

Mayor's Report on Measurable Progress 3/30/2015

Awhile back, I had the opportunity to do a radio interview in which the topic was a retrospective look at the challenges and accomplishments of the last four years in office. Admittedly, things look much simpler from a spectator's viewpoint as opposed to being in the ring itself, but one should expect a reasonable amount of progress after almost four years at any task. Having spent most of my life in the electrical and mechanical trades, I'm used to being able to see measurable progress at the end of the day- and unfortunately that just isn't the case when working in government.

When our Council was seated four years ago, we had an ongoing lawsuit with the City of Prescott which was making several attorneys a nice living, but accomplished nothing for the Town of Chino Valley. We also had a wastewater treatment plant which, due to a number of problems, was slowly strangling the town financially. As an added bonus, our town's water system was running in the red to the tune of about \$90,000 per year and we had a huge lawsuit which would most likely be coming to trial during our term in office.

To their credit, the Chino Valley Town Council stood their ground and met each of these challenges head on. While the decisions have involved numerous moving parts and none of those decisions have been easy, I believe we made the best choices that we could with the circumstances at hand. Unfortunately, many of the challenges that our present Council have been dealing with came as a result of decisions made long before our time. Had the area remained a farming community with no high density population areas, private wells and septic tanks would have served all of Chino Valley's utility needs perfectly. Unfortunately, higher density areas such as apartments and closely packed subdivisions require municipal water and wastewater treatment. It's just a fact of life. Rather than lamenting the decisions of past councils or kicking the problem down the road for future councils, the folks on your Town Council have faced each of these and diligently worked to find the best answer. And for that, I applaud them.

Chris Marley, Mayor of Chino Valley