



PAYSONAZ.GOV



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



This document is developed and provided to help inform residents about what is happening with Town operations, services and programs; to answer frequently asked questions; and to encourage citizen participation in our local government. We aim to provide high quality programs and services to our residents in an effort to create a high quality of life. We welcome public comment and participation in the governance of our town. Residents are encouraged to join a council appointed board, commission or committee, speak at a council meeting during the public comment period, or fill out an online comment form. Town staff and I are honored to serve the residents of our town; we are committed to excellence and welcome you all to join us in the spirit of service.

-Troy Smith, Town Manager

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Town of Payson for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.


The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

TRANSPARENCY CENTER

TOWN OF



Payson

Gila County, AZ

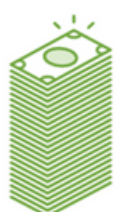

You can now go to our Town Homepage Website under NEWS at: <https://www.paysonaz.gov/Home/Components/News/News/68/228>


You can now review the Town's Checkbook on the website above, as well as review revenues, expenditures, and projects.

Overview Revenues Expenditures Demographics Projects Checkbook


Financial Overview

Fund: General Download Financials

<p>REVENUES</p> <h2 style="color: #0070C0;">\$26.5M</h2> <p style="color: #0070C0;">\$1,618</p> <p>per capita / year</p> <p>View Breakdown</p>			<p>EXPENSES</p> <h2 style="color: #0070C0;">\$30.6M</h2> <p style="color: #0070C0;">\$1,870</p> <p>per capita / year</p> <p>View Breakdown</p>
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Heidi Gregory
Finance Director



Heidi Gregory
Finance Director

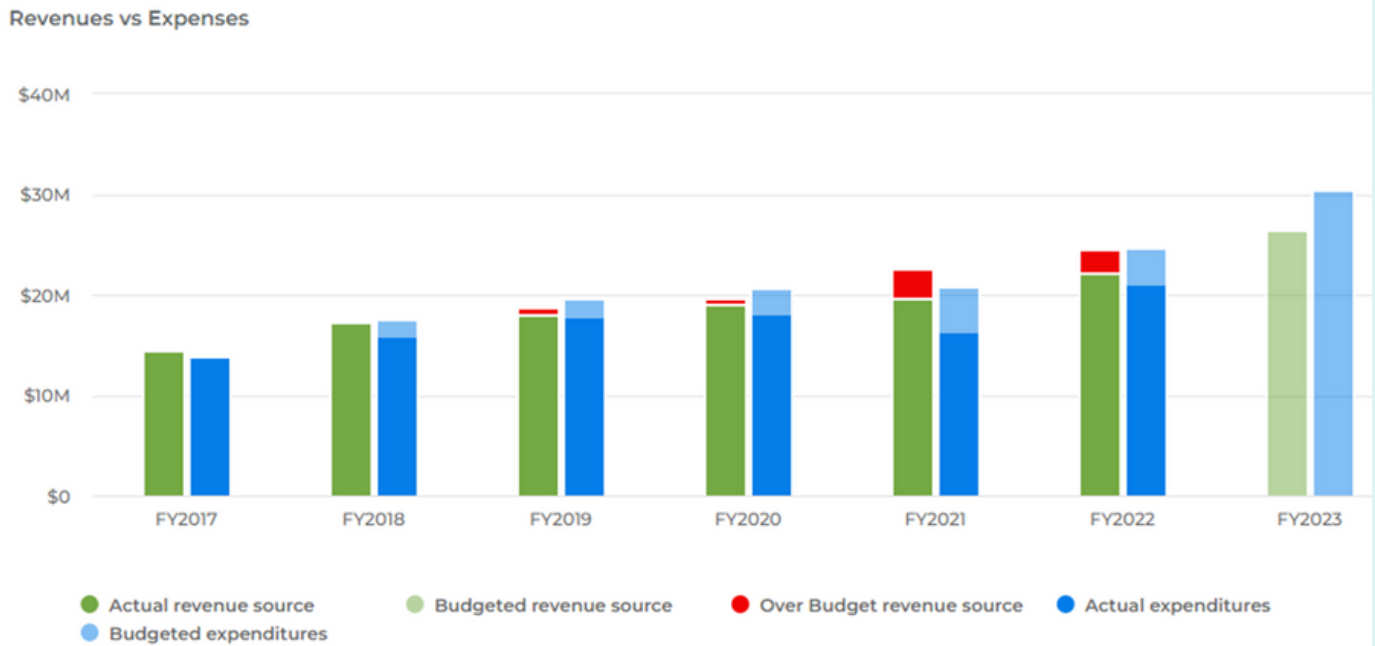
The budgeted revenues shown here are only for the current fiscal year. The revenues include local sales tax, state shared taxes, property taxes, fees and charges for services, government agreements, and potential grant reimbursements. Revenues that were not spent in the previous year are added to the Town's bank account to fund incomplete projects or to fund new projects approved by the Town Council. Since the Town already received and recognized the previous year's revenues, it is not added to the current fiscal year.

