

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE HONORABLE TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF PINETOP-LAKESIDE, ARIZONA,
HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 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
Paul Watson	Council Member
Jim Snitzer	Council Member
Mazie Hastings	Council Member
Sterling Beus	Council Member

The following Council Member was absent:

Lynn Krigbaum	Council Member
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Also Present:

Keith Johnson	Town Manager
Kevin Rodolph	Finance Director
Jill Akins	Town Clerk
Guy Willis	Police Commander
Tony Alba	Community Services Manager
Bridgette Blake	Library Manager

➤ **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Mayor Irwin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Pastor Diane White delivered the Invocation.

B. Call to the Public

Mayor Irwin called for Public comments.

Tony Alba offered comments to the Council. He announced that the Town is hold an Easter Event at Jack Barker Memorial Park on Friday, April 2, 2021 and Saturday, April 3, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Each day 500 bags of pre-stuffed Easter eggs will be distributed, decorations and music and an appearance by the Easter Bunny. He said it will be a great event and the Town is happy to do this for the children of the community. Every hour a golden egg with be distributed randomly and will be exchanged for an Easter Basket. He said wearing a mask and social distancing are encouraged.

Mayor Irwin commented that today is the one-year anniversary that Birdman Media has been live streaming via Facebook our Town Council Meetings. She also wished Rob Hepner, Birdman Media, a Happy Birthday and stated that she appreciates his help with providing a way for the community to view the meetings.

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.

Vice Mayor Smith moved for passage of the Consent Agenda. 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 Beus		
Council Member Watson		

stated that updates are being presented to all of the Town and Cities Councils in Navajo County on the progress made the previous year by MCAT. He explained that MCAT has been in existence since the early 1990's.

Chief Deputy Swanty presented the following:

Major Crimes Apprehension Team (MCAT)

Multi-Agency Task Force includes: Navajo County Sheriff's Office, Show Low Police Department, Winslow Police Department, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, Arizona DPS Criminal Targeting Unit, Arizona State Gang Force, United States Marshal's Office, Homeland Security Investigations, Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Navajo County Probation Department.

2020 Annual Statistics: Drug/Currency Seizures

- Methamphetamine 166.1 lbs
- Heroin 15.6 lbs
- Cocaine 16.09 lbs
- Marijuana 449.6 lbs
- Fentanyl pills 53,572 pills
- US Currency \$48,361.50

2020 Annual Statistics: Proactive Enforcement Successes

- Physical arrests 96
- Agency assists – Total 323
- Search Warrants 95
- Vehicles 45
- Residential 16
- Agency Assist – PLPD 6

MCAT Significant Activity

- July 2020, MCAT Detectives assisted STPD with information of Fentanyl pills being sold from the Snowflake Mini Storage. A subsequent investigation resulted in a search warrant being served at the manager's residence. The search warrant revealed 200 Fentanyl pills, drug paraphernalia, \$816.00 in US Currency and two firearms. Two subjects were booked into the Navajo County Jail.

- November 2020, MCAT Detectives assisted STPD with an investigation of an overdose death. Information was developed indicating the deceased had purchased Fentanyl from the Snowflake Mini Storage. Detectives served a search warrant on the manager's residence and seized 50 Fentanyl pills, drug paraphernalia, drug sales ledgers and \$2500.00 in US Currency. Three subjects were arrested and booked into the Navajo County Jail. Further investigation may lead to charges of negligent homicide and additional drug related offenses.
- August 2020, MCAT Detectives responded to assist a SLPD Officer who had information on a dangerous drug sales incident. An investigation resulted in the seizure of 81 Fentanyl pills, 5.7 grams of Methamphetamine, 3.5 grams of Heroin and 6.9 grams of Marijuana. The suspects were arrested for dangerous drug sales and crimes against children. The case was turned over to a HITDA Maricopa County Task Force for furtherance.
- May 2020, MCAT Detectives conducted a fraudulent credit card scam stemming from a report taken at Tractor Supply in Show Low. Four subjects were arrested in Apache County.

In response to Councilmember Hastings, Chief Deputy Swanty replied that the canine officers are great partners in assisting law enforcement with drug busts and said that a trained dog is approximately \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00, not including the cost of the specially equipped vehicle. He said that a handler also has to be trained to work with the dog as a team.

In response to Councilmember Watson, Chief Deputy Swanty stated that he did not have statistics off the top of his head for deaths related to drug overdoses but said that he had a report from the Medical Examiner's office per community that he did not include in the presentation and said he did not recall the statistics from memory.

In response to Vice Mayor Smith, Chief Deputy Swanty explained that legal weapons that are recovered and not involved in a crime are returned and if a subject is involved in a felony drug offence involving a weapon, the weapon is seized. A lot of these individuals are prohibited to possess because of criminal history and they are not allowed to have weapons due to their rights being taken away from them. He said the seized weapons are kept through the course of a trial, an appeal process and then the guns are either destroyed or traded to an authorized dealer for ammunition for training cadets.

Pinetop-Lakeside Chief Dan Barnes thanked the Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Clouse and Chief Deputy Swanty for all they do for the Town and the County and said that they do a tremendous amount of work. He stated that they are a great partner for the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside and he appreciates all they do for the Police Department.

D.2 Information and Presentation regarding eliminating overdue fees at the Pinetop-Lakeside Library.

Library Manager Bridgette Blake explained that a Resolution was done by the American Library Association in January 2019. She explained that after research, studies and surveys and reaching out to rural and urban libraries how the use of libraries could be impacted by fees and what was determined was that there are several barriers that come from incurring fees. She said that it was determined that fees affect the most vulnerable and the people less likely unable to pay the fees. Barriers found were the following: barriers to the community and goodwill, relationships can be severed by something such as a small fine and people decide not to come back to use a library because they do not want to or can not due to a small fine. Libraries that have gone fine free have found that circulation has increased, more returns sooner or on time and patron use was increased. She said that items are still returned, and an increase has been shown in "assumed lost" items being returned to libraries.

Ms. Blake explained that the surrounding libraries in Navajo County that have gone fine free are Snowflake, Holbrook, Show Low, Taylor and Winslow. She explained that she has been working with the Navajo County Library Director and they have determined that it is less than \$1.00 per item average in unrecovered fees. She feels that removing fines would be a great benefit to our patrons, remove a barrier for the vulnerable population and increase the goodwill in our community.

In response to Councilmember Beus, Ms. Blake stated that lost items would be charged to the patron.

D.3 Consider accepting Resolution No. 21-1574 and authorizing the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside to approve the grant acceptance and enter into contract with the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Proposition 207 fund.

Police Commander Guy Willis explained that in January 2021, the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department submitted a proposal through the 2021 GOHS,

Proposition 207 Fund (Recreational Marijuana). This grant funding is for equipment and is reimbursable. In March 2021, GOHS accepted our proposal and issued a proposed contract to fund impaired driving equipment. He stated that staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 21-1574, approving acceptance of the grant, and authorizing the advancement of the 2021 GOHS, Proposition 207 Fund (Recreational Marijuana) contract.

Commander Willis said that the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) received funding from the passing of “Proposition 207” (recreational Marijuana). GOHS will be providing 207 grant funding for reducing impaired driving, including conducting training programs, and purchasing equipment for detecting, testing, and enforcing laws against driving, flying, or boating while impaired. Patrol enforcement vehicles are one of the listed equipment items under this grand funding. In the department’s proposal, we asked for funding to purchase an enforcement vehicle, in an amount not to exceed \$55,462.36. This amount includes the base cost of the vehicle and police package upfitting. In the department’s proposal, we agreed to outfit the vehicle with an in-car camera system, radar, and portable breath testing equipment, in the amount of \$8,650.00. This amount will be requested in the FY 21/22 Police Department budget.

Reimbursable grant – Not to exceed	\$55,462.36
Stakeholder Contribution/Other Fund Sources	\$0.00
Town of Pinetop-Lakeside – In Kind Match	\$0.00
Town of Pinetop-Lakeside – Cash Match/Contributions	\$8,650.00

Councilmember Beus moved to adopt and approve Resolution No. 21-1574, authorizing the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside to approve grant acceptance and enter into contract with the Arizona Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, Proposition 207 fund (Recreational Marijuana); authorizing the Chief of Police as agent and/or his designee, for the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents and any other necessary or desirable instrument in connection with such grant. Councilmember Watson seconded the motion and by a show of hands the following vote was recorded:

AYES
 Mayor Irwin
 Vice Mayor Smith
 Council Member Snitzer
 Council Member Hastings
 Council Member Beus

ABSTAIN

NAYS

Council Member Watson

Mayor Irwin then declared Resolution No. 21-1574 approved with a 6-0 vote.

**D.4 Consider approval of the 2021 Police Department Salary Plan
Amendment.**

Town Manager Keith Johnson explained that in 2018 the Town Council approved a new Salary Plan for the officers of the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department. This was necessary because other police departments in the White Mountains had made significant changes to their own salary plans. Recently, agencies in our region made changes again to their department's pay scales. Police Departments nationwide are finding it more difficult to find qualified candidates due to the current climate of intense scrutiny on police officers. This request is made in order to remain competitive with departments in our region and to help retain the staff we have. The department spends a tremendous amount to train our officers and it is in our best interest to do all we can to adequately compensate them. Each month the Council receives a report from the Police Department detailing many of the incidents and crimes that take place in our community. The men and women of this department do a great job helping to keep crime at bay and to protect and serve our citizens.

Town Manager Johnson said that if approved this change would become effective on the payroll period beginning on April 4, 2021. This will cost an additional \$89,000 a year in salaries. This amount does not include overtime or retirement benefits.

In response to Councilmember Beus, Town Manager Johnson stated that this salary increase would make the Police Department in-line with the Navajo County Sherriff's Department salaries and slightly lower than Show Low Police Department.

In response to Vice Mayor Smith, Finance Director Rodolph stated that there would not be a major impact on the PSPRS funding due to this salary increase and he said it will not affect other benefits.

Councilmember Beus moved to approve the 2021 Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department Salary Plan. Councilmember Hastings seconded the motion and by a show of hands the following vote was recorded:

AYES

ABSTAIN

NAYS

Mayor Irwin
Vice Mayor Smith
Council Member Snitzer
Council Member Hastings
Council Member Beus
Council Member Watson

Mayor Irwin then declared approved with a 6-0 vote.

E. Adjournment

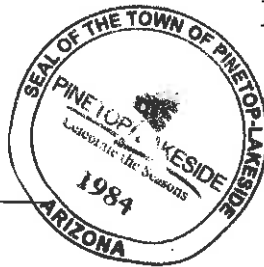
There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:54 p.m.

Stephanie Irwin

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 1st day of April 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 1st day of April 2021.

Jill Akins
Jill Akins, MMC
Town Clerk

