

**TOWN OF KEARNY
TOWN COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION**

**A STUDY SESSION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF KEARNY, ARIZONA,
AT THE KEARNY TOWN HALL LOCATED AT 912-C TILBURY DRIVE ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, AT 9:00 A.M.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor	Sam Hosler
Vice Mayor	Dan Radcliffe
Councilmember	Lana Dalton (Telephonically)
Councilmember	Rudy Flores
Councilmember	Nancy Hinojos
Councilmember	Sheila Stephenson

TOWN STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager	Anna Flores
Town Clerk	Cathy Woolery
Interim Chief of Police	Dave Blue

VISITORS PRESENT

Don Jones	Tino Flores
Ken Strobeck	Phil Rosato
Jean Slater	Gwen Dinwiddie
Mike Dinwiddie	Diana Herrick
Debra Sommers	Sally Denny
James Hosea	Darlene Hosea
Bob Jordan	Sherrie Jordan
Sgt. Rudy Lujan	Dave Orzell

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hosler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Hosler requested Town Clerk, Cathy Woolery, to call the roll. Quorum was present.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES

Mayor Hosler started with introductions, stated this is a study session for the Council for possible regional police services, and thanked the Mayors for being here and who have also been meeting for over a year now. Mayor Hosler introduced Interim Chief Blue to present an overview of regional police services. Interim Chief Blue gave an overview of the structure of the regional police services which includes a possible coalition of all four towns, Hayden, Winkelman, Mammoth, and Kearny. A merit board will be the quality control check for the coalition and will be comprised of the type of members the towns decide on. Process would include getting each Town's approval, getting attorneys involved, insurance and labor groups, and possible task force. The organizational model of the

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coalition would be one Chief, three Sergeants, officers specific to each community to keep community relations, and administration. The merit board will control all operational functions and decisions. For example, services will be decided by the questions of what are we doing right, what are we doing wrong, and what can be improved. The Board will be the decision maker and management of the coalition. Mayor Jones from Mammoth suggested that the merit board may be similar to the County Board of Supervisors. Mayor Hosler stated he would be in favor of a board with a clear purpose. Interim Chief Blue stated the IGA must be clear and concise as to what each community wants from the coalition. He emphasized that DPS is only here to build the infrastructure and will not be running the operation. Operating as a coalition with consistent standards with the four communities he thinks will build morale in the agency and in the towns. Ken Strobeck, Executive Director of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, stated the three requirements which Towns and cities must do are: 1) take over streets and roads, 2) provide for administration and leaders, and 3) provide police services. He said the Council needs to have control over the board because they are elected by the people. He also said the coalition is a very efficient way of having police services due to the economies of scale for resources because the infrastructure would not be able to be built by the communities by themselves, standards would be higher, and this has been done in many communities with IGAs between cities, towns, counties, districts. The League can help in figuring out what needs to go into the IGA and what is legally necessary. He stated it is important that each Town Council gets reports from the oversight merit board and make the appointments to the oversight board. Ken expressed he feels operationally this coalition will be more efficient, is a wonderful model, and works because of geographic location and cooperation between the communities. Interim Chief Blue added that the foundation is important to be built and will be done with expertise that DPS can offer. Councilmember Stephenson asked how many representatives would be on the board from each community. Interim Chief Blue stated either one or two from each community, and impartial party would be the President of the board. Ken Strobeck commented that cost allocation could be allocated by population, size of boundaries, or by units of service with various ways of allocation. Mayor Hosler expressed also could be allocated because of the budget differences with the towns. Mammoth Mayor Jones stated the budget figure provided to him by financial analyst was \$1.8M combined for police services. Councilmember Stephenson asked about administrative staff. Interim Chief Blue stated the Chief would be responsible for the budget so administration would be determined based on budget. Also, the structure of the administrative staff to include human resources, accounts payable, budget, and payroll would have to be looked at with more details. Councilmember Stephenson stated she thought it would take more than one person to do all the administrative functions. Interim Chief Blue also expressed upfront this is not cost savings but down the road there will be cost savings with having the quality control which would reduce high turnover and also having more mandates such as labor laws. Mayor Hosler expressed when the coalition is started up he wants to ensure the communities are not saddled with a high financial burden. Councilmember Stephenson asked if there was only one Sergeant per town, and Interim Chief Blue stated this is only a model and that can be adjusted to the needs the communities want. Mayor Hosler talked about having a very carefully shaped process to keep citizens involved and have communication between the towns. Interim Chief Blue stated the experts from DPS will come and put systematic processes in place. Ken Strobeck suggested having a working group with representatives from each town to get the process started. Both the League and DPS have legal experts to assist in the process. Vice Mayor Radcliffe asked about the organizational chart and 22 officers in comparison to what the towns have currently, and that number is more which will cost the towns more. Interim Chief Blue stated the cost savings from sharing the cost of a chief will be paid out to the officer

level. Pay structure within the officers would all be consistent within the four communities because it will be one agency. Councilmember Hinojos asked if the officers assigned to Kearny will remain in Kearny. Interim Chief Blue said each community will have specific officers for each community because they know the community, have customer relations, and know the criminal activity of the town. Mayor Hosler expressed the Sergeants would be the key person as the head of the squad for each community, and developing relationships with the areas. Mayor Smith from Hayden stated for community events there is also help from outside agencies such as the Sherriff department. Ken Strobeck commented that in regards to cost savings the whole idea for forming the coalition is that it would create cost savings, economies of scale, and better quality of service, and also combining budgets will result in savings over time. Interim Chief Blue clarified costs savings is down the road and comes with combining operations and resources such as centralized dispatch, repeaters, equipment. Additionally, incident command processes that are already in place for Kearny would also benefit the whole region. Councilmember Stephenson commented on getting a higher quality of officers, fewer turnovers of chiefs, having less dissension, and the department getting set up with improved quality, and with the turnover someone comes in and undoes all the work that has been done. Mayor Jones also commented on the turnover of officers and Chief in Mammoth, but he needs a selling point of the cost savings to the public and needs numbers to be able to sell it. He also believes the independent person on the merit board needs to be a DPS officer. Mayor Hosler stated that it may cost some towns more and some towns less dependent on budgets, and need actual numbers for the proposal. Mayor Smith said if you take the salary and benefits from each community and combine them, then you would be able to take approximately \$300 and pay half to the chief, and the rest of it is savings which could be paid at the officer level to reduce turnover and get higher quality. Ken Strobeck commented the quality and efficiency the coalition would provide would create the cost savings, and each community can adjust level of coverage, service, hours, and other controllable variables which would adjust the cost. Mayor Hosler commented he wouldn't mind even if it costs a little more as long as it results in better service and quality for the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Mayor Radcliffe, **second** by Councilmember Hinojos to adjourn. **Vote** - all members voted unanimously. **MOTION PASSED.** Regular Session adjourned at 9:55 a.m.



Sam Hosler, Mayor



Anna Flores, Town Manager

ATTEST:



Cathy Woolery, Town Clerk