Across Years Across Funds

The budgeted expenses include public safety, parks and recreation, administrative services, development services, potential grants, and capital projects. Comparing the difference between revenues and expenses shown above, the budgeted expenses show to be higher due to the following: 1. Revenues that were received in the prior year for council approved projects but was not completed and expensed at the end of the previous year are carry forward into the new fiscal year. However, unlike revenues, the Town must budget for all expenses including those from the previous year's incomplete projects. 2. To comply with the State's Annual Expenditure Limitation, the Town must budget for potential grants and unforeseen contingencies. If the Town does not budget for these types of potential expenses, and a grant is approved or an emergency repair is required, the Town would not be able to accept the grants or resolve any emergencies or unforeseen costs.

Across Years Across Funds

FINANCE DEPARTMENT



Data source: Town of Payson Finance Department (Data through 2023)



Heidi Gregory
Finance Director

As you review the graph above and compare Budgeted (expenses and revenues) versus Actuals, you can see the Town spent less than it received each year. Any funds that were received in that fiscal year and was not spent goes back into the Town's Fund Balance (aka savings account) to use for future council approved projects, equipment replacement, infrastructure repairs, etc.

Across Years
 Across Funds

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Discussing the Food Tax

Did you know House Bill 2061 and Senate Bills 1089 and 1063 would preempt Cities and Towns in Arizona from taxing food for home consumption (FHC)?

Payson has historically chosen to levy a Food for Home Consumption Tax (FHC) as this distributes the cost for providing these services equally among those who benefit from these services – i.e. tourists, and residents outside of Payson's incorporated boundaries.

The Town of Payson utilizes the revenues generated from the FHC tax to fund public services ranging from Parks and Recreation, to Fire and Rescue services, to Law Enforcement.

The effect of these proposed changes by the State of Arizona would reduce the local sales tax revenues collected by the TOP annually by 16.2% or \$2,335,585 based on fiscal year 2020-2021.



The Town of Payson's current transaction privilege tax, which includes tax on FHC is 2.88% or \$2.88 for every \$100 of groceries purchased.

Payson surveyed like-sized communities with populations ranging from 4,000 – 34,000. Of those 31 communities surveyed, only 3 did not tax food for home consumption. Sedona, Camp Verde, Kingman



Only 3 out of 31 like-sized Communities In Arizona



The Council was presented alternatives during the February 5th work session for balancing the Town of Payson's budget if these bills are signed into law. These alternatives included a reduction in services, an increase in property taxes, and/or an increase in local sales tax.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FUTURE



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Discussing the “Food Tax”

Did you know House Bill 2061 and Senate Bills 1089 and 1063 would preempt Cities and Towns in Arizona from taxing food for home consumption?

At its February 5th work study Payson Town Council received information related to taxing structures for other Arizona cities and towns.

70 of 91 (77%) communities in Arizona tax food for home consumption

Payson surveyed like-sized communities with populations ranging from 4,000 – 34,000. Of those 31 communities surveyed, only 3 did not tax food for home consumption; Sedona, Camp Verde, Kingman

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PAYSON LIBRARY

PAYSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

328 N McLane Rd, Payson, AZ 85541; 928-474-9260

www.paysonaz.gov/departments/library.org

FEBRUARY 2023



BLACK HISTORY MONTH
February 2023

Celebrating Achievements & Contributions of Black Americans

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am 		Black History Month Presentation on Achievements & Contributions of Black Americans 1:00 pm Learn to Crochet Entire Family Welcome! Sign-up 1:30 pm	
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am		Valentine's Day Craft! 1:00 Learn to Crochet Entire Family Welcome! Sign-up! 1:30 pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am 	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	 	House of Voodoo Reptile Sanctuary – Hands-on Meet & Greet animals! 1:00 pm Learn to Crochet Sign-up! 1:30 pm	Monster Manual – Extract DNA from a Strawberry! 12:00 Noon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	LIBRARY CLOSED Presidents Day!	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am		Learn to Crochet Entire Family Welcome! Sign-up! 1:30 pm	
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
	Sit & Stitch 2:30 pm	Storytime with Toddlers 10:30 am	Storytime with Babies 10:30 am Practice Spanish 11:30 am	Celebrate WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH March 	Discover Women History! 1:00 pm 	Solar Science – Build Solar Oven to Cook S'Mores & EAT! 12:00 Noon

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Rumsey Park Interpretive Trail and Sign Project

Winter 2022-2023 is on track to close out as one of the coldest in the last Thirty Years and this last Saturday the 11th was no exception. Low temps and gusty winds could not chill out the Department's Fuel Management Volunteers esprit and "work all year round" mission to better prepare the Town against the risk of catastrophic Wildfire.

The Saturday afternoon event - breaking ground on a Fire Adaptive Community Interpretive Trail in Rumsey Park and announcing a fuel mitigation project for the park - was a bit chilly. Those who came out, or just discovered the event passing by, learned the danger native vegetation poses to our Town. Officials from Police, Fire and Parks and Recreation were present - working with the Volunteers to "get the word out".

Two weeks of Radio and Print Ads preceded the Event. The Fire Department created full color invitational flyers, graciously posted in many retail businesses throughout Payson, assuring residents and visitors alike that this Town is "always at work" to protect Payson and the Community it supports!

The monument educational signs (which will stay at the trail head behind ramada 4) advertising, and support for the event was generously paid for by the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Many Thanks to Pine-Strawberry Fuel Reduction, RIMWAT, and the Blattner Brush Pit. Heartfelt appreciation for Culver's - who attended the event bringing their fresh hamburgers and custard in a show of support for our community.



FEBRUARY 22, 2023



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FIRE DEPARTMENT

Gila County Community College Mitigation

31 acres of mitigation was completed last week at the Gila County Community College campus property. A great partnership between the College, the Payson Fire Department and Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. Possibly the largest single mitigation project ever done in Town so far. The property contains the Jimmy Harris Interpretive Trail system which is a great nature walk on a beautiful piece of property.



New Employees

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our newest members; Anna Dales and Brodie Carr. Both members successfully completed our PFD pre-academy 1/26/23. Brodie is a lateral transfer bringing some great experience to the residents of Payson and will be joining C-Shift working on his probationary FF task book. Anna is an enthusiastic new recruit to the Fire Service and will be attending the Mesa Academy starting Tuesday 1/31/23. We look forward to working with both of these new members and anticipate their positive contributions to our department and community.

WATER DEPARTMENT


The Town of Payson is continuing the pursuit of additional water storage capacity and providing the opportunity to perform tank maintenance on the existing water storage tank near the end of N. Hillcrest Drive.

