

**(Corrected) MINUTES
TOWN OF CAMP VERDE
SPECIAL SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
473 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 106
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 at 4:30 P.M.**

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89274910202?pwd=ZC9kSWN4eE9ydXE1VEpUTFRZMHZodz09>

One Tap Mobile: 1-346-248-7799 or 1-669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 892 7491 0202

Passcode: 770157

Note: Council member(s) may attend Council Sessions either in person or by telephone, video, or internet conferencing.

1. **Call to Order** Mayor Dee Jenkins called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Council Members Jackie Baker, Bill LeBeau, Cris McPhail Jessie Murdock, Robin Whatley (Zoom), Vice Mayor Joe Butner, and Mayor Dee Jenkins.

Others Present: Town Manager Russ Martin, Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton, Finance Director Mike Showers, Community Development Director Melinda Lee, Judge Paul Schlegel, , Court Supervisor Veronica Pineda, Library Director Kathy Hellman, Human Resource Director Brandy Cabrera, Marshal Corey Rowley, and Recording Secretary Jenny Buck

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** Councilor McPhail led the pledge.
4. **Discussion and Consultation for legal advice regarding the Yavapai Apache Water Settlement.** The Council may, by majority vote, recess the special meeting, hold an executive session and then reconvene the Regular meeting for discussion and possible action on this item as covered under A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A)(1); (A)(2); (A)(3); (A)(4); (A)(5); (A)(6); (A)(7); (A)(8); and (A)(9).

On a motion by Councilor Baker seconded by Councilor McPhail Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:32 p.m.

Council Recessed Special Session at 4:32 p.m.

Council reconvened Special Session at 5:48 p.m.

5. **Presentations by various Department Representatives regarding the Camp Verde Operational requests for Fiscal Year 21-22.** Finance Director Mike Showers introduced the Operations Presentations. He explained the department heads would be presenting accomplishments, goals and any additional budgetary needs for their departments. The package provided to

council is setup with a CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) section. The CIP is separate will be discussed near the end of the day tomorrow. The first page is the strategic plan goals developed in February. Mr. Showers asked Council to identify and call out any confusing wording or statements. The town should be finding ways to meet as many goals as possible. The packet includes a title page and an outline of tonight and tomorrow.

The packet contents for Council includes an outline, summary, and expense summaries per department.

All five years of information is available to view. Every project is listed in the back. The projects are detailed in the summary so that they can be flipped to in the detailed sections. Mr. Showers encouraged the discussion to remain focused on larger items and concepts. He stressed the importance of making sure that council has a good overall understanding of the information presented and mentioned it is best not to get to detailed during the session.

Councilor Baker complimented the book and how it is put together.

Community Development Director Melinda Lee started her presentation. She pointed out that there aren't a lot of changes to expenses this year in her department. There are not a lot of new items except wages. The wages increase is due to a request for increased staff. Community Development is requesting two additional roles, a Planner and a Zoning Inspector.

Ms. Lee currently acts as the Planner and her workload is starting to spread out to tasks for the revitalization of the Town, working with an organization doing fields clean up in Northern Arizona, and other Community Development projects. Those items are taking time away from time available to complete planning tasks. Because of the increase in applications that are being received by the Community Development Department it is becoming necessary to have an additional position in the planner role. Currently there is an Assistant Planner, but the Assistant Planner is not a Career Planner who can complete all the necessary tasks.

The Assistant Planner has also been fielding zoning issues. Any permit with a footprint generally requires a zoning inspection to be completed. A Zoning Inspector usually handles all field and zoning issues for a city. This is the second position requested for the Community Development Department. The increase in submitted permits over the last several months has created zoning tasks that are taking over some of the planning time available for the Department.

A large document scanner is also being requested in the budget for the Community Development Department. There are currently documents in storage that need to be scanned and can't be scanned with the current equipment. The archive requirements for the town mean that the documents need to be scanned and shared with other agencies more efficiently.

Signs for the Town of Camp Verde Main Street are also in the Community

Development budget request. The signs are a project that has been worked on for the last several years. One of the items that facilitated this project was in regard to the A-frame signs that businesses were using to advertise on Main Street. The solution that was proposed was to provide hanging signs that would be attached at the businesses along Main Street. The budget request is \$13k. This is less than the initial \$30k estimate. The \$13k would allow for brackets, 18 poles, and approximately 30 signs. They would be decorative and a package can be put together for Council to view the design. The signs would be blanks that acquired by the Town and the businesses would be required to add their business information to the signs. The request is in the CIP section of the packet for this project.

Ms. Lee also mentioned, the Community Development Department may require recruiting a new person due to a retirement.

Ms. Lee presented to Council in regards to the department's available office space. The current office space is limited and may need to be expanded as the department grows. Ms. Lee mentioned the department may need to expand the available office space as the department receives authorization for additional staff. Once the staffing plan is in place then better numbers and information can be presented to Council.

Mayor Jenkins wanted to clarify the request is two new positions because one other position had been added to the department earlier in the year. Ms. Lee confirmed the request was for two new positions.

Councilor Whatley stated that in the packet it said Permit Technician and she wanted to reconfirm the titles of other two proposed positions. Ms. Lee stated that the two positions requested were for a Planner and a Zoning Inspector. Councilor Whatley requested Ms. Lee to rate the job opening requests by priority as one, two, and three.

Ms. Lee stated the Permit Technician had already hired. Between the other two requested positions the priority would be for a Zoning Inspector to help with the load of new permit requests.

Judge Paul Schlegel and Veronica Pineda Court Supervisor presented for the Camp Verde Municipal Court. Judge Schlegel mentioned the Court's budget request did not reflect a request for staff wage increases. He stated that the Court didn't understand that wage increases were an issue to present to Council tonight. Judge Schlegel asked for the opportunity to resubmit the budget in order to include the wage increase information.

Finance Director Mike Showers stated the Council would not be handling wage increases for current staff at this point in time. The wage increases would be dealt with as a separate issue.

Judge Schlegel asked for clarification because the last presentation included budget items related to staffing.

Mr. Showers clarified the staffing budget items in the last presentation were added

because the additional funding was for an added position to the Department. Wage increases are being dealt with as a separate issue and not included in the operational budget.

Mayor Jenkins wanted to clarify the numbers are not increases and asked if there were adjustments for taxes and benefits. Mr. Showers stated the changes to taxes and benefits were included, but changes to employee wages are not included in this budget. Mayor Jenkins re-clarified that the wages are for an addition or deletion only. Mike Showers stated or an allocation change.

Councilor Murdock asked how things were coming with the security system. Judge Schlegel stated it that the project has been delayed because the department was not pleased with what had been presented. They want to simplify the proposal.

Town Manager Russ Martin stated that Marshal Corey Rowley had been delayed and their presentation would now be placed after other Department presentations.

Community Library Director, Kathy Hellman presented. She stated that the Camp Verde Library had no issues with the budget to discuss with Council. Ms. Hellman did want to present a background where the Library has been and where it is going. The Library has done an amazing job staying open to the community during the COVID 19 pandemic. The Library staff has done additional work cleaning and sanitizing. The staff are still sanitizing everything coming in. May 3rd the Library will go back to normal hours and be open till 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The Library is looking forward to getting back to normal hours.

The Library is working with an AmeriCorps Vista to revamp their volunteer program. They see opportunity in some of the seasonal RV guests in town and they want to include more variety and flexibility in the program. Ms. Hellman is hopeful the program will also allow them to help other departments with volunteer opportunities.

The Library is also starting a committee to explore digitizing Camp Verde history. Some of the Camp Verde history has gone to other surrounding communities. The Camp Verde Library doesn't have the space for a tangible collection, but is working to establish a digital collection that would be available to the community.

The Mobile STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Lab project is progressing however it is going slower than they had hoped.

The Camp Verde Library has extended WIFI to the patios and the signal goes all the way out to the Rezzonico Park. The Library has added security cameras and limited the wireless access to midnight. The Town Marshalls know that people shouldn't be there after midnight. The Library has added circulating WIFI hotspots and laptops which are consistently checked out.

The Library will be continuing a hybrid version of their programs. There have been several people joining the stream on Facebook as well as coming in live. Ms.

Hellman believes that having the option to attend virtually is still important for those who aren't comfortable going out in the community yet.

The Library will be beginning it's in person reading for children for the summer program and are collaborating with the Parks and Recreation Department for the possibility of kid's summer camps. The Library will be starting the process to obtain a new grant for kids offering STEM.

The Community Assessment Project facilitated by the Library is completed and they are currently wrapping up the results. They've identified four key areas where the library can take a leadership or supporting role to bring resources to the community. They believe they will be able to help with social, community health and other issues facing Camp Verde residents. The Library was able to assist with registering residents for the Affordable Care Act registering and would like to continue supporting social services in the community. The Camp Verde Library is looking to council for direction on the programs. The Library doesn't want to just offer programs and hope they are successful. The Library wants advice from council and would like to know what would be important to the community.

Councilor Baker stated that Ms. Hellman has been such a blessing to the community. She stated that the innovations, leadership, and people she has involved in the department have been absolutely wonderful. She stated that Council can't thank Ms. Hellman enough and said that she thought Ms. Hellman's work was the best in the whole state.

Ms. Hellman wanted Council to know that Gerry Laurito is retiring April 30th and they are holding a celebration to wish him bon voyage. Ms. Hellman stated that she would send an invitation to council.

Councilor Whatley wanted to thank Ms. Hellman for all that she does. She stated that she would call the Library a community center because it is so much more than books. She stated it was a benefit that the community would not have access to if not for Ms. Hellman's leadership.

Mayor Jenkins called for the Non-Departmental section from Mr. Showers.

Mr. Showers stated that the non-departmental wasn't intended to change, but did because of a business incentive agreement with a vendor on State Highway 260 which has been very good for the town. Mr. Showers stated that he had budgeted higher last year but dropped the budget 30k due to the expectation of the tax rebate he expects to pay on the agreement. It will be over budget this year.

Mayor Jenkins asked what the total estimate for the tax rebate and if the difference was insurance in the amount of the line item. Mr. Showers stated he thought he brought it in at 120k, he estimated it was 80k -85k last year. Town Manager Russ Martin said the additional amount was for thing like the water attorney and potential recycling program. Mayor Jenkins stated that the line item was 374k. Mr. Showers stated that Mr. Martin had 398k. Mr. Showers 374k number had the incentive, but

did not include the increase to the water rights or potential recycling program.

Mr. Showers stated that one thing that is not included in the budget is the community outreach line. It is at 0 at this point. In May that amount will be up to Council to decide. This last year the Town spent \$12,500 to the Verde Valley Senior Center 20k to the van. Normally the line item is anywhere from \$7,500 to \$12,500. It is up to Council to decide. Right now the line item is at zero.

Human Resources, Brandy Cabrera stated her presentation would include discussing the seven best practices for her department Culture, Selective Hiring, Self-Managed and Effective Teams, Fair Performance Based Compensation, Training and Relevant Skills, Creating a Flat and Equatorial Organization, and Making Information Equally Available to those that need it.

Ms. Cabrera stated that everything boils down to culture and how the Town engages employees. Also, providing security so that Town Staff feel secure and having security in their available benefits. Ms. Cabrera also stated that by taking the time with the hiring managers to make the right fit the HR Department can save the Town money.

Through the HR Department the Town needs to provide the necessary tools and skills, fair performance based compensation, recruitment efforts, and fair and competitive wages when compared across the state. Hierarchy should allow the HR department to be independent and able to make autonomous decisions.

