

**TOWN OF PAYSON
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
April 10, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at approximately 5:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT: Mayor Bob Edwards, Council Member Ed Blair, Council Member Su Connell, Council Member Andy Romance, and Council Member John Wilson.

ABSENT: Vice-Mayor Tim Fruth, and Council Member Mike Vogel.

STAFF PRESENT: Debra Galbraith - Town Manager, Sam Streichman - Town Attorney, Silvia Smith, Town Clerk, Donald P. Engler, Police Chief, LaRon Garrett, Town Engineer, Jerry Owen, Community Development Director, and Rick Manchester, Parks and Recreation Director.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Wright, Deputy Town Attorney; Tom Fife, FD Battalion Chief; Hope Cribb, Accountant I; Debbie Dawson, Administrative Assistant; Robert Lockhart, Fire Marshal; Marci Huffman, Chief Deputy Town Clerk.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Mayor Edwards took agenda Item 2 out of order to be discussed first.

2. **Discussion/possible action regarding Draft Environmental Assessment, Fee-To-Trust Transfer of 293 Acres for the Tonto Apache Tribe (March 2008), and Town of Payson's Comments on to the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the Draft Environmental Assessment.**

Town Attorney Sam Streichman explained that the draft environmental assessment was done by the BIA. They proposed a Fee-To Trust Transfer of the land. When it becomes trust land, then it becomes sovereign and is not subject to state law. The land would also not be subject to any of the Town's zoning laws. Attorney Larry Castor, Fennemore Craig, had some concerns. Regarding Highway 87, the easement should not be taken into the trust. Water was a concern because the Town does not know what future uses are and the future needs, plus the ability of the Tribe to draw water from this area. The assessment also does not draw out the future development that the land could hold. In New Mexico and Arizona a trust must be approved by an act of Congress. Council would have until April 18th to respond.

There was discussion regarding the language of the letter to be sent. Some felt the language should not be antagonistic.

Clmn. Wilson moved, seconded by Mayor Edwards to send the Town's comments regarding the Draft Environmental Assessment to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Motion

carried, 3-2; Clmns Romance and Connell dissented.

There were more council comments. Town Attorney Streichman said there was a statement of fact in the assessment that was a mistake. It was stated that the acreage in the exchange was outside the Town limits. However, the acreage is actually within the Town limits.

Clmn. Connell will get with Mr. Streichman to come up with softer language. Clmn. Blair moved, seconded by Mayor Edwards to make the language (of the comments) softer. Motion carried, 5-0.

1. Discussion/possible action on 2008-2009 budget including, but not limited to, revenues.

Town Manager Debra Galbraith provided Council and staff with a packet concerning revenues only, based on historical trends, and gave a PowerPoint presentation. She then entertained Council questions. The budget meeting scheduled for April 24, 2008, was cancelled. The meeting schedule for the rest of the budget meetings was given to council. On May 8, 2008 and May 13, 2008 Department Expenditure Budgets will be the topic, including the Capital Budget on May 13th.

There was discussion concerning Transfers In. After several explanations, Ms. Galbraith will explain this further after the meeting.

It was noted that property taxes were less than 5% of the total budget. This needs to be brought to the citizens' attention. Sales tax is the major funding source for the Town.

The Miscellaneous category was questioned and Ms. Galbraith explained.

Mayor Edwards commended Ms. Galbraith on her presentation. He asked that Council review it and let Ms. Galbraith know if there were other questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:58 p.m.

_____ Date: _____

Bob Edwards, Mayor

ATTEST:

Silvia Smith, Town Clerk

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Payson held on this day the 10 of April, 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2008.

Marcia F. Huffman, Chief Deputy Town Clerk