

**MINUTES OF THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION FOR  
THE TOWN OF STAR VALLEY**

**Thursday, December 03, 2009, 2009 @ 6:00pm**

**3632 East Highway 260, Star Valley, AZ**

**Star Valley Town Hall**

- **CALL TO ORDER**
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**-led by Chairperson Leis
- **ROLL CALL:**

**Preent: Chairperson Vern Leis X, Vice-Chairperson William Davis X, William Heath X, Bob Hibbert X, Ray Lyons excused absence, Mark Freegard X, Brad Jones X**

- **Staff Present:** Josie Castillo, Deputy Town Clerk
- **Others Present:** Del Newland, Wayne Van Horn, Bill Rappaport, Alexis Bechman, Barbara Hartwell, Gary Coon, Garrett Goldman and Jack Garrett

· **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Approval of the Regular Water and Sewer Commission meeting minutes held on November 5, 2009.

**Commission Member Jones made a motion to approve the Water & Sewer Meeting Minutes held on November 5, 2009 and Commission Member Hibbert seconded the motion.**

**The motion is voted on and passed 6-0.**

· **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

1.  **Update & discussion on sewer project by Tetra Tech.**

Garrett Goldman stated that today's presentation will be the final meeting before the finished product is ready to present to the Town of Star Valley. Mr. Goldman stated that the per capita unit flow is based on Gila County Sanitary District averages (80 gallons per capita per day). Mr. Goldman described the Land Use Code, Units/Acre, etc to arrive at the total cost/ac (\$13,006). Commission Member Jones stated that the cost per lot, when costed to the individual homeowner, can be recouped in the increased value to the home. Mr. Goldman suggested contacting a real estate appraiser to determine the values of homes on septic systems versus a public sewer system. Mr. Goldman discussed the choice of phasing the project in Star Valley and the

importance of Star Valley being proactive, rather than have a state or government agency intervene and mandate that Star Valley build a sewer plant, at a much higher cost.

Mr. Goldman now discussed funding options including GADA and WIFA and the Technical Assistance Grant, which can fund studies in order to qualify for a WIFA loan. The maximum amount for this program is \$35K and must be matched by the municipality requesting the funding. Mr. Goldman stated that the current work study being done by Tetra-Tech for the Star Valley Water & Sewer Commission is an example of what the Technical Assistance Program will cover. Mr. Goldman strongly encouraged Star Valley to submit their application for the upcoming fiscal year in July 2010.

Mr. Goldman now addressed the sewer treatment plant location. Mr. Goldman stated that *Phase I* would construct a trunk line in order to service the commercial area first, getting the most “bang for the buck” and give the commercial district the potential for growth. Furthermore, Mr. Goldman stated that taking people off of septic systems in Houston Creek Landing greatly diminishes the potential for water contamination from faulty septic systems. Chairperson Leis stated that the Commission has identified a location for a sewage treatment plant and will get the information to Mr. Goldman. Chairperson Leis stated that the Town is interested in commercial development, however, the prevention of water contamination is the greatest concern. Mr. Goldman replied that the latter reason fits well into the “green” policy of state agencies. Mr. Goldman stated that the area in NE Star Valley is the least critical since it has a low density population and explained the importance of utilizing gravity flow where available. Mr. Goldman stated that the sewer treatment plant will be included in *Phase I*, however, the treatment plant itself can be constructed in phases. Mr. Goldman stated that he is working on the final report that will be written in laymans terms in order for it to be easily understood and will contact Mr. Leis to meet and view the location the Commission has identified for a sewer treatment plant.

## **2. ► Discussion and overview on C.C. Cragin Tour and Star Valleys possible options**

Chairperson Leis distributed a handout regarding the CC Cragin Tour. Chairperson Leis stated that 500 ac ft of water would be distributed amongst 7 municipalities, with SV being the 8th in line. Vice-Chairperson Davis gave an overview of the Cragin Reservoir Tour (see Cragin Reservoir Tour-Findings). Chairperson Leis stated that a municipality such as Star Valley does not have to become a purveyor of water in order to access CC Cragin water. Chairperson Leis stated that Star Valley would have to approach SRP to establish and reserve their allotment and water storage tanks might be considered for Star Valley to store the water after it is received via the pipeline that runs along Highway 260 from Payson to Star Valley. Gary Coon stated that after the

water is treated, any excess water could be injected into the aquifer. The Commission discussed the fact that the water from CC Cragin would only run for 9 months out of the year. Commission Member Heath questioned whether or not Star Valley would be able bank water for future use and the Commission discussed this in detail. Commission Member Hibbert suggested the Commission write a letter of appreciation to the Town of Payson for allowing Star Valley to participate in the tour.

