

## Mayor's Report 2/19/2015 Study Session

Looking back on life, some of our greatest blessings oftentimes started out as disappointments. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Chino Valley Town Council met to begin a series of study sessions on resolving our budget issues. As Council members arrived to take their seats, the room swelled almost to capacity with citizens concerned about which programs would be affected. The first budget study session of the year is crucial to the process, because it lays the groundwork for the next three months of details. As the minutes ticked by, it became apparent that we might not have sufficient members to hold the study session. A quorum of four is required for the Council to meet, and two of our Councilmembers, Mr. Wojcik and Mr. Turner (who was driving up from Phoenix) had not yet arrived. Two Councilmembers who were present, Ms. Hatch and Ms. McKee, announced that they were feeling ill and left. Councilmembers Mike Best, Darryl Croft and I looked out at a room full of people who had come expecting answers regarding the fate of the pool, the library, and other town programs. One phrase immediately came to mind... lynch mob. Fortunately, a large percentage of the crowd was young folks from the high school who were interested in the summer swimming program. Trying to outrun a bunch of high school wrestlers and football players simply wasn't an option for three old guys, so we cancelled the meeting and spent the evening just visiting with them and answering their questions. What an enjoyable time that turned out to be. I can't remember ever meeting a nicer group of folks since entering office, and I would like to commend their parents for raising such great kids. They were attentive as we explained the challenges that the Town faced, they asked insightful questions, and they brainstormed ways to raise funds to keep the pool open for another season. Hopefully we can make that happen.

Chris Marley, Mayor of Chino Valley