In December 2022 the Town of Payson received the Notice of Intent to Provide Repository Services from the Arizona State Museum for artifacts recovered from the proposed Hillcrest #2 Tank site. In January 2023 the Town of Payson received the Data Recovery Plan for the Hillcrest Water Tower Project within Site AZ O:11:35 (ASM), Payson, Gila County, Arizona report from SWCA Environmental Consultants. This report was also submitted to the Arizona State Museum to obtain necessary permitting to authorize the archeological recovery of artifacts. Archeological Recovery excavation is scheduled to begin on February 20, 2023 and is estimated to continue for approximately 3 weeks. Final reports and curation of project materials are expected to be completed and submitted to the Arizona State Museum by the end of 2023.

Meanwhile, the design of the new tank is in process. Sunrise Engineering has completed the topographic and bluestake survey of the site and is beginning engineering design. Geotechnical work will commence after the archeological clearance has been issued and final engineering plans and specifications are expected 6 weeks thereafter. The next steps in the process will be engineering plan approval by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (2 months) and public bidding (1 month). Therefore, Tank construction is planned to begin in Spring 2024 and will take approximate 3 months to complete.



WATER DEPARTMENT



Data Recovery Plan for the Hillcrest Water Tower Project within Site AZ O:11:35(ASM), Payson, Gila County, Arizona

JANUARY 2023

SENSITIVE INFORMATION - DO NOT DISTRIBUTE

PREPARED FOR
Town of Payson

PREPARED BY
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Data Recovery Plan for the Hillcrest Water Tower Project within Site AZ O:11:35(ASM), Payson, Gila County, Arizona

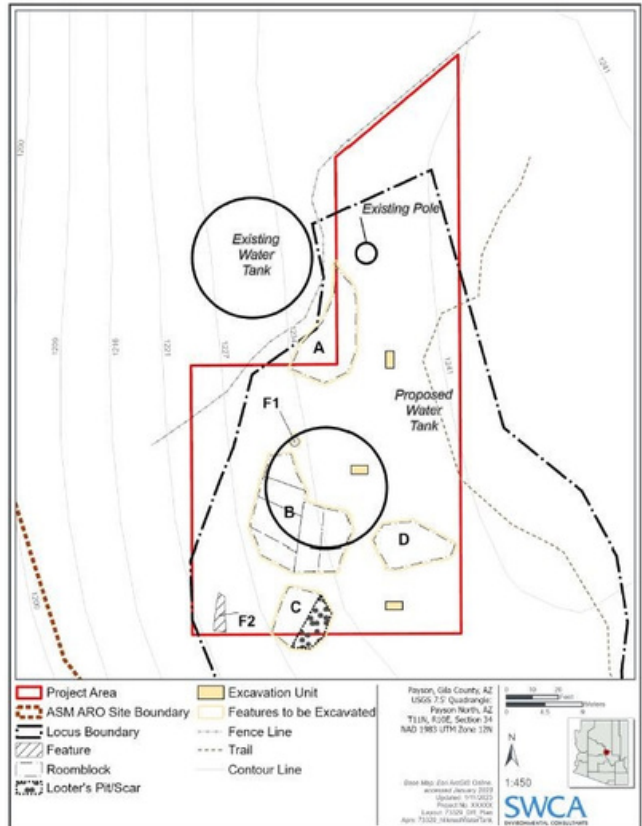


Figure 8. Plan for excavation data recovery at site AZ O:11:35(ASM).

POLICE DEPARTMENT

This year has started off with some significant cases in the Town of Payson.

In January, the Payson Police Department was made aware of a missing person out of Ohio which later turned into a death investigation as the subject was located deceased in the Tonto Basin area. Through the work of Payson Police Detectives as well as assistance from other local law enforcement agencies, this case came to a swift conclusion with the arrest of Payson residents Dwight and Elaine George for multiple charges including manslaughter.

Another significant case occurred on January 24, 2023, where the Payson Police Department responded to a local residence for reports of an in-progress assault with a knife. This incident was determined to be a domestic situation which concluded with an arrest.

In 2022, the Payson Police Department received and responded to 361 calls for service classified as disturbances with an additional 268 calls for service specifically noted as domestic violence in nature. Of those calls for service, 140 arrests were made for domestic violence charges, including both misdemeanors and felonies.



End of Report
Next Report: March 8, 2023