There is a request in the budget for a HR Specialist to assist with regulatory and administrative tasks. The HR Specialist position has an element of confidentiality and is not just an administrative role. The Department is requesting an additional budgeted opening because of the confidentiality issue that would be a concern if the role was filled through a volunteer. The role requires an individual who would want a long term position and would be filled by someone that wouldn't go away in three months.

Recruitment and Selection in the HR Department is work intensive and includes posting jobs, asking preliminary questions, and scheduling interviews. The HR Specialist would take on those duties.

Performance Management is an area of the HR Department that includes effectively collecting feedback from Town staff. The feedback forms help the Town identify weaknesses, challenges, and improve performance. It is important to train Town Managers to understand the value of the forms. The HR Department's focus would be on training. The HR Department is passionate about learning development, teaching Managers to be organized and effective, and preparing Manager's to train their employees for advancement.

Learning and Development responses included handling conflict, knowing basic answers for HR information, and who to contact for additional information. Learning and Development will help evolve and retain employees for long term. Staff is

seeking meaningful jobs and duties. If that isn't received then they'll find another place to go. The HR Department proposes a survey that looks for which tasks need to be worked on most and then implement a strategy. HR wants to know what the struggles are in order to make an assessment. The HR Department would like to implement a Personal Development Plan (PDP) for each individual so they feel that they are engaged and are being heard. Depending on the assessment of needs training could be outsourced to agencies or internal.

Succession Planning is important. To cross train employees into alternate roles can take 18-36 months. Labeling employees as early, mid, and senior career can help with Succession Planning. The HR Department would like to create the PDP to identify and elevate high potential employees.

Appropriate compensation and benefits need to be tied in to open Town positions to get the right people here. The first week in May the HR Department should have a first draft completed. The Town should ensure open roles align with the expectations of job seekers and detail job descriptions. The job descriptions will be sent out to the Departments to review and see if there are items that need to be added.

Health and Wellness is important for the Town. The HR Department has submitted a CIP for an onsite gym facility. The facility will reduce medical claims, prescription, and benefits costs. Health insurance has reflected a 10% increase in premiums over the last few years and the HR Department hopes that it will be reduced.

In reference to HR systems Ms. Cabrera requests the additional staff member to assist in scanning documents and entering information into the program due to the confidential nature of utilizing and implementing the system.

Analytics policy updates is a priority for this year over the next 6 months. The HR Department will be digitizing employee files, succession planning, conducting engagement surveys, and a policy review update is required every 3 years. Additionally, a strategic plan is required every 4 years and will be coming up in 2024.

Strategic goals over the next year include updating the personnel manual which Council would approve. The HR Department will also collaborate with the new Risk Manager in conducting an administrative needs assessment to identify roles within our departments, to promote progressive growth and stay on the cutting edge of trends and achievements statewide within our respective goals. A lot of municipalities come to Camp Verde to learn from and look at the programs and Ms. Cabrera hopes to continue that with the new administrative role. Other strategic goals this year include succession planning, talent retention initiatives, having incentives for the difficult to fill positions, learning development surveys, and strategic planning for satisfaction in the workplace.

Councilor Baker thanked Ms. Cabrera for the information. She stated that explaining what has been done and the strategic planning is important to the Town.

Mayor Jenkins thanked Ms. Cabrera for the HR duties she completes to support

town employees.

Marshal Rowley presented for the Marshal's Office. Marshal Rowley stated the accreditation progress had been started in the State with a handful of departments for best practices. Camp Verde was the 6th to join and in May will be accredited. The accreditation process was extensive and will set Camp Verde apart. The Marshal's office had faced the challenge of needing to move the command post over the past year. The Department was able to apply through the government and obtain a free box van from Southern Arizona. They were able to move the a/c and other equipment over which allowed the Camp Verde Library to use the trailer for their STEM program.

