public that the two towns have been discussing the merge of Fire Departments for years. There were some roadblocks in past years that he feels are no longer in existence. In 2017 the two towns began heavily weighing the options for a merge of Fire Departments, and in February of 2018 both councils unanimously directed their Fire Chiefs to move forward with looking at the options of merging. Some progress was made; a lot of information was gathered. Town of Springerville Manager Jarvis addressed both councils with a recommendation from staff for councils consideration to allow both towns to dedicate funds to complete a feasibility study in merging the Fire Departments and Police Departments. He said he has spoken to representative in Snowflake and Taylor who have gone through a similar process recently. They have an IGA that himself and Mr. Hinton have reviewed that we could alter to meet our specific needs and bring back to both councils at a later date along with the recommendations that we could receive from the consultant(s) if we choose to do a feasibility study. Mayor Hamblin added we have commitments from both Snowflake and Taylor to attend the next meeting and give the councils their ideas on what went well and how to do items better.

Springerville Council: Robert MacKenzie/ Shelly Reidhead motion to dedicate funds up to \$10,000 for a feasibility study in combining the Fire and Police Departments.

Vote:	Ayes:	Phil Hanson Robert MacKenzie Shelly Reidhead Richard Davis
	Nayes:	Ruben Llamas

Eagar Council: Vice-Mayor Steve Erhart made a motion to approve a feasibility study cost not to exceed \$12,000.00 regarding the consolidation of Police and Fire Departments. Councilmember Debra Seeley seconded.

Vote:	Ayes:	Bryce Hamblin Steve Erhart Marsha Tucker John Phelps Reece Hadlock Winslow McNeill Debra Seeley
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Discussion: Councilman Llamas wanted to add that he is currently opposed until both towns can prove their ability to work together. He said he is representing the people in our community who are sharing with him their reluctance in the merge. Mayor Hamblin added he feels we in fact do work well together and have proven that with Police and Fire Departments backing each other up on calls regardless if they are in Springerville or Eagar.

3 b. SUBJECT ITEM: Discussion and consideration regarding the Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

Mayor Hamblin pointed out that between the two towns we provide the majority of the resources. This past year a letter was sent out on behalf of the Chamber regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade that was very poorly representing the community. The letter was picked up by newspapers and news stations

across areas not only in AZ. Due to how this letter represented the town's, Mayor Hamblin is proposing the Towns of Springerville and Eagar jointly do the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade together each year. Councilman MacKenzie wanted clarification as to if he was asking for the Towns to do the parade without the Chambers involvement. Mayor Hanson clarified yes that is what he is proposing. Councilor Seely asked why the Chamber has run the parade in the past and Mayor Hamblin said he is not sure. She asked how it would work if we took it. Mr. Hamblin said the Towns already do all the work, the only additional item would be pick a theme and judges. Councilor Llamas asked if the chamber board is the same individuals as it was last year, Mayor Hamblin replied he does not know. Deanna Davis asked if she could address the council. She introduced herself as a business owner and the President of the Chamber for the past seven years. She said the parade is actually put on by the Rodeo Committee; the Chamber just helps by providing the insurance.

Springerville Council: Richard Davis/ Shelly Reidhead motion the Towns of Springerville and Eagar to take over the annual fourth of July Parade.

Discussion: Councilor Llamas doesn't believe anybody has talked to the individuals at the Rodeo Committee or the Chamber regarding this issue. He feels prior to taking over the parade we need to have the discussions with those involved.

Vote:	Ayes:	Phil Hanson Shelly Reidhead Richard Davis
	Nayes:	Ruben Llamas Robert MacKenzie

Eagar Council: Marsha Tucker made a motion to approve the town taking over the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Councilmember Debra Seeley seconded.

Vote:	Ayes:	Bryce Hamblin Steve Erhart Marsha Tucker John Phelps Reece Hadlock Winslow McNeill Debra Seeley
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4 a. EXECUTIVE SESSION: ALLOWED BY BR A.R.S. § 38-431.03.A3.A4. – DISCUSSION OR CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE WITH THE TOWN'S ATTORNEY AND- DISCUSSION OR CONSULTAION WITH THE ATTORNEYS OF TGE PUBLIC BODY IN ORDER TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT IT'S ATTORNEYS REGARDING THE PUBLIC BODY'S POSITION REGARDING THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS, IN PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION OR IN SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO AVOID OR RESOLVE LITIGATION- NAVOPACHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE FRANCHISE.

Eagar Motioned and seconded to convene into Executive Session at 6:20 p.m.

Springerville Vote:	Ayes:	Phil Hanson Robert MacKenzie Ruben Llamas Shelly Reidhead Richard Davis
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Eagar Vote:	Ayes:	Bryce Hamblin
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Steve Erhart  
Marsha Tucker  
John Phelps  
Reece Hadlock  
Winslow McNeill  
Debra Seeley

Eagar Council Motioned to move back into regular session at 6:48 p.m.

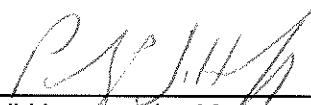
Springerville Vote:           Ayes:                   Phil Hanson  
  Robert MacKenzie  
  Ruben Llamas  
  Shelly Reidhead  
  Richard Davis

Eagar Vote:                   Ayes:                   Bryce Hamblin  
  Steve Erhart  
  Marsha Tucker  
  John Phelps  
  Reece Hadlock  
  Winslow McNeill  
  Debra Seeley

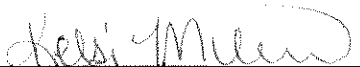
Eagar Council motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Springerville Vote:           Ayes:                   Phil Hanson  
  Robert MacKenzie  
  Ruben Llamas  
  Shelly Reidhead  
  Richard Davis

Eagar Vote:                   Ayes:                   Bryce Hamblin  
  Steve Erhart  
  Marsha Tucker  
  John Phelps  
  Reece Hadlock  
  Winslow McNeill  
  Debra Seeley

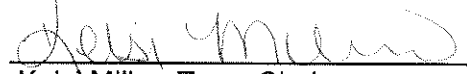
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phil Hanson, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in a regular session on Wednesday, February 27, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2020



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Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk