



November 21, 2024 10:00am

## TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:46 AM**
- II. **ROLL CALL: President Sonny Moore, Vice President Mike Halona, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Council Delegate Notah**
- III. **INVOCATION: Franklin Thompson**
- IV. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Fern Spencer 2<sup>nd</sup> Lee Rodgers Vote: 22-0-1**
- V. **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 18, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:**  
**Motion to include to read on your own:**  
**Motion: Delphine Bitsilly 2nd Tommy Badonie Vote: 22-0-1**
- VI. **PRESENTERS:**
  1. **Ammon Smith – Choice Wireless w/NTUA:** Choice Wireless is a federally funded program. They are 2 types available; one is ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program USA, and second is the tribal ACP. The difference is with the tribal Affordable Connectivity Program UDS, you have to live on tribal land, you get a \$75 discount, and they recognize multi generation homes. So, if there are two adults in the same household, but have separate finances, they can both apply under the same household. On the USA side, it's only one applicant per household. The tribal ACP program with the \$75 discount is a standard program which is free. The income level to qualify has increased to \$29,160 for one individual and two individuals is \$39,440, and 3 individuals would be \$49,720 and so on. For more information call (928) 730-2273.  
**Who is eligible for the program:**
    - Participates in the FCC's Lifeline Program
    - Household income at or below 200% of federal poverty limit
    - Participates in the Lifeline=qualifying government programs
    - Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year
    - Participates in free & reduced-price school lunch program or school breakfast program (qualifies if 1 child is eligible for free lunch). Need letter from the school stating the name of child receiving free or reduced-price lunches.
    - Participates in the Special Supplement Nutritional Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
    - Qualifies for a participating provider's existing low-income program subject to FCC approval of that provider's eligibility process
    - Medicaid
    - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
    - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
    - Federal Public Housing Assistance
    - Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefits
    - Tribal Programs for residents for Qualifying Tribal Lands
      - Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistance
      - Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
      - Tribal Head Start (only those households meeting the income qualifying standard)



- Food Distribution Program on the Tribal Reservations

**What you will need to bring with you to Qualify for the Program:**

Two forms of ID – Driver's License/ID and Social Security Card

Proof of Residency – NTUA Utility Statement, Voters Registration Card, and Chapter letter stating physical address.

Program Award Letter – It has to state you are “currently” receiving this benefit.

**They are other plans through Choice Wireless for individuals who do not qualify for the free broadband plans, for example:** These plans come with a \$10 service fee for the equipment that will be setup and also the Navajo Nation tax.

\$44.99 a month for email & web browsing and online shopping

\$64.99 a month for Standard streaming downloading music & videos and video calls

\$74.99 a month for online gaming, HD streaming services, and use multiple devices

The equipment will be setup at your home with fix wireless using a modem. It can be setup on the roof, a wall, and even on a pole outside your home. We also do not sell hotspots and the customer care center for Crownpoint is temporality closed until the new year. Lastly, the tower in this area needed an upgrade so we have not been accepting new customers for this area until the upgrade is completed. The upgrade will offer new technology, better coverage, and higher speed. We will let the community know as soon as its ready. We will be setting up booths in your area and also be knocking on doors to let people know it's available.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – People who live in the cities can stream channels including movies without the TV freezing up. Will this internet be able to handle streaming so we can get away from purchasing cable services?

**Ammon Smith** – Yes, the \$75 option can and its works with HD streaming services. What kills internet data is the gaming aspect which takes up a lot of gigabytes.

**Council Delegate Notah** – With this new system where is the tower located and will this work off the grid, let's say 7 miles away?

**Ammon Smith** – Yes, 7 miles would be within our area and the tower is located across highway 491 on the hilltop.

**Zondra Bitsuie** – So, would the individuals who are eligible for the free installation and programming, would they have to check-in with you periodically to update their information? Our team will reach out to these individuals to let them know it's time to recertify.

**Ammon Smith** – We usually ask them to recertify once a year. Another piece of information, once you qualify for ACP you can transfer your benefit to another wireless internet company. It's up to you who you want to go with.

