COUNCIL DECISION REQUEST

MEETING DATE: 2-15-07 ITEM NO.:

SUBJECT: Fire service contracts with outlying areas

SUBMITTED BY: Martin deMasi, Fire Chief

SUBMITTAL TO AGENDA
APPROVED BY TOWN MANAGER

EXHIBITS (IF APPLICABLE, TO BE ATTACHED):

EXPENDITURE
REQUIRED: N/A

AMOUNT
BUDGETED: N/A

CONT. FUNDING
REQUIRED: N/A

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move to authorize the Payson Fire Chief to negotiate Fire/EMS service agreements with the Rim Ranch Club (Fox Farm) and Canyon River Ranch (Doll Baby Ranch) developers.

SUMMARY OF THE BASIS FOR RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Developers have purchased recently two pieces of property in the Payson area and it is their intention to develop these into residential communities. Rim Golf Investors, LLC have purchased what has been commonly known as the "Fox Farm" or the "Rancho de Christo" at the end of Granite Dells Road and Simonton Flat, LLC has purchased the "Doll Baby Ranch" approximately six miles west of Payson. In their discussions with the Gila County Community Development Department, the issue of fire protection was brought forward and the developers were required by the County to provide for fire protection services before their projects would be approved. The developers independently contacted Chief deMasi to gauge the Town's interest in providing such services.

The Fox Farm property will be known as the Rim Club Ranch and will be developed into a gated community comprised of 38 single family lots and a cluster of condominium-type residences with associated recreational and community use facilities.

The Doll Baby Ranch will be known as Canyon River Ranch and will be an equestrian oriented community of 116 one acre-plus lots with 155 acres of undeveloped ranch land.

Both developers have agreed in principle to complying with TOP fire codes and defensible space recommendations.

The fee for fire services would be calculated at an agreed to rate per assessed value basis similar to the current service contracts with the Round Valley/Oxbow and East Verde Park Fire Districts. It is undetermined at this time whether the two communities will form fire districts or the agreements can be made with another type of organization such a home owners association. Tentatively, the totals would be starting in the range of $5,000 to $10,000 per community and rising as they are built out.

PROS: Additional funds for the Fire Department and the provision of fire services to areas that currently have none.

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CONS: PFD resources may be unavailable to the Town while serving these areas. Additional call load and wear on personnel and equipment.

PUBLIC INPUT (if any):

BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS (if any) (give dates and attach minutes):