

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE HONORABLE TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA,
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021
IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT
325 W. WHITE MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD, LAKESIDE, AZ 85929**

➤ **Call to Order**

Mayor Irwin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

➤ **Roll Call**

The following Council Members were present:

Stephanie Irwin	Mayor
Jerry Smith	Vice Mayor
Lynn Krigbaum	Council Member
Jim Snitzer	Council Member
Mazie Hastings	Council Member
Sterling Beus	Council Member
Paul Watson	Council Member

Also Present:

Keith Johnson	Town Manager
Kevin Rodolph	Finance Director
Jill Akins	Town Clerk
Dan Barnes	Police Chief
Tony Alba	Community Services Manager

➤ **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Mayor Irwin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Paul Watson delivered the Invocation.

B. Call to the Public

Mayor Irwin called for Public comments. No comments were offered.

C. Consent Agenda

Mayor Irwin announced consideration of the Consent Agenda and explained that all items listed would be acted upon by a single vote of the Council, unless a member of the Council asked that specific items be removed from the Consent Agenda, discussed and voted upon separately.

Councilmember Beus moved for passage of the Consent Agenda. Vice Mayor Smith seconded the motion and by show of hands the following vote was recorded:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
Mayor Irwin		
Vice Mayor Smith		
Council Member Snitzer		
Council Member Hastings		
Council Member Krigbaum		
Council Member Beus		
Council Member Watson		

Mayor Irwin then declared that all consent agenda items in these minutes were approved, passed and adopted with a 7-0 vote.

C.1 **Approval of the Minutes of the Town Council
Meeting held on February 4, 2021.**

By a unanimous vote under the Consent Agenda, Town Council approved the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on February 4, 2021.

D. Business Before the Council

Mayor Irwin announced that Public Comment will be taken at the beginning of each agenda item, after the subject has been announced by the Mayor and explained by Staff. Any citizen, who wishes, may speak one time for five minutes on each agenda item before or after Council discussion. Questions from Council Members, however, may be directed to staff or a member of the public through the Mayor at any time.

D.1 Consider approval of Resolution No. 21-1572 authorizing the formal expression of interest for the acquisition of additional land in the Woodland Lake Park Tract from the U.S. Forest Service.

Town Manager Johnson stated that when the Federal Government approved the Townsite Act in 1987 and the Woodland Lake Park Tract (WLPT) Act in 1998, it was with the intent that the Town would work towards purchasing the entire 583 acres. Forty acres of this tract were placed under the care of the Blue Ridge Unified School District reducing the number of acres to 543.

Town Manager Johnson said that the current request for an appraisal is for only 137 acres. The Save Our Park Board met in January and determined that these are the acres that they want to pursue in the next fund-raising effort, please see attached map. Discussions with U.S. Forest Service personnel, Anthony Madrid and Josh Miller led to the conclusion that acreage that is contiguous to existing Town owned property was the best option to pursue. Ten acres are next to the Mountain Meadow Recreation Park and the other 127 acres adjoin Woodland Lake Park.

Town Manager Johnson explained that Save Our Park will pay the entire cost of the appraisal and if Resolution 21-1572 is approved it does not commit the Town to completing the purchase of the 137 acres. When the 137 acres is purchased its care, and maintenance will be the responsibility of the Town.

Town Manager Johnson said that the U.S. Forest Service acted in good faith 34 years ago when they approved our Townsite Act application believing that the Town would follow through with the purchase of the WLPT in a timely manner. The Town made several attempts to see if the WLPT could be purchased at no cost but that was not possible. The WLPT Act in 1998 was a Congressional Act supported by Senators John McCain and Jon Kyle. It stipulated that the WLPT could only be sold to the Town. The Act states: (a) Prohibition of Conveyance – The Secretary of Agriculture may not convey any right, title, or interest of the United States in and to the Woodlake Park tract unless the conveyance of the tract:

1. Is made to the town of Pinetop-Lakeside; or
2. Is specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

In 2007 the Town formed a task force to evaluate acquisition options and strategies. The Save Our Park Board was created from this task force.

