

## Mayor's Report on Prescott Water System Acquisition 1/21/2016

By now, most of our citizens have probably heard that the Town of Chino Valley's attempt to purchase the Prescott water distribution system within our town did not go forward. This is an unfortunate turn of events, since the purchase would have immediately brought lower water bills for many of our residents, and over the course of time brought relief for all of Chino Valley's municipal water customers. It also would have allowed the Town to determine its own economic future to a great extent, since fire flows and municipal water systems are critical factors in retail development. Although the attempted acquisition was an extremely time consuming and complex process with many moving parts, it was still worth a try. I would like to thank all those who have invested their time and energy into trying to make this happen; it would have been wonderful to be able to lower the cost of living for our residents and restore the control of the Town's economy to her own citizens, rather than having it in the hands of a neighboring municipality.

The next question for Chino Valley is: Where do we go from here? As a town, we have a number of different options which we will need to further explore; in the next few months we will be looking at the feasibility of those options and then begin moving forward. Not to worry: achieving our economic independence is not an easy process, but it is well worth pursuing. We have made some good progress in the last few years, and hopefully we can continue in the years to come.

Chris Marley, Mayor of Chino Valley