**Fern Spencer** – How many users do you have in this area who are using Choice Wireless?

**Ammon Smith** – I don't have that information with me, but we are not accepting new customers currently because of the upgrade on the tower.

**Vice President Halona** – Choice Wireless is a for profit company, right? What kind of incentives are they going to afford the community members here as far as price breaks. The prices are pretty high based on the services they are receiving. Will we see that changing soon? I know there is no capital put into it, you get everything free from the Nation.

**Ammon Smith** – That is why we are heavily promoting the ACP Program because a lot of the people who live on the reservation receive benefits. We do have many people on this program because of the ACP Program. We want people to take advantage of this free internet service.

**Vice President Halona** – But Choice Wireless is not giving it to our communities for free, you are being



pay by the government under a grant.

**President Moore** – We view the health center as important and very much needed in our District. One of the 1<sup>st</sup> things CLUPC will be working on is withdrawing about 24 acres of land near the clinic. We would like to put up some professional housing and Mr. Larry Rodgers walked the area and got GPS points and drafted a map. I would like to invite you to our CLUPC meetings so we can plan with the help of the health center. We plan to continuing working with Mr. Kevin Mitchell to put in place partnerships with School, NTU, UNM-Gallup, and the health center. We want to see our students here at Tohatchi High prepare themselves for opportunities in the health fields. I will say again, our school proficiency rate is not high enough and I go back to the early years, where we were told it is important to have the 3 “R”, reading, math, and writing. The students have to have a strong background in these classes to preform will in college, vocational schools, and even the military. We also have to increase our graduating rate as well. Again, Mr. Mitchell can respond to these concerns.

2. **Zondra Bitsuie** – Health System Administrator with Tohatchi Health Center. I have been with Tohatchi Health Center for the past 2 years. Our latest accomplishment was on October 19, 2023 our lab has been accredited from the joint commission for the comprehensive accreditation for point of care testing. We were also granted the accreditation for the Tohatchi and Gallup Indian Medical Center in August of 2022 which is good for 3 years. Our hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8-4:30pm and our last Walkin patient will be seen at 3:30pm. On Wednesday 1-4:30pm and the reason we have an early cutoff is because some of the doctors have labs that they order and staff have to run the test results and this causes the doctor to stay later than usual. Also, with the Dental department, we don't have a dentist, but we do have a dental hygienist. Right now, we are seeing patient on Tuesday and Thursday with dentists coming in from GIMC. For emergencies, we will send the patient to GIMC for treatment. We have a schedule out for November and December but not sure about January, but we do have a job announcement out for a dentist and hopefully someone will apply soon. With the new hygienist, she is going through training again at GIMC and hopefully she will be going out into the community to do her dental hygienist procedures with the children at the schools. We fell behind with this service because of the pandemic. For the pharmacy department, we have a new pharmacist who came in about 5 months ago and she is overwhelmed so we definitely need another pharmacist. I might be getting one in the next couple of months. Of course, the hiring process is a long wait because of background checks and all their requirements. The Eye Clinic is also making good progress working through our waitlist. They are expecting to re-open the waitlist for routine eye exams in February of 2024. Then our leadership from GIMC will be attending the Eastern Agency Council on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to provide an updated report on improving the quality of heart failure care for our patients. They will be providing a proposed resolution on identifying and addressing social determinates of help among patients' cardiovascular diseases. Both are part of our innovation initiative and we look forward to Tohatchi Chapter approving the report and the resolution. Just for your information, GIMC does have a 24-hour nurse hot line you call. The number is 505-985-5206. We have vaccinations scheduled for 12/06 and 12/20 from 8:30am-11am and possibly 12/27 depending on the outcome of the previous vaccination clinic.

**Lee Rodgers** - What kind of vaccinations are being given on those days?

**Zondra Bitsuie** - Flu, COVID, and RSV.

**Elvis Bitsilly** – You mentioned meeting with Eastern Agency regarding the cardiovascular diseases. I do support that effort. I believe that resolution you spoke of was passed by Eastern Agency over the summer. I feel there is no support before and after for heart patients at GIMC and this has been brought to the attention of our local representatives. I would like to see more attention brought to this subject of cardiovascular heart disease and support from clinical staff for people who are currently dealing with this



disease. I hope the Chapter and the community will support this resolution.

**Zondra Bitsuie** – I believe we are heading in a positive direction. I want the best for our people, that's my vision and I'm sure our officials here do as well. I want to bring in more services to our clinic and to also provide better customer service to our people. I believe we are doing that now, for example; our pharmacy department was filling prescription within 24 hours but since we only have the one pharmacist, we had to extend the time to 48 hours to fill a prescription. GIMC does have a cardiologist currently and he provides services by telemedicine. There are plans for a new hospital in Gallup and I know the officials are really advocating for it. That is something to look forward to. Lastly, I would like to ask the Chapter and all the schools to please keep us in the loop. There was an incident where the schools were on shutdown because of a threat to the schools and community. We need to be kept in the loop. We were not made aware of this incident.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – Speaking about working together with the community, we had EMS supervisor here requesting for a place/office space for her staff and EMTs. They had to move out of the office they were currently using and moved out to Twin Lakes because they were able to accommodate them. The supervisor stated she wanted to keep the EMTs in the community of Tohatchi but could not find a space or building for them. We agreed with the supervisor and we scrambled to try to find a place for them here. What I didn't understand is why GIMC could not accommodate them. The clinic was built to house the emergency units, but it was never utilized. I didn't understand why Tohatchi Health Center and GIMC did not step up to assist EMS.

**Zondra Bitsuie** – I'm not sure how that occurred but I do know there was an MOU in place between GIMC and EMS so they can use the building next door to the clinic.

**Sam Natonabah** – Why are doctors always leaving, are they under a contract? You finally find a provider who knows about your health condition and they up and leave. Now, you have to start all over with a new provider.

**Zondra Bitsuie** – There are several factors, for example; a husband-and-wife providers come out to Tohatchi and the husband does not like the area or the community and they end up leaving. The other is housing, they are not housing available for the providers here. I think if we had housing for them, that would help a lot. These providers can't provide just outpatient care, in order for them to keep their license, they have to work at GIMC to keep up their skills.

**Fern Spencer** – These doctors, are they interns or are they MD?

**Zondra Bitsuie** – They are medical doctors. We do get interns but they rotate in and out.

**Council Delegate Notah** – We need to be able to look forward, we should not be having issues/shortages with the pharmacy, eye, and dental departments. This should have been looked at before it happens and my request is to look ahead and let's not get to a situation, we are falling short.

**Colandra Ahasteen – Performance Improvement Nurse** – I've been here for over 3 years and I'm really excited to be in your community serving you. I graduated from UNM-Gallup and have my registered Nurse license and I'm currently continuing my education. I enjoy working at Tohatchi Health Center and I get support from leadership here at Tohatchi and at GIMC.

I would like to cover the patient bill of rights today. We do have this brochure at the entrance of the clinic with patient registration. It's very important to be familiar with the bill of rights for patients so you know your rights when you come into the health center.

- a. You have the right to be treated with respect and dignity
- b. You have the right to health care as long as you are a beneficiary with HIS within the boundaries of Gallup Service Unit.
- c. You have a right to privacy and confidentiality



- d. You also have the right to personal safety
- e. You have the right to know who is treating you
- f. You also have the right to the information that involves your healthcare
- g. You have the right to consent to your healthcare treatment
- h. You have a right to consultation
- i. You have the right to get resolution of any dilemmas encounter while you are in our healthcare center
- j. You have the right to reasonable special accommodation as needed.
- k. You have the right to have patient management

How to get help with your rights, we do have a patient advocate and her name is Dr. Genevive Halona Nez and she is also our license clinical social worker as well. Please feel free to reach out to her if you have any patient concerns or grievances. We also have the number of the ethics committee on the brochure. Any grievances that are vocalized or shared with us, we always try to put in writing. We encourage patients to put it in writing or you can meet with the patient advocate, and she can help you put it in writing for you. There are formal and informal complaints. Formal is if an injury occurred and informal is if no injury occurred. The brochure has the number for the joint commission committee as well. You can contact them if your complaint has not been addressed through the proper channels. We also have the social worker who can assist you with advance directives.