Carla Bowen, PO Box 1087, Pinetop, offered the following comments: *“I think everyone knows how I feel about taking on additional land for the Town. So, I am going to try to go through this as quickly as I can. I am going to give you a little bit of an economics information tonight. In the 80’s we had 18-19% interest, trying to sell homes and the government got involved and the only way that we were selling property then was to do what we call “wraps”. The government got involved and because all of the trust deeds and warranty notes had what they called acceleration clauses in them, in one weekend in New York because one community sold all of their homes on wraps, there were two hundred foreclosures. That is government involvement. In the 90’s, remember we had the dot.com bust, and everybody was devastated then and we also had a real estate bubble then as well. In fact, in Texas, you could not give real estate away. Here it was very difficult to sell homes and the home values were around 60-70 thousand. Then in the 2000’s we had the financial collapse, it was not a real estate collapse, it was a financial collapse in this country. We could not get loans, the area on the mountain was almost red-lined for seven years for construction of homes because there had been so many foreclosures. We could not get loans, the foreclosures were out of control, the state was basically bankrupt and they had to sell all of their buildings, if you will recall, because they had to generate some income. And they were sweeping every single department in the state, including trust funds that were in other departments, including HURF funds, that Matt needs for roads. The state economy at that time was based on tourism and at that time they were bringing bus loads of people from California to buy houses down in the valley because we had an over supply of housing in the valley at that time. So, our economy at that point, was based upon tourism and second home purchases and a lot of investors bought property in the valley as well. The state is now based on more industrial development and that was taken care of by Governor Ducey when he took over. I don’t know how many of you are really aware of what Federal Reserve notes are, but you know we don’t have backing for any more notes and right now there are only 1.75 trillion dollars in Federal Reserve notes in circulation. They are estimating that the liquidity in the economic market right now is only four hundred billion. Now, we have a 26 trillion dollar deficit and they are getting ready to pass a 1.9 trillion-dollar stimulus. The credit system in this country right now is 74 trillion dollars, that is how much credit is outstanding in this country right now. Which is 20 times more than the government collects every year. If you went out to get a loan somewhere and you wanted to qualify for twenty times your income, you would not get a loan. The value of every home in the United States times two is what the credit is in the country. 74 trillion dollars. So, you are probably asking, why even bring that up? What is the purpose of small towns and municipalities and districts and things like that? It is to serve the community. You cannot rely on*

government funding to take of everything you want to do and at this point we still have a police department, generator, soft ball fields, sprinklers that are not done, a well at Mountain Meadow, wells to take care of, the Woodland Lake path, the lake clean-up, general maintenance. We are not a land baron, the land is a want, it is not a need for this Town and on a 12-million-dollar budget, with most of the income coming off the backs of small businesses, any decision that is made, needs to be made based upon what is food for the businesses here in Town. Period. Not the wants. We are going to see a collapse of the financial market again and I am just wondering who is going to get laid off because the Town will not have the income. So, I miss you guys.”

Josh Miller, Forest Service Lakeside District Ranger, said that the Forest Services has prescribed burn plans in the Woodland Lake Park area. He said prescribed burning is done for several reasons; 1. to improve ecosystem health; 2. to reduce hazard fuels around the community for a safer environment. The Woodland Lake tract is broken out into six blocks, called six burn blocks. This many blocks is due to having low impact smoke to the community during the burns, since this is located in the middle of Town. The community will be impacted with smoke, but with burning a few acres a day they will be able to finish up early, let the smoke thin out and lesson the impact to the community. He said that the big picture is that they plan to begin, the soonest, in the fall of 2021 or next spring 2022, finishing up in 2023. He said that mechanical treatments would be done in conjunction with the prescribed burning. Mostly light mechanical treatments by hand removing some of the ladder fuels on the ground that can lead to a crown fire. Some of the heavier logs will be removed. He said that they will be focusing on the prescribed burns and fairly light on the mechanical treatments.

In response to Mayor Irwin, Mr. Miller said that they will go in sequence and said that typically the prescribed fires will start in the southeast corner and work into the wind to the southwest.

Anthony Madrid, Forest Supervisor Apache-Sitgreaves, said he did not have an answer to Mr. Johnson’s question regarding separating the appraisal into two sections, splitting off the ten acres near Mountain Meadow Park, but said that he would be back in touch with an answer.

Town Manager Johnson explained that we do not need to know that answer today and said that it does not change the proposed Resolution. He said that the Forest Service will be doing some work in the areas that would normally fall to the Town if we owned those sections. He said the areas have been thinned in the past and

with the prescribed burning and the other treatments that they will do, it will keep, at least for the future, costs down for the Town to maintain, at least for the near future. He stated that the bark beetle grant came through the Forest Service and that they can also work with Pinetop Fire who has offered to come in for future work and help thin or do other work. Grants can also be applied for to pay for any firewise treatments. He stated that the Council is not being asked to approve purchasing these acres at this time, just asking for approval of an appraisal at this time.

In response to Mayor Irwin, Mr. Miller said that ideally Ponderosa pines are thinned every ten to twelve years and ideally this area would be maintained every 10-12 years.

Councilmember Watson stated that being involved in 4FRI, there is an emphasis on mechanical thinning removal versus control burns. Is this area conducive to that or not? Can you describe why this process cannot be done?

Mr. Miller said that a lot of this area has already received mechanical treatments and has been logged. He said that prescribed fires are immediate planned treatment and a shorter duration, but a majority of the volume has already been removed.

In response to Councilmember Beus, Mr. Madrid said that typically an appraisal is good for three years.

In response to Mayor Irwin, Mr. Madrid said that the appraisal only initiates the process and informs the Town of the potential cost.

Councilmember Watson said that having been involved in this process for thirty or so years, said that his question for the Town in general, at this point do we have a plan for this acreage in the park? Over the years when looking at the cost to acquire this land there were concepts developed for public/private partnerships for development and other things that would help to cover the cost and also cover the operational costs. He stated that he briefly looked at the General Plan and the Strategic Plan and did not see any actual master plan or other documents that would show the Town's intent for this land. He stated that typically when you go to purchase a home or land, there are several steps you take before you get to the step of an appraisal and one of the first steps is "why?". "Why are we doing this?" He said that he understands the Forest Service and their plan and that they would like to divest themselves of this property because it is not contiguous to other

Forest Service property. In his opinion, the Town should only acquire the land if there is a plan for what the use would be. He would like to know the future plan for the property before the Town even moves forward with an appraisal.

Director Matt Patterson stated that the Town has talked extensively about the ten acres. He said that one of the issues with Mountain Meadow is parking and this would help with the parking and the events taking place at the park. He said that as far as he knows, there are not any plans for the rest of the acreage. He said that at Mountain Meadow there is a large interest in Disc golf and he said that it would be nice to expand. He stated that there are maintenance issues at Mountain Meadow that need to be resolved first.

Councilmember Snitzer said that in one sense getting the appraisal right now does not bother him because it does not mean anything other than an appraisal of the land. The first 107 acres purchased were already being maintained by the Town and there was not going to be much difference, but he said there has been a little difference because there is a higher standard of care now that it is a Town park and not forest. He said that it is a chicken and an egg with the appraisal and a plan, but he said that he cannot see how the Town can support purchasing the land without a plan and then figuring it out. He stated that if there was a plan to maintain the park for twenty years then the Town should own the park for twenty years and then sell it and said if there was a plan to cover the maintenance forever, then the Town should plan to own the park forever. He stated whatever the Town and Council come up with, it cannot be a burden on the Town.

Town Manager Johnson said that Eric Kramer and Tom Jernigan are on conference call and would like to address the Council.

Mr. Eric Kramer offered the following comments: *“I appreciate the Council considering this matter. I am the secretary of Save our Park and we are quite willing to pay the entire cost of this Resolution, of passing this Resolution, with no cost to the Town. I think Councilmembers have raised very good questions, I think most of you were here throughout the last process, I think it took a little over two years to get the appraisal. You raised some very good points on some things that we should be considering during this appraisal process. Jim’s idea of making it revenue neutral, as far as the maintenance is concerned, that is something we can certainly take back to Save our Park. Just a few things I wanted to mention to you about the property, looking at the map there are about 40 homeowners that adjoin this parcel and they have lived for the last 40 years thinking that their property backs up to Woodland Lake Park and this would kind of make good on that. That*

these 40 homeowners would be protected would be a very good thing for the Council to do. As others have mentioned, it adds ten acres to Mountain Meadow, it brings Mountain Meadow closer to Woodland Lake Park and helps build one of the finest recreation complexes in Arizona. Which is certainly good for the Town, good for our merchants and others. I was very pleased to learn that this parcel includes Walnut Springs which is a hiking destination. People that visit our Town and are interested in hiking, being able to walk to Walnut Springs on the Town property would be a very good thing to do. Again, Save our Park will pay the cost of this Resolution and we will certainly work with you on all of the issues raised today. I don't think we can get Pinetop-Lakeside back on gold standard, but everything else I think we can do."

Mr. Tom Jernigan offered the following comments: *"The idea that Save our Park had was an interest in saving the corridor or Walnut Creek and the spring. On the original property there to the east was a requirement by the Forest Service that we couldn't just save the corridor we had to buy the whole parcel. So that was our interest. I know of a homeowner over by the, lower on the creek there, adjacent to the creek, who found out that new development had barred their entry to the creek that they used to have and I'm afraid that sometime in the future if this was developed entry to the creek could be barred in a similar manner. That is the incentive that Save our Park had to buy the initial property."*

Councilmember Watson said that he is not opposed to allowing the Save our Park Board to proceed with the appraisal, in particular because it sounds like it is a process that takes a while through the Forest Service, but said that he personally wants to make sure that it is understood that if he votes in favor of the appraisal it is not a vote in favor of necessarily the Town acquiring and owning in perpetuity those lands until we can develop some master plans and look at the future needs of this community. He stated that he appreciates the points made by Ms. Carla Bowen regarding the community and economics of our country in general. He said that those economics apply to the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside as well.

Mayor Irwin said that some of those same concerns were raised when the consideration was raised to purchase the 107 acres and said that by accepting the donation it was agreed to move forward with the purchase. She said the maintenance costs were and are a concern. She said the maintenance was primarily being done by the Town for those acres anyway and the Town felt that it was not a huge risk, but she stated that she does agree with Councilmember Watson's points and this does not necessarily mean we are committed to

purchasing all of these acres, this just give Save our Park some opportunities to raise the funds and for the Town to come up with a plan.

Vice Mayor Smith stated that he believes that Councilmembers Watson and Snitzer have brought up good points. He feels that we need to make sure why Save our Park thinks it is a good idea for Save our Park to purchase the rest of the park, beyond the 107 acres and it needs to be shown what and why those reasons are and why it would be good for the Town or maybe why it would not be good for the Town.

Councilmember Krigbaum moved to approve Resolution 21-1572 Authorizing the Formal Expression of Interest in considering the acquisition of additional land in the Woodland Lake Park Tract from the U.S. Forest Service and requesting initiation of a formal appraisal of approximately 137 acres. Vice Mayor Smith seconded the motion and by show of hands the following vote was recorded:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
Mayor Irwin		
Vice Mayor Smith		
Council Member Snitzer		
Council Member Hastings		
Council Member Krigbaum		
Council Member Beus		
Council Member Watson		

Mayor Irwin then declared Resolution No. 21-1572 approved with a 7-0 vote.

