

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WATER AND SEWER  
COMMISSION OF  
THE TOWN OF STAR VALLEY  
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010 @ 1:00PM  
3632 EAST HIGHWAY 260, STAR VALLEY, AZ  
STAR VALLEY TOWN HALL**

- **CALL TO ORDER:**
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
- **ROLL CALL:**

 **Roll Call.**

**Present:** Chairperson Leis, Vice-Chairperson Davis, Commission Member Heath, Commission Member Lyons, Commission Member Sanchez, Executive Assistant Josie Castillo (Not voting).

**Absent/Excused:** Commission Member Hibbert, Commission Member Van Horn.

- **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Discussion of Tetra Tech Preliminary Sanitary Sewer Master Plan and recommendation for presentation to Town Council on March 16, 2010.**

Chairperson Leis stated that the Commission has received the final report from Tetra Tech and all requested changes have been made; some requested changes are verbatim.

Chairperson Leis stated that this report will be valuable today and twenty years from today and specific regarding the engineering requirements and site selections. The cost, based on 2010 dollars is \$46M and will increase approximately 3% annually to \$62K in 10 years.

Chairperson Leis reviewed the INTRODUCTION on page one including the bulleted points and page 2 paragraph 2 regarding *State Nor Federal Regulators*. Chairperson Leis stated that the presentation to the Town Council will not be an action item, rather a *presentation and review* on March 16, 2010. Chairperson Leis stated that he would appreciate the presence of all the Commission Members at this Town Council Meeting. Chairperson Leis stated that the Commission will receive challenges from various facets and wants to proceed very carefully and simply present the facts as supported in the sanitary sewer plan from Tetra Tech's certified professional engineer. Commission Member Lyons stated that he agreed that the Commission will be faced with many challenges and stated that all the water sources in Star Valley have experienced a rising trend in nitrate contamination and he is willing to make Star Vale's water reports public to verify his claim. Chairperson Leis stated the Council has to give direction to the Water & Sewer Commission and will "set the tone" as to how the Commission will proceed in the future. Chairperson Leis continued by stating that if the Council is unable to direct the Commission, the Commission can and will proceed forth. Chairperson Leis stated that since the beginning of the sanitary sewer plan, three (3) wells have been documented to be contaminated and this information will be channeled through county and state agencies. Hence, Chairperson Leis stated that the Town needs to be prepared for these governmental agencies to intervene and force Star Valley to install a sanitary sewer system. Chairperson Leis stated that the Council must direct the Commission as to how to

proceed so as to allow for growth, including commercial growth. Chairperson Leis stated that he expects 90% of the Council will be supportive of the Water & Sewer Commissions efforts. Commission Member Heath stated that if the federal agencies intervene regarding the Towns' sewer needs, they likely will also address the water issues facing the Town. The Commission discussed the need to protect the Towns' water source by installing a sanitary sewer system. The Commission discussed the fact that there does not appear to be any recourse for government intervention for private well owners unless a rental property is at issue. The Commission discussed septic systems and grandfathered septic systems that have not been reported as failing or seeping. Vice-Chairperson Davis stated that the Commission still needs to gather well data in order to establish contamination trends to proceed forth with the sanitary sewer plan and Commission Member Lyons concurred. Vice-Chairperson Davis stated that he views the Commission's role as staff work that provides the technical data and recommendations to the "policy people" which he considers to be the Council Members. Vice-Chairperson Davis stated that the Commission needs to recommend to the Council to adopt the sanitary sewer plan from Tetra Tech and implement the recommendations in the plan. Chairperson Leis stated that he does not want to tell the Council Member what the key moves they need to make, rather would like the Council to take ownership along with the Water & Sewer Commission. Commission Member Sanchez stated that the Commission needs to request that the Council give them further direction and provide the Council with charts regarding water contamination trends. Vice-Chairperson Davis stated that he feels the Council will want more than a plan and will want a driving force or impetus to move in a certain direction. Chairperson Leis replied that Vice-Chairperson's suggestion in his estimation is phase two of how the Commission should proceed since the Commission does not yet have water contamination trend data. Commission Member Sanchez stated that he agrees with Vice-Chairperson Davis' approach and make the recommendation to the Council. The Commission continued this discussion at length. The Commission agreed to present their recommendations in phases, with time frames for each phase. Commission Member Heath stated that he feels the Commission needs to explore other municipalities of similar population size, that operate their own wastewater collection and treatment system on a non-property tax basis. Chairperson Leis stated that he will approach the Council with the fact that the Commission has an engineering study, provide some details on the study and request that the Council accept the report as a base study to proceed forth with subsequent studies. Chairperson Leis stated that the Commission will then return in six (6) months or sooner, with recommendations, updates and potential cost impacts for each recommendation for the Council to consider. The Commission discussed the importance of not scheduling too late into the year and interfere with the holidays. Chairperson Leis selected sub-committees as follow: Vice-Chairperson Davis is assigned to acquire well data to establish water quality trends; Commission Members Heath and Sanchez will locate three (3) similar sanitary sewer systems to arrange for a tour to determine construction costs, time frames, funding, etc.; Commission Members Lyons and Hibbert are assigned to investigate financing options; the Commission as a group will approach the Board of the NGCSD to further explore the option of annexing and discussed the process involved for this option; Chairperson Leis, Vice-Chairperson Davis and Commission Member Van Horn will explore *Option 1* (Star Valley developing its own sanitary sewer department), *Option 2* (annexing into the NGCSD) and *Option 3* (contract with the Tonto Apache Tribe for sewage treatment). Chairperson Leis encouraged that the Commission Members be creative in their research as individual committees and reminded all the Commission Members to be present at the presentation to Council on March 16, 2010 at 6:30pm at Star Valley Town Hall.

**Commission Member Heath made a motion to present the sewer project report, make future recommendations to be completed within six (6) months and Commission Member Lyons seconded the motion.  
The motion is voted on and passed 5-0.**

Commission Member Heath stated that on *page 28* of the sanitary sewer plan, *Option 2*, a *Positive Factor* mentioning that NGCSD will be responsible for all regulatory compliances is missing. The Commission discussed the importance of making this change and Chairperson Leis stated that he will bring this to Mr. Goldman's attention.

•  **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**  
No comments

• **ADJOURNMENT:**  
Vice-Chairperson Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commission Member Lyons seconded the motion.  
The motion is voted on and passed 5-0.

**Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> Day of May, 2010.**

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Vern Leis, Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Josie Castillo, Executive Assistant

**CERTIFICATION:**

**I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission of the Town of Star Valley held on this day, the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.**

**Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010**

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Josie Castillo, Executive Assistant