



TOWN OF EAGAR
WORK SESSION TOWN
COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 1, 2025 at 4:30 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 22 WEST 2ND
STREET

MINUTES

Mayor Guy Phelps called the work session to order and welcomed those present. Mayor Phelps requested that the record show all Councilmembers are present except for Councilmembers Titan Merrill, Brandon Slade, and Bryce Burnham.

Councilmembers showed up at the meeting at: Titan Merrill 4:36pm, Brandon Slade 4:34pm, and Bryce Burnham 4:34pm

3. GENERAL DISCUSSION

A. Broadband

Brandon Eagar, Town Manager, provided an update on the broadband project. He reported that JKL vehicles have been seen in town, boring and trenching to install conduit for the broadband fiber. They started on the back streets and are working their way through town. Brandon mentioned that Springerville is almost complete with their conduit installation.

The main corridor of town from Butler to Burk will be covered by the county grant. The additional \$1.5 million congressional discretionary spending will broaden coverage to more areas of town, though full coverage will not be achieved. He explained that it may take 3-5 years for some outlying areas to get service, but the goal is to eventually service every residence.

Manager Eagar noted that while there's minimal direct cost to the town, there have been some waterline breaks during the boring process. He emphasized that aged infrastructure makes it challenging to know what's underground.

B. Fire Station

Manager Eagar stated the fire station construction is progressing. The lumber package for interior framing has arrived, which will allow for completion of electrical work. Ethan Eagar is now the supervisor overseeing the project, which has improved communication and progress.

It was noted that the original budget did not include concrete entrances, parking lots, and other exterior elements. These will be additional expenses in the next fiscal year. The town will need to budget for these items, including a retaining wall on the north end of the building.

The estimated completion time for the fire station was discussed, with the hope of finishing sometime in the summer, though caution was expressed given past delays.

C. Community Center

Town Manager Eagar recommended holding off on the community center project for one more budget year due to financial uncertainties and other ongoing projects. The council agreed with this recommendation, acknowledging the need to be conservative with finances and prioritize existing projects like the fire station and infrastructure improvements.

4. FINANCIAL POSITION

A. Projects Approved That May Carry Over To New Fiscal Year

The discussion covered several ongoing projects:

- Fire Station: Already discussed in the previous section.
- Chip Seal Projects: Town Manager Eagar expressed a desire to continue annual chip seal work in conjunction with the county, citing cost savings and the need to maintain roads.
- Spring Line: A Request for Proposals has been issued for the coordination building. A grant application has been submitted to redo the entire springline piping. The coordination of the building work will serve as part of the town's match for the grant. Additional funding is being sought through congressionally directed spending for springline replacement and a larger tank.
- Hydrants: There is an ongoing WIFA agreement for fire hydrants. Some areas, like the Crosby subdivision, need infrastructure upgrades to support additional hydrants. The council discussed the possibility of consulting an engineering firm to optimize the existing system.
- Drainage Plan: An EPA grant has been approved for a drainage plan. The town's contracted engineering firm is working on this project.

B. Financial Status, Savings, And Debt

David presented the current financial status:

- Cash Position: Just over \$1 million in the operating account and \$7.6 million in LGIP.
- Projected Year-End: Expecting \$900,000 in operating and \$7.9 million in LGIP.
- Revenues: Close to budget for the fiscal year, except for grants.
- Expenditures: Below budget.

The council reviewed potential financial scenarios for the upcoming fiscal year, including various projects and their impact on the budget.

C. PSPRS Unfunded Liability

David Lamm, Finance Director stated the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) current liability is \$2.2 million, down from over \$3 million a few years ago. The town has been contributing \$500,000 annually to reduce this liability.

We recommend paying off the remaining liability (estimated at \$1.8 million) in the next fiscal year. This would save the town approximately \$1.35 million in interest over 15 years.

5. WAGES AND COMPENSATION

A. COLA Proposals

David Lamm presented 3% and 5% COLA scenarios. After discussion, the council wants to move forward with proposing a 3% COLA for the upcoming fiscal year, balancing employee retention with financial constraints.

B. Vacation And Sick Accrual

David Lamm presented the vacation and sick leave accrual rates, comparing them to neighboring municipalities. The council agreed proposing to increase the accrual rates to match Apache County's, which is 5 hours per pay period for both vacation and sick leave for the 2025-2026 fiscal.

C. 457 Plan Participation Rate

D. 457 Plan Full Participation Budget

The council discussed item C and D together. David Lamm stated the town's 457 retirement plan. Currently, 21 employees participate in the plan. The town matches 5% of an employee's salary at 100%, and half of anything over 5% up to 10%. The total contribution for the current fiscal year is expected to be \$56,000. The council agreed to maintain the current contribution rates.

6. FIRE DEPARTMENT

A. Budget And Staffing

Manager Eagar proposed increasing the number of full-time positions from 3 to 4 for the next fiscal year. He also recommended rejoining PSPRS, which would cost about \$50,000 but allow the department to hire experienced firefighters who already have PSPRS time.

The long-term goal is to have 15 full-time firefighters within the next 5 years, utilizing personnel grants to offset costs. This staffing increase would allow for negotiations with White Mountain Ambulance for a shared certificate of necessity, potentially generating revenue for the fire department.

B. Dispatch Services To Show Low

This item was not discussed during the meeting.

C. Yearly Report

The fire department's yearly report was mentioned but not discussed in detail. Manager Eagar stated that copies are provided to council members.

D. PSPRS- Submission

This item was covered in the budget and staffing discussion.

7. POLICE DEPARTMENT

A. Police Budget And Staffing

Manager Eagar stated the police department budget is expected to remain close to the current year's budget. There was a request for an additional half-time animal control officer, but this is still under negotiation with the shared services committee.

8. CAPITAL PROJECTS

A. Capital Projects For New Fiscal Year And Prioritize

The council briefly discussed capital projects for the new fiscal year, with priorities listed in the order presented on the agenda.

B. Concrete And Outside Finishings- Fire Station

This item was covered in the earlier fire station discussion.

C. Springline- WIFA Grant

This item was covered in the earlier spring line discussion.

D. Bleachers- Rec Center

It was mentioned that additional bleachers are needed at the recreation center to replace unsafe wooden ones.

E. Playground Equipment

This item was not discussed during the meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman William Greenwood made a motion to adjourn at [at 6:49 p.m.]. Vice-mayor Marsha Tucker seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote:	Ayes:	Guy Phelps
		Marsha Tucker
		Titan Merrill
		Brandon Slade
		Ray Hamblin
		William Greenwood
		Bryce Burnham

Attest: _____

Mayor: _____

Vice-Mayor: _____

Council: _____

CERTIFICATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of the Town of Eagar, Arizona held on April 1, 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Jessica Vaughan, Town Clerk