D.2 Presentation and Consider accepting the Town’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) as well as the Annual Expenditure and Limitation Report (AELR) for the year ending June 30, 2020, prepared by Hinton Burdick CPA’s and Advisors.

Finance Director Rodolph explained that this is the presentation of our annual audit report in the form of a CAFR-Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Annual Expenditure and Limitation Report (AELR) for the year ended June 30, 2020. He said that staff recommends that the Town Council accept the Town’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Annual Expenditure and Limitation Report (AELR) for the year ended June 30, 2020.

Director Rodolph said that the Arizona Revised Statute, Title 9, Chapter 4, Article 9-481 requires each incorporated city or town to engage a certified public accountant to perform a financial statement audit. The audits must be made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and the audit report must be issued in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Hinton Burdick CPAs and Advisors conducted our fieldwork last fall and finished in January. Town staff along with Auditor, Crimson Singleton will present the CAFR and AELR reports for the year ended June 30, 2020 for Council consideration.

Crimson Singleton, Senior Manager Hinton Burdick, presented the following Fiscal Year 2020 Audit:

Findings & Recommendations:

- One significant deficiency noted for fiscal year 2020. Reissued from prior years.
 - Finding 2016-001: Year-end Accounting
 - State compliance findings
 - None

Government Wide Financial Highlights:

- Total net position (equity) was \$3,935,837 at June 30, 2020 (pg 15).
- Over time, increases or decreases in net position are an indicator of whether the financial health of the Town is improving or deteriorating.
- Total net position increased by \$2,584,613 during fiscal year 2020 and decreased by \$119,007 during fiscal year 2019.

Government Wide Financial Highlights – Capital Assets:

- Governmental capital assets increased by \$2,904,759. Additions were \$3,601,545 and depreciation was \$696,786 (pg. 35).
- Proprietary capital assets increased by \$13,664. Additions were \$26,107 and depreciation was \$12,443 (pg. 36).
- Significant capital asset additions for the year:
 - Woodland Park Land - \$1,635,000
 - Billy Creek Bridge Construction in Progress - \$821,343 in FY20
 - Johnson Drive Sidewalks/Curbing Project finished - \$543,789 total, \$448,669 added in FY20
 - Juniper Lane Infrastructure Improvements - \$282,259
 - Several vehicles and equipment - \$306,111

Government Wide Financial Highlights – Long-Term Debt:

- Total Governmental long-term debt (excluding accrued compensation and the NPL) was \$2,382,254 at June 30, 2020 (pg. 37).
- Governmental long-term debt decreased by a net of \$194,730 due to scheduled payments made.

- Net pension liability and Other Post-Employment Benefits Liabilities was \$8,586,740 at year end.

Fund Financial Highlights:

- The total fund balance for the General Fund increased from \$482,081 to \$696,440.
- None of the fund balance had restrictions at year end.
- The General Fund reported revenues in excess of expenditures of \$559,222 before net transfers out of \$344,863.
- Actual revenues received in the General Fund were less than the final budget by \$113,227.
- Actual expenditures in the General Fund were \$775,825 less than the final budget (Pg 68).
- The Grants fund reported \$1,424,029 in revenues and \$1,505,560 in expenditures.
- The main activity was Billy Creek Pedestrian Bridge, Johnson Drive Project, and 3 police vehicles.

The General fund balance sheet is reported on the modified accrual basis which does not reflect long-term debt or capital assets.

The General fund cash was up a little in 2020. The General fund does not report any restricted cash.

The General fund is normally expected to break even over time. The Town's General fund has reported excess revenues over expenditures before transfers out for the last 5 years. Transfers out of \$344,863 in FY20 to the Capital Project fund, Grants fund, and Solid Waste fund utilized some of the excess funds. Revenues have increased by 13.59% over the last five years.

