

Mayor's Report on the Water and Sewer Bond Proposal

Since I have been in office as Mayor, I have received numerous questions regarding such diverse subjects as retail choices, jobs, economic development, road repair, and utility costs (both water and sewer). The good news is: Meeting all the above challenges will be the focus of the Utility Project Committee which is meeting this month, after which the Committee will bring a recommendation whether or not to place a water and sewer bond issue on the ballot this fall.

Now for the bad news: This is our second attempt to bring this proposal before the public, and the stakes are now higher than ever. At the Town Council meetings on April 8th and April 22nd, our Council members each announced their choice of appointee for the committee, and the process of reviewing the feasibility of a possible bond measure began. After the reports are all reviewed, the committee will bring their recommendation to Town Council, and the Council will decide whether or not to place the bond measure on the ballot. I would urge our citizens to pay close attention to the committee's proceedings, as the outcome will affect our residents tremendously.

As I said earlier, the stakes are high: sewer and water along part of the Highway 89 commercial corridor will pave the way for more retail choices, purchase of the two water distribution systems will allow a reduction of water rates for many of our residents, fire protection in the town will be tripled, the operating cost of the waste treatment plant will be reduced, money will be made available for road repair, and the increase in reclaimed effluent will translate into a greater rate of recharge into our aquifer.

As your Mayor, I would support a General Obligation bond for the Town. Preliminary numbers show the additional annual taxes in the \$30 to \$220 range, with the average citizen's taxes going up approximately \$115 (depending on property valuation). I realize that an additional tax burden is asking a lot of our residents, but at the end of the day I believe this is a small price to pay for a dramatic increase in the economic health of our community.

Chris Marley, Mayor of Chino Valley