**3. ► Discussion and action regarding Ordinance O 08-08 Water & Sewer Commission**

Chairperson Leis distributed a handout outlining the ordinance and stated that Commission Member Jones has indicated that he will no longer be able to continue with the Water & Sewer Commission.

**a. Review & recommendation to council for replacements and alternates on the Water & Sewer Commission**

Chairperson Leis stated that Wayne Van Horn, the Water & Sewer Commission Alternative has agreed to be recommended to serve on the Commission. Commission Member Jones suggested placing an article in the newspaper to recruit Commission Members and Alternatives. Star Valley resident Bob Sanchez, stated that he is retired military, has resided in Star Valley since 1982 and is very interested in participating in the Water & Sewer Commission as needed. Mr. Sanchez stated that he has connections in the political arena, including Arizona Representative Ann Kirkpatrick whom he can invite to speak at a Commission Meeting. Commission Member Jones stated that today's meeting will be his last attendance. Vice-Chairperson Davis extended his appreciation to Commission Member Jones for his contributions to the Water & Sewer Commission.

**4. ► Discussion and possible action on LFR Contract for well & rain gauge monitoring-How often, how many and placement of new probes**

Chairperson Leis stated that he has spoken to LFR on numerous occasions and the contract renewal price of \$22K is non-negotiable. Chairperson Leis posed the question to the Commission: "Does the Commission feel that well monitoring on a quarterly basis will suffice?" The Commission discussed *Task 1: Data Analysis* of the renewal contract and Chairperson Leis stated that the cost for *Task 1* of \$22K seems to be excessive. Vice-Chairperson Davis stated that Tetra-Tech can perform the same data analysis, along with several other firms in Town at a lower cost. Commission Member Freegard stated that he agrees that quarterly monitoring is the best choice for all the wells except, the Tower Well which needs to be monitored monthly and the

Commission discussed this at length. Commission Member Hibbert stated that he feels it is important to continue to monitor the data as has been done in the past and Commission Member Heath concurred. The Commission discussed the life of the batteries in the probes and well monitors. Chairperson Leis stated that he will approach LFR and tell them that if the costs cannot be compromised, the Commission will have to look elsewhere for additional bids on well monitoring. Commission Member Jones suggested that the Commission consult with Tetra-Tech to ensure they can provide the same service before canceling the contract with LFR.

**5. ► Discussion and possible action regarding the well monitoring time cycles and establishing preset dates for collection of data**

Chairperson Leis stated that Commission Member Freegard will monitor the wells beginning on Dec 8, 2009, and every three months thereafter on March 8, June 8, Sept 7 & Dec 7, 2010. Chairperson Leis stated that he will ensure that the staff laptop computer is available to Commission Member Freegard.

**6. Discussion regarding the holiday gathering on Wednesday, 12/16/09 at Town Hall from 4pm-7pm**

Chairperson Leis invited all the Commission Members to the holiday gathering on the above date.

**Misc.**

- Chairperson Leis drew attention to the handout included in the packets distributed tonight and described the CAAG 208 Amendment Process.
- Commission Member Jones discussed the data on 17 wells, including Diamond Point Shadows Restaurant and the Houston Creek area. Commission Member Jones gave the data analysis and trends for nitrates for the Star Valley area and the levels all vary, with the highest nitrate levels found in Diamond Point Shadows area. Commission Member Jones stated that Geologist Kristine Uhlman stated that there should not be any nitrate levels at all in the area.
- Chairperson Leis extended gratitude to Commission Member Jones on behalf of the Commission for all his efforts.
- **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**
  - Wayne Van Horn stated he has displays from Mr. Goldmans Tetra Tech presentation.

**· ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Commission Member Jones and was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Davis.**

**The motion is voted on and passed 6-0.**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**

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**Vern Leis, Chairperson**

**ATTEST:**

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**Josie Castillo, Deputy Town Clerk**

**CERTIFICATION:**

**I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission of the Town of Star Valley held on this day, the 3rd of December 2009. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.**

**Dated this 7th day of January 2010.**

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**Josie Castillo, Deputy Town Clerk**