The General fund reported an overall decrease in expenditures. General government decreased due to clerk & general services department decreases. Public Safety decreased due to less salaries & benefits expense. Public works decreased due to decrease in salaries & benefits, professional services, repairs/maintenance, and utilities.

Pinetop-Lakeside Sales Tax Revenue:

Sales tax revenues have increased four of last five fiscal years and slightly declined in FY20. Effective December 1, 2017, the sales tax rates increased from 2.5% to 3.0% causing the large increase.

Pinetop-Lakeside Other Tax Revenues:

Other tax revenues experienced increases over the last five fiscal years.

Pinetop-Lakeside Total Tax Revenue:

Total combined tax revenues for FY20 increased by 0.27% over FY19 and by 30.66% over the last five fiscal years.

Pinetop-Lakeside Highway User Fund – Total revenues and total expenditures (including transfers):

The HURF fund is expected to break even over time as resources are accumulated and expended on road projects. Increases in revenues beginning in FY18 is from new sales taxes allocated to street projects. FY20 also includes a \$200K increase from HB 2748 that allocates some state road funds to the Town.

Pinetop-Lakeside Highway User Fund – Cash Trend:

As expected, HURF fund cash fluctuates up and down as projects are funded and expended over time. In FY20, cash balances decreased due to increased expenditures.

Pinetop-Lakeside Capital Projects Fund Total Revenues and Total Expenses (including transfers):

Revenues for 2020 consisted of transfers in of \$534,431 and donations of \$1,635,000. Significant expenditures were for the new Woodland Lake Park, Mountain Meadow Park, equipment purchases, and debt payments.

Pinetop-Lakeside Capital Projects Fund – Cash Trend:

The Capital Projects fund cash has been minimal as cash flow needs have been met on an as needed basis through transfers in and debt proceeds.

Pinetop-Lakeside Recreation and Tourism Fund – Total Revenues and Total Expenditures:

The Recreation & Tourism Fund reports net revenues of \$73,318 for fiscal year 2020. Increased tax revenues have been able to support the fund activity the last few years.

Pinetop-Lakeside Recreation and Tourism Fund – Cash Trend:

Historically, the Recreation & Tourism Fund cash balances have been minimal as General Fund transfers in were required to offset expenditures. Beginning in FY17 an increase in tax revenues have increased cash balances and allowed the fund to be self-sustaining.

Pinetop-Lakeside Development Impact Fee Fund – Total Revenues and Total Expenditures:

The Development Impact Fee fund activity can vary based on projects in the fund. Large increase in expense in 2017 is due to capital outlay for the Multi-use court. FY20 expenditures were mainly for development fee study and steel building for police department.

Pinetop-Lakeside Development Impact Fee Fund – Cash Trend:
The Development Impact Fee fund reports a stable cash balance in FY20.

Pinetop-Lakeside Governmental Fund Balances at June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2019:

Fiscal year 2020 reports increases in the general fund balance. GFOA recommends a minimum of 2 months' worth of operating expenditure in unassigned fund balance. The Town has approximately 1.8 months of expenditures in unassigned fund balance at June 30, 2020.

Director Rodolph thanked Ms. Singleton and helpful with this process. He pointed out that the following highlights:

- The General Fund increased
- Loss of the Collection Center, due to being in existence for only two years. Changes have been made
- HURF found, streets – the big loss was the flood event in 2019 and still has not recovered 4250,000.00.

In response to Vice Mayor Smith, Director Rodolph stated that most of the \$8,586,740.00 is the unfunded PSPRS liability.

In response to Councilmember Watson, Director Rodolph said that the reports that he gives to Council monthly are the sales tax that the Arizona Department of Revenue has collected for that period. He said that when he gives the Council sales tax for June that will be sales for May that is collected by the Department of Revenue in June, that is what they call their June report, and they give us their figures in July in a report to me. He stated that by a month-by-month basis, we are ahead of last year.

Director Rodolph said that the Council approved Home Rule for Alternative Expenditures Limitations in 2018 and he said that it raised the dollar amount of what we are limited too. The Town is still subject to an annual expenditure limitation but are not subjected to the state-imposed amount and now subject to what the voters approve for Home Rule. He said that the voters approved alternative expenditure limitation of \$12,475,000.00 for the year and that the Town spent, after accounting for exclusions, \$8,204,186.00 and the amount under expenditure limitations was \$4,270,814.00.

Vice Mayor Smith moved to move to accept the Town's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Annual Expenditure and Limitation Report

(AELR) for the Year Ended June 30, 2020 as presented. Councilmember Beus seconded the motion and by show of hands the following vote was recorded:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
Mayor Irwin		
Vice Mayor Smith		
Council Member Snitzer		
Council Member Hastings		
Council Member Krigbaum		
Council Member Beus		
Council Member Watson		

Mayor Irwin then declared accepted with a 7-0 vote.

D.3 Reports from Council Committee Liaisons and Town Manager.

Councilmember Krigbaum reported that the TRACKS board is still meeting, but the general meetings are not happening due to Covid-19 restrictions. Save our Park met regarding the acres to be appraised. 4FRI continues to meet but Forest Health has not had any meetings lately.

Councilmember Beus attended the Blue Ridge School Board meeting and reported that all Blue Ridge staff has had the opportunity to receive vaccinations and pre-K through 12th grade will return to in school learning on February 22nd, if they want to. He said that sports activities allowed each athlete to bring two guests to home games only and not away games and they are now allowing two guests to attend home and away games.

Councilmember Hastings reported on the Senior Center and said that the McDonalds in the WalMart and McDonalds will be giving the Senior Center their tables, chairs, booths and long benches. She said that the take-out lunches have been well received. The Senior Center will be putting in a memorial garden. The Senior Center cook has given her two weeks-notice and interviews are currently taking place to fill this position.

Vice Mayor Smith said that the Town Council and Staff will be serving lunch at the Senior Center on March 17, 2021. It will be Corned Beef and Cabbage. He reported that the Transit Advisory Committee has not met and that they will be meeting in March 2021.

Councilmember Watson reported that REAL AZ held a virtual meeting and Magellan Advisors were hired by the County to assist with the broadband infrastructure needs. Magellan has engineering and grant writing in house, so they do not present you with only a plan but they execute from A to Z the actual broadband and infrastructure.

Councilmember Snitzer reported that the Nature Center is still open with reduced winter hours. Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Nature Center is looking for activities to hold during Covid-19. They plan to hold the Spring Carnival over the Memorial Day weekend, depending on CDC guidelines.

Mayor Irwin reported that the Humane Society is currently holding the No Show Fur Ball fundraiser, April 6th is Arizona Gives Day and online donating and they are planning to hold Happy Tails this year on August 28, 2021 at The Orchard. MYAC Committee has gone back to meetings in person and are working on Comfort Kits for students in need and are looking for donations of stuffed animals, blankets, coloring books and crayons.

Town Manager Johnson reported that Town staff is busy preparing for the March 3, 2021 Budget Work Session. The police department was hit hard with Covid-19 losing 1/3 of their staff and the Chief and other staff had to cover extra shifts working 12 hours a day. He said that they are all back to work. Covid-19 numbers are declining in Navajo County, our community and the State. Sixteen percent of the population in Navajo County has received a vaccination. On Tuesday, February 23, 2021, staff will be touring the Fort Tuthill Extreme Flagstaff zip line course and looking at ideas for the Elk Ridge property located behind Safeway. An RFP will be distributed for this project.

E. Adjournment

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:39 p.m.



Stephanie Irwin

Mayor

ATTEST:

Jill Akins
Jill Akins, MMC
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 Town Council of Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona, held on the 18th day of February 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 18th day of February 2021.

Jill Akins
Jill Akins, MMC
Town Clerk