**Charles Arviso** – Why does IHS have boundaries, for example; if you live in Ft Defiance, you have to go to Ft. Defiance hospital for treatment and if you live in Crownpoint, you have to go to Crownpoint hospital? Why can't we go to any IHS? Let's say you get injured while off the reservation, will IHS cover your hospital expense?

**Colandra Ahasteen** – As far as emergency laws that are in place, you as an IHS beneficiary can go to any emergency room for treatment and they are obligated to treat you. However, when you talk about primary care, or urgent clinic. A big initiative that I am working towards is having all of our local providers having majority of their patient panels for Tohatchi Health Center. A lot of our providers in primary care or providing primary care for our patients in Tohatchi communities. There is a certain amount of monies disperse to the service units based off of their population in their service area. We have patients jumping between service units for primary care that means we are paying for patient's care from across Navajo when the money should be used for the people in our community and District.

As far as hospital cost when off the reservation. Again, this is where patient responsibility is also very important. If you ever get injured and you have to call an ambulance and get emergency services from a non IHS hospital (private sector). It is the patient's reasonability to call your service unit (Purchased Referred Care) and let them know within 72 hours that you are in a hospital for emergency treatment. Even you have college students who are off the reservation to attend school. Purchase Referred Care will consider them as being beneficiaries and will cover their cost for emergency treatment.

In the month of October, we had 4 incidents that were report in our incident command center of verbal aggression toward our staff. There is a zero tolerance of all forms of aggression and incidents may result in a band from the facility and or criminal prosecution. Aggressive behavior includes, abusive language, threats, verbal assault, physical assault, harassment, sexual language, and intimidation. It is under code 18U.S.C111 which makes it a federal crime to assault, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any officer or employee of the US or any agency or branch of US government while engage in or on account of the performance of official duties. We just ask that we are treated respectfully and to be please be patient with us.

**Rachelle Morris – Public Health Nurse** – We are very busy this year and the fall is our busy season. We are busy with vaccination clinics. We did vaccination at the Chapter level and we did one November 9<sup>th</sup> at



Coyote Canyon. Last week on the 16<sup>th</sup> we did one at Twin Lakes Chapter. We actually started out with Naschitti Chapter as our 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination clinic back in October. We also have vaccination clinic at Tohatchi Health Center on Wednesdays and there are 2 coming up in December. For my department, Public Health Nursing, we launch as new pilot project. It's a graphic syphilis and HIV testing that we do. It is done by finger stick and you get your test results within 15-20 minutes. We get consents and ask some questions to do the testing. We've been doing these tests alongside the vaccination clinics. The reason why we are doing this test is because syphilis cases has increase dramatically. It's been on the rise on the Navajo Nation and Nationwide as well. In the last 5-10 years the number of cases had decrease from 60-80 cases per month, but now we are averaging and seeing cases from 250-300 cases per month and its very concerning. So, along with the syphilis rapid testing, if there is a reactive test result then we do a blood draw right on the spot. Then we do an interview and send it to the lab either at the health center or GIMC to confirm it is reactive. We collaborate very closely with our infectious disease doctors and we will go over what would be the appropriate treatment plan for you.

We are also handling referrals we get from the doctors, from Chapters and community members, and social workers. I have been asked to oversee District 14 communities and I will be more out in the community and covering my community which is Tohatchi and Chooshgai, Buffalo Springs, Naschitti, and a small south area of Sheep Springs, but I will also cover Mexican Springs, Twin Lakes, Coyote Canyon, and Tolakai. So, I'll be very busy.

**Charles Arviso** – Which Veterans Organization are you working with? And also the newspaper mentions the Veterans Administrator, Ms. Baldwin did not show up for a meeting yesterday and had no plans for the Veterans.

**Council Delegate Notah** – I'm working with 3, the main organization our of W/R headed by Ms. Baldwin, the agency, and I've met with several of the Chapters in District 14. As far as Ms. Baldwin is concerned, this has become a big issue and we are having to mandate her to attend and give report to the Council on what her plans are for the Veterans.

3. **Vice President Halona** - I attended a 3-day work session in Albuquerque last week on varies topics with the Resource Development Committee. On Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> presentation was the Current Pastureland and Forge Insurance Policy. This is an insurance policy that the Nation has bought premium into and considered a precipitation insurance. The insurance is saying, if we don't get enough rain and fall below the average rain fall, then the insurance pays out to the Nation for the farmers and livestock owners. If the rainfall is above the average, then we pay because of all the rain we got. This program started in 2017 on Navajo and each year Navajo has been paid except for one year where we got much needed rain and we had to pay back. The discussion was on what the fund is doing for Navajo and how the insurance has been preforming and how much money has been paid. With that comes the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund which comes from USDA. The propose of the fund is to ensure livestock owners continue to ranch, to continue to raise cattle to supply the beef market needed across the nation. This money should be coming back to the producers. The funds could be used for water improvement for livestock so ranchers do not have to haul water to their animals. Windmill repair, or to have water drilled for livestock. This also applies to the farmers. They need water continuously to grow crops in abundant annually so they can sell their produce to contribute to the food chain. The whole purpose of the funding is to have these farmers continue farming each year. So of the discussion was on how many projects have they worked on since 2017? The department of Agriculture is trying to get people to apply. So, if you had a garden last, you can apply and you can get an incentive payment. Some were paid out, but a lot weren't because they underestimated themselves with a small budget. Last year, the AIF funding became available where the ranchers' received bales of hay and mineral licks at each Chapter, but again it was underbudgeted with \$4



million for Navajo. These programs are suppose to subsidize the producers. This is what we wanted to highlight, get a report and see where everything is with Resource committee and with the Division of Natural Resources so we have an idea as to where adjustments need to be made. During the severe drought across Navajo. There was an incentive for you to reduce your herd, so whatever amount you sold it for on top of that you should have been given additional monies for each animal that you sold, so you are not at a lost. What they are trying to do from the US government is to help the livestock owners and farmers to stay in business. A website was created to apply for assistance on line and also the incentives if you had a small garden. The money can be used to buy seeds, potting soil, fencing, whatever you need to grow your garden. Department of Agriculture had a report our which speaks to windmill and the earth dams. There are currently over 4000 earth dams across Navajo and some were breached. We talked about this topic here in our Chapter, how the earth dams need to be restored, clean, and cleared so we can capture all the moisture that comes off the mountain to recharge our ground water. So, if you look upstream, the dams are already breached. There have been repairs made to windmills but some are not producing any water anymore. This past summer many of the windmills went dry because of no wind. You need the wind to move the windmills to bring the water above ground. The Nation are looking at alternatives to windmills called jump pumps, which are more expenses. The other is solar power which was another option but people start to vandalize this solar power on the windmills. So, these are challenges we all face across Navajo.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day we talked about grazing and what we need to do about grazing. There are people who have associated grazing permits to land ownership. This holds up a lot of the projects. We discussed the condition of the land, what plans do we have and how are we going to address it? Back in 2014, there was a proposed Navajo Range Land Improvement Act. This Act will be re-visited because there are individuals who have grazing permits but no livestock or they have a relative's permit who is decease and the permit was never probated. We have overgrazing and issues with feral animals running lose on Navajo. So, there has been many public hearings and discussions. We have RDC involved and also the Council and it's a hot potato for the politicians and they can't make a decision either way. The Act stalled at Council and it was actually tabled since 2014. The Resource Development Committee says let's look at what the provision were and look at what's needed. The main issue is enforcement, there is a huge lack of enforcement. If we have regulations approved there better be good strong enforcement to address the civil trespassing and criminal penalties so people will take it seriously. The judicial system is full of criminal cases and the civil cases are forgotten. Some of the proposals were to perhaps have our own hearings judge for Agricultural and Natural Resource.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the session was a presentation on the Bureau of Indian Affairs and grazing. In 2025, they want to implement in Eastern Agency to add bonds to the grazing permits since they currently pay for their grazing permit. So, there will be a bond to correct overgrazing and to correct damