



**JOINT COUNCIL MEETING TOWN OF EAGAR & TOWN OF SPRINGERVILLE  
EAGAR COUNCIL CHAMBER, 22 WEST 2ND STREET, EAGAR AZ 85925  
JANUARY 24, 2023 AT 6:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**1. WELCOME AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Mayor Steve Erhart called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Erhart requested that the record show all Councilmembers are present.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Steve Erhart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. INVOCATION:**

Councilman Ray Hamblin offered the invocation.

**5. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Erhart explained to that Council wishes to move the discussion from Item 5 B. forward to allow public input prior to the Councils possibly going into Executive Session.

**5 B. Discussion:**

Mayor Erhart informed he will be making short statement on what this agreement is. The shared service agreement is combining the police and fire departments. The police department will be based out of Springerville and the fire department will be based out of Eagar. The officers and firefighters will continue to report to their perspective chief who will report to the Town Manager. This will be the same as now, but in a combined fashion. This agreement is basically Snowflake/Taylor's modified for Springerville/Eagar. They have used this agreement for 25-30 years. This agreement is being used as a model across Arizona for shared services. Both Town Managers met with the Snowflake/Taylor managers and discussed the do's and don'ts. They also reached out to other towns to avoid previously solved problems. In the criteria the towns looked at the following: Does it make sense? Does it provide a better coverage? Is economically responsible to the citizens. If so they felt they had an obligation to proceed. There is a savings from this shared service agreement that help us become more competitive with wages moving into the new fiscal

year. Eagar plans a wage assessment study in the new year. He further told the public if any of them would like a copy of the agreement Jessica or Kelsi can get your email to send it to you.

Jody Emerald addressed the Mayors and Councils. She is here to clarify some of the confusion that has been brought up regarding the merger in the police department. It is concerning that in the last two months we have had five police officers leave Eagar and Springerville, with a possibility of two more leaving in the upcoming weeks. Springerville Police Department is considered fully staffed with seven officers serving 1,700 people and Eagar fully staffed with six officers serving 4,400 people with the population significantly rising over the summer. Therefore, thirteen officers is considered fully staffed. We are currently at eight officers including a new officer in field training. She is worried about the safety of the towns and officers with lack of backup due to being short staffed She is not opposed to the merger, however, what is the plan to resolve the staffing issues? She further asked if anyone from the police departments been involved with the discussions of these issues? And if they do merge how many officers will would make a fully staffed police department? With the increase to cost of living and having few options for rentals/ homes she feels no one is going to apply for these positions with the wages being offered. She feels another issue although the Town Manager disagrees, she doesn't feel it is in the best interest of the police department to have to answer to a defense attorney. She feels it is a conflict, it may be legal, but it is a direct conflict. She explained how they play for different teams.

Mayor Erhart explained they plan to have twelve sworn officers and we have ads out to try to attract lateral officers and to fill the immediate need. We are planning on the savings from the combined department being able to help us bring our wages up. Historically we have paid higher than the County. Recently they did a big jump because they were losing officers. We are going to do the best we can but the County and Show Low have higher budgets, even combined. It's a reality, but we are planning to do the best we can.

Councilor Seeley answered regarding the concern of conflict. In the contract the police department will answer to Springerville. Her understanding the Manager of Springerville will be over the police department and the Manager of Eagar will be informed. If the two Managers can't come to a conclusion on something it will go to a shared service commission.

Mayor Erhart further explained the shared service commission only has an advisory role that comes into play if there is a disagreement between to the two managers and even then only in a rare scenario. All the officers will answer to their Chief in Springerville. That Chief will answer to their manager. Same with fire services in Eagar.

Brett Rigg the Town Attorney for Eagar explained his role as the town attorney and a prosecutor for Springerville and Eagar. He reviews the charges, evidence, and what he thinks we can prove if this goes to charges. He has experience as a defense attorney as well. That is helpful to have both sides.

Brannon Eagar addressed the Mayors and Councils. He thanked the two Councils for the work they have done to move this forward. This is a big deal and needed to happen years ago. He does not see any issues. Their maybe some differences and hardships, but he encourages those questions to be asked so they can have the best outcome for the officers and firefighters and they can take care of

all of us in these communities. As a community we have come together countless times to support each other regardless if we are in Springerville or Eagar. He is not afraid of Eagar losing its identity. We won't be competing for personnel between the two different towns, and instead pull our resources together to attract people and sustaining quality officers. He again thanked them.

Terry Shove addressed the Mayors and Councils with happiness to see them all together. She briefed on her involvement around town. She has been to numerous town council meetings for both councils and believes we are going down a path to work together. She has discussed this with many people and has yet to find anyone opposed to merging of the police and fire departments. She gave an example of an activity she put on at the dome inviting Springerville Fire and Eagar Police, and how the two departments came together for the kids without being asked. When there is a fire, both fire departments respond, when there is a big bust, both police departments respond. If they can do this under one chief there will only be one point of what is going on and this will help with confusing. She thanked them for doing this for the progress of our town.

Steve Nicoll addressed the Mayors and Councils. He is very grateful to see this, it has been a long time coming. This has been discussed before and for whatever reason they were unable to combine. This will benefit our community, more importantly than the money we will save, this will unity our towns. He thanked them for this.

**A. EXECUTIVE SESSION AS ALLOWED BY A.R.S § 38-431.03.A4 DISCUSSION OR CONSULTATION WITH THE ATTORNEYS OF THE PUBLIC BODY IN ORDER TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS ATTORNEYS REGARDING THE PUBLIC BODYS POSITION REGARDING CONTRACTS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS, IN PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION OR IN SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO AVOID OR RESOLVE LITIGATION- SHARED SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EAGAR AND THE TOWN OF SPRINGERVILLE.**

Eagar Councilwoman Debra Seeley made a motion to go into Executive Session [at 6:21 p.m.] Councilor Bryce Burnham seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote: Ayes: Steve Erhart  
Marsha Tucker  
Debra Seeley  
John Phelps  
Brandon Slade  
Bryce Burnham  
Ray Hamblin

Springerville Vice-mayor Richard Davis made a motion to go into Executive Session [at 6:21 p.m.] Councilor Douglas Henderson seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.5-0

Vote: Ayes: Shelly Reidhead  
Richard Davis  
Douglas Henderson

Donald Scott  
Florencio Lozoya

## RECONVENE INTO SPECIAL SESSION

Eagar Councilwoman Debra Seeley made a motion to reconvene back into special meeting [at 6:48 p.m.] Councilor John Phelps seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote: Ayes: Steve Erhart  
Marsha Tucker  
Debra Seeley  
John Phelps  
Brandon Slade  
Bryce Burnham  
Ray Hamblin

Springerville Councilor Douglas Henderson made a motion to reconvene back into special meeting [at 6:48 p.m.] Vice-mayor Richard Davis seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.5-0

Vote: Ayes: Shelly Reidhead  
Richard Davis  
Douglas Henderson  
Donald Scott  
Florencio Lozoya

## B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR SHARED SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EAGAR AND THE TOWN OF SPRINGERVILLE (MAYOR STEVE ERHART)

Eagar Vice-mayor Marsha Tucker made a motion to accept the shared services agreement effective immediately. Councilor Brandon Slade seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote: Ayes: Steve Erhart  
Marsha Tucker  
Debra Seeley  
John Phelps  
Brandon Slade  
Bryce Burnham  
Ray Hamblin

Springerville Vice-mayor Richard Davis made a motion to approve the shared services agreement between the Town of Eagar and the Town of Springerville. Councilor Donald Scott seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 5-0

Vote: Ayes: Shelly Reidhead  
Richard Davis  
Douglas Henderson  
Donald Scott  
Florencio Lozoya

Mayor Reidhead announced we are going to be the Round Valley Police Department and the Round Valley Fire Department.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Eagar Councilwoman Debra Seeley made a motion to adjourn at [at 6:50 p.m.]. Councilor Bryce Burnham seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 7-0

Vote: Ayes: Steve Erhart  
Marsha Tucker  
Debra Seeley  
John Phelps  
Brandon Slade  
Bryce Burnham  
Ray Hamblin

Springerville Vice-mayor Richard Davis made a motion to adjourn at [at 6:51 p.m.]. Councilor Douglas Henderson seconded; all were in favor, motion carried unanimously. 5-0

Vote: Ayes: Shelly Reidhead  
Richard Davis  
Douglas Henderson  
Donald Scott  
Florencio Lozoya

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Shelly Reidhead, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in a Regular Meeting on \_\_\_\_\_. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

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Kelsi Miller, Town Clerk