MEMORANDUM

To: Fred Carpenter, Payson Town Manager, via HAND-DELIVERED

Copy: n/a

From: Andy Romance

Subject: Proposed Council Workstudy to Organize Payson's Requests for Federal

Date: January 24, 2007

FRED. I intend to meet with Federal government officials in Washington DC during several days time in March '07. I intend to promote Payson's interests in some current project/program issues. I would also like to be equipped with any new ideas from our local officials and citizenry that I might personally discuss with our U.S. Senators and Congressmen. I would therefore like you to schedule and support a timely council Workstudy to create a forum for information gathering and idea formulation. As appropriate, please supply this introduction to your staff, council members, task force members, committee members, and participants of the next Council Agenda-Setting Meeting. Following is a summary of the opportunity at hand, as well as a brief discussion of some initial projects that may be of interest to both Payson and the Feds, for our region's progressive future:

THE OPPORTUNITY

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is a national organization that serves the profession of civil engineering. Their presence in Washington DC along with their State Chapters, provides influence in both technical methodologies of engineering practice and legislative action of our lawmakers.

I was invited as one of three civil engineers from the State of Arizona to have distinguished meetings with our Federal Senators and Congressmen in Washington DC. I am also the only invitee representing Northern Arizona. Being that our Governor has recently committed more attention to rural segments of our State, I believe my representation is timely opportunity to showcase Payson-area vision and deeds. A major outcome of that showcase is hoped to be Federal support of our future interests, including support in project permitting and funding.

THE IDEA

Fulfilling many of our local government goals in a community with limited authority and minimal fiscal resources is dependant on support of our United States Government. Consider the resources of Tonto Forest vastly surrounding Payson is managed by the Feds (USFS), the Payson airport is influenced by the Feds (FAA), State border to the South is common to US International border under the authority of the Feds (Homeland Security), our large and small stream tributaries are regulated in part by the Feds (EPA & FEMA), Blue Ridge Reservoir is managed in part by the Feds (USBR), and much of our grant funds are allocated by the Feds (CDBG). It is thus acknowledged that an esteemed and respectful relationship with our Federal officials is essential.

We should have well thought-out ideas and comprehensive plans for our projects, so that we may present them with confidence, contributing to intelligent dialogue with other governments. Many ideas have been casually presented over the years, and some have developed into bonafide projects.

I desire to carry to DC a list of not just my ideas born out of the last Twenty consecutive years of Payson residency, but also the ideas of our founders, newbies, small business owners, employers/employees, home-makers, retirees, students, up 'n comers, and down 'n outers, alike. I therefore believe that in order

to assemble a smart list, Town personnel should organize it's development. In order to stimulate ideas, the following discussion is offered.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

I. *Because our responsible 87 gpcd use of water should be positively reinforced.....*

A. Expedite Permitting and Assist in Funding of Blue Ridge surface water delivery. Project could comprise basic infrastructure and ancillary facilities, including possible Transmission Pipeline, East Verde River Conveyance/ Pumping Station, Recharge/ Recreation Reservoir, Treatment Facilities, and Groundwater Well Direct Recharge Facilities.

B. Expedite Permitting and Assist in Funding of Groundwater Resources in the National Forest. Projects could include Exploration, Well Development, and Delivery Facilities.

II. *Because we are in the heart of the Tonto National Forest and have proven to be responsible gentle users of the land.....*

A. Expedite Permitting and Assist in Funding for development of our Community Trails Network. Project may include trails construction on Payson and Tonto Forest land, Trailhead Facilities, and Maintenance/ Operations Assistance.

B. Relocate Tonto National Forest Headquarters from Phoenix to Payson.

III. *Because we are experiencing increase growing/ manufacturing of illicit drugs in the forests surrounding Payson, and associated increased risk/ crime.....*

A. Establish new Federal Offices of Homeland Security and USFS Law Enforcement. Facilities may be combined with needed government facilities of Gila County and other Local Governments such as Payson or Star Valley.

IV. *Because we are centrally located in Arizona and surrounded by vast public lands, with limited ability to grow both physically and economically.....*

A. Enhance this natural Hub for Wildfire Fighting. A project may be a new Regional Airport, formerly conceptualized on Houston Mesa, adequate for Larger Slurry Bombers. Related projects may include associated loop roads linking S.R.87 and S.R.260, and manufacturing facilities for Slurry or other fire fighting agents.

B. Enhance Forest Management and Utilization of Renewable Resources. A project may include a Biomass Power Generating Station, with Federal assistance in expediting permitting, land acquisition, and a consistent supply of raw wood products.

V. *Any and all other projects or programs involving the US Government.*

NEXT STEPS

Effectively communicating desires for Payson progress will require input from the citizenry and open dialogue by our elected officials. Immediate required tasks may include:

- *Assemble recent study recommendations.*
- *Solicit new public comment.*
- *Conduct public meeting workstudies with Town Council.*
- *Write report of findings. Hopefully this would be presentable to our elected US Senators and Congressman during my meetings.*

From the Desk of:

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ANDY ROMANCE