

Mayor's Report on Wastewater Treatment Part 1

How to keep a rural environment with wells and septic systems while providing affordable sewer services is a tall order, but Chino Valley could never have even considered the possibility until this year. With the refinancing of the wastewater treatment plant finally accomplished, it appears that we can now move forward with that goal and at the same time address a problem that the Town Council identified over three years ago. In a study session on January 5th of 2012, the Chino Valley Town Council presented to the public the results of a series of strategic planning workshops. In those workshops the Council had identified the need to restructure the Town's sewer hookup fees and regulations such as the Town's mandatory 400' connection requirement. Both of these requirements were considered by the Council to be overly burdensome to the Town's citizens, and both served as a hindrance to the overall economic health of the town. Unfortunately, neither one could be dealt with prior to the purchase of the Town's wastewater treatment plant, since changing a Town code in order to avoid paying one's bills would be considered breach of contract in most states. Now that the plant is being operated by the Town, those items can be considered for future Council agendas. Even with the busy schedule ahead of Town Council in the coming months, hopefully we will see a revision to the Town Code in front of Council before the end of summer.

Before we begin looking at various sewer ordinances in detail, I would like to take a moment and thank the many citizens who took the time to contact me over the last couple of weeks with their questions regarding the wastewater treatment plant purchase agreement, various bond issues, and the like. Rather than responding to individuals, over the next two weeks I hope to get a couple of articles published which will provide all of our citizens with an overview of the numerous challenges surrounding the actual purchase of our wastewater treatment plant. If all goes well, I should be able to address the details of the wastewater treatment plant purchase in one article and the challenges faced in the purchase itself in a second article. Hopefully that will provide our citizens with what Paul Harvey used to call "The Rest of the Story".

Chris Marley, Mayor of Chino Valley