The Department is required to conduct an audit of evidence regularly. Next year an audit is required which entails some additional cost. The complete audit consists of inspecting all evidence and property. This task is usually completed by a Sergeant. Robert Embry has recently been hired and is retired from the Navy he has been moved into a new quarter master and dispatch position. He has been getting titles, ammo, takes care of fleet, and completes quarter master duties. This is an increase in the budget and is a definite need for the Department.

The Department was able to obtain a grant for a School Resource Officer. The Department plans to work with the Yavapai Apache Nation to obtain a secondary School Resource Officer for the School. The Department is working towards a program to conduct impact moments with the kids. Marshal Rowley believes it is particularly important to cover fentanyl overdoses. The School Resource Officer position is currently filled by Deputy Handis and Marshal Rowley believes his role is vital to community. The program is also working on an anonymous tip lines, bullying, violence, and narcotics with the school.

The Department is beginning the process for a Public Safety Building. Marshal Rowley is not going to go into details in this meeting, but it's a capital improvement project that will be discussed at a later date.

80% of police vehicles have been outfitted with an AED (automated external defibrillators). The AEDs were funded 99% from public donations. Marshal Rowley stated that knowing that something is available to restart the heart if an officer goes down has been invaluable.

In the upcoming year the Department would like to implement CompStat (Comparative Statistics System). The Department did a presentation to Council on calculating statistics to identify potential crime areas, traffic areas, and help the Department apply for grants. The Department would like to get it installed this year. Camp Verde is one of the few Departments in the area that doesn't have it. The Department is working with Sedona. Being able to look at the number of officers, hours of operation for dispatch, the call volumes, coverage is invaluable. The program is analytical on steroids compared to the current record management system. It is in the Department's CIP.

The Department needs to hire new officers to be fully staffed. Out of 24 officers there are currently only 19 on the road. Last Saturday the Department conducted an open testing for law enforcement. There were 9 potential candidates that came in and 4 will be interviewed on Thursday. The Department went after brand new officers because lateral moving officers are not available in the current climate. Brand new officers are already a part of our community and know the people in it. The Department is pushing to hire three brand new slots for the academy in July. The Department is currently short three officers. It takes up to a year to get a new officer fully trained and off on their own. Two of the current officers just made it through the training and are now out on their own. Marshal Rowley believes that those two will be here for a long time. That's what the Department is going for.

The incentive program is a draw. It sets us apart from the other agencies in the area. Having the officer's receive a \$500 sign on bonus that they can put off collecting and then increases is a great benefit. The benefits that the town has with the sick bank, the flexibility for family time, and ball game will be a draw for the local people in the community.

Although it is not reflected in the budget, the Marshal's Office is working with Town Manager Russ Martin to increase revenues by getting the Department fully trained to dispatch for the Fire Department. Streamlining the services to that area will allow us to obtain additional revenue.

The Marshal's office would also like to create a drug task force. The first goal is to get fully staffed and then to have four officers on a task force. Marshal Rowley believes Camp Verde should be doing these tasks for itself. Having a force here that does not get taken out of the community is a benefit. Some of the larger methamphetamine and fentanyl busts are happening in our community. The task force would deal with theft, narcotics, or other large crimes. The Town needs our own group of people going after the narcotics in this town. Marshal Rowley would like to have a team in place the second half of the year. If an officer does a traffic stop and finds drugs then the Drug Task Force would be called in. If it doesn't happen this year then next year it would be a priority. Marshal Rowley stated that he is concerned that currently it is Russian roulette with our youth and fentanyl.

Marshal Rowley stated that the Department has been able to do fairly well on this year's budget because the Department is down officers. He stated the cost of ammunition has increased and the Department will be making a purchase this year to offset the added cost in the upcoming year. The Department is watching the budget and keeping it extremely tight to help with the retirement fund the Department needs to pay attention to.

Marshal Rowley stated the employees are doing a fantastic job but they need relief. He mentioned that the sacrifice allowed them to take care of things this year that the Department may not be able to next year.

Mayor Jenkins wanted to clarify that the budget was to increase the Department by three officers and currently the Department is down three. In total the Department

would be looking for six new hires.

Marshal Rowley stated that was correct. The three additional positions would be opened in November and if the Department was unable to hire lateral officers then the openings would move to December for a January academy start date.

Mayor Jenkins asked about the one non-sworn staff that the department wanted, but Mr. Martin left the staffing level at current.

Marshal Rowley stated that the Quarter Master position. The Department doesn't want to give up a dispatch position, but requested to add one for the inventory management needs of the Department.

Councilor Baker mentioned that part of the problem in the past was that the department would hire a new officer and once they had worked a little bit they would move on. She wanted to know if that was still the case. Marshal Rowley stated that he didn't think this was still the case. He mentioned the Department had lost a few employees to the jail and two officers move out of state. That is why the Department believes that it is the right decision to go after local candidates. It is also why wage analysis and benefits is so important.

Councilor Baker said it seems that things are more and more dangerous for officers. She stated she would like him to do what is needed in the Department to stay safe. Officer Rowley stated that the Department has provided supplies, good equipment, and cameras. He mentioned that the danger of liability by public cameras and social media is not as much of a concern if you train good officers.

Councilor Baker wanted to thank Marshal Rowley for focusing on the drug issues in the community and especially with youth.

Interim Risk Manager Cliff Bryson has been in the position of mitigating risks for the town for nine months. He noted an increase in rates for police officers law enforcement of 4% and a \$23,500 increase this year in premiums for insuring officers. He has recently received an email stating that there will probably be dividends returned in the amount of ten million that would be divided among all members of risk pool July 1st 2021.

In the budget there is a safety and security request of \$2,500 for a committee and unforeseen issues of Town properties. In the budget there is also \$3,590 for medical supplies. Example items for possible use of these funds were extra gloves, PPE, masks, sanitizer, or sanitizer stations. He recognized the County is currently providing free PPE spread across county, but pointed out the Town may need equipment for unforeseen issues. He mentioned that the Zoll AEDs that the town currently uses are ten years old and only check once a week. The Town will want to start a replacement plan that is consistent with the same AEDs the Police Department is using. There are no replacement units currently available if one breaks. Mr. Bryson stated that the Department is not looking to replace all twelve units, but possibly two this year. Then the Town would purchase additional units in

the future to replace the other units. AED maintenance costs are relatively low.

Mr. Bryson only sees the department growing and innovating with keeping employees and property safe. His predecessor did an excellent job in obtaining the COOP which needs to be put in play in case of a flood or fire issue. Mr. Bryson hopes the Department takes that to action. Everyone is being safe. The Department is doing what is needed to mitigate risk.

Finance Director Mike Showers stated that the Finance Department is requesting one new employee. The role would detail in on tax review, business licenses, and minor issues that he doesn't have time to get to. This addition would free enough time that the budget documents would be able to get out to staff to review a lot earlier. With the role Mr. Showers sees the possibility of finance being able to provide additional grant assistance to all departments. Not writing, but managing on the back end which would benefit all departments.

The operations budget hardly changed at all. One thing that that the Department is asking for, but not guaranteed would be spent is an allocation for software to put budgeting documents together. The cost in the first year would be \$3700, but the price would increase the next year to \$7,400. Mr. Showers stated that he hated to spend money on something that is already getting done, but the software would be web-based and easier for the public to access. Also in the budget request is \$1,500 of equipment for the new employee role. The employee would be for about six months. It is the Clerk position that the Department was budgeting for next year. The Department is trying for an accounting position next year.

Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton directed council to page 29-30. There is not much of a variance with the total department costs, with the exception of \$5. After discussing the difference with Town Manager Russ Martin they believe the variance is a typo. Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton believes the Town Council has what is necessary and is not requesting anything unnecessary.

Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton directed the council to page 31-32 for the Town Clerk budget. She noted the Department is not running elections this year.

The Department is asking for a full time position in the Clerk's Office. This position has been asked for each year for several years. The needs for the role have not changed, and if anything the need is increasing. The Clerk's Office is now digitizing records and has over 20 years to digitize. The new position would help in the completion of this task. In addition, the position would act as an administrative assistant to the Town Manager, Council, and Mayor. Deputy Director, Virginia Jones has been in her position at the Clerk's Office for 24 years. The buck stops with her and if she were to go on vacation no one knows her job. Opening this role would allow her tasks to be cross trained. It would also allow the Deputy Clerk and Town Clerks to go to departments and assist them with regulatory and town laws that they should be adhering to. The Clerk's Office wouldn't be able to do that right now unless the Office was shut down to the public. The additional tasks are why the Clerk's Office is requesting a full time position. Aside from the new position the Clerk's Office

has not asked for any other items.

Mayor Jenkins noted that Mr. Martin was asking for half time and Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton was asking for full time. She stated the need for a full-time position would provide better quality of applicants as opposed to a part time position. She stated the quality of the candidate for a full time benefited the Town because they would have a better-quality service for the public and their respective duties.

Councilor Baker wanted to clarify that one full time position would serve both needs.

Town Manager Russ Martin confirmed that one full time position would fill both needs. He stated that the purpose of showing the position as half time is that the Risk Manager is not in place. Having the knowledge of how we operate is important as far waiting to fill the position. Bringing on a full time role is what is being presented.

Mayor Jenkins clarified that the timing is the difference in the budget.

Mr. Martin discussed an increase in cost for the intended transition of IT Management. The estimate at this point is based on preliminary discussions from two months ago. The IT budget is increasing in costs because the Town needs more services. The next group will provide with more efficient and more services. The Town isn't at a hybrid model yet. Ultimately Mr. Martin would like to get a person that works for the Town and supplement with a group service. It is just more expensive. The current proposed company seems to be the most financially efficient option presently. Customer service is an issue. Merit IT wasn't incompetent, but the Town's need for growth and present needs require more service locally than what they offered. The Town has spent 100k annual for IT. Last year the town spent 30k and this new service would be 60k. When there is equipment failure you don't want to wait. When systems go down in the middle of service it hamstrings the system. Council will see a new contract and transition.

Councilor Baker asked if Mr. Martin had talked to several different companies or just one. Mr. Martin stated that there are only a couple of companies that provide this service in the area. The new company has just expanded here out of Anthem. The only other options are going with the one of the companies that the Town has used in the past. The proposed company is a new provider that is offering services that the Town is looking for. The services are specialty services. The Town is hoping to hire the best company, not necessarily the cheapest.

The Manager's budget is essentially the same as it was. There were some savings from the Vista Volunteer program.

Mr. Showers mentioned there were a couple things he thought of bringing up but felt they are best to deal with at the end. Revenue is best to discuss afterwards. For now it is important to just focus on what people are wanting, what they want to accomplish, and how Council feels about it. Then go and review notes and determine how much cushion there is and what is the most important.

Mr. Martin commented the numbers that will be presented are conservative and Council may need to go above those numbers in order to be able to do the things that it wants to accomplish.

Mayor Jenkins asked for more detail on revenues. Mr. Showers said the detail isn't in there. He stated he took a stab and can review. Mayor Jenkins stated she would send Mr. Showers an email.

6. Adjournment

Mayor Dee Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM

Tom Jenkins
Mayor Dee Jenkins

Cindy Pemberton
Attest: Town Clerk Cindy Pemberton

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and accurate accounting of the actions of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Camp Verde during the Special Session of the Town Council of Camp Verde, Arizona, held on April 13,, 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2021.

Cindy Pemberton
Cindy Pemberton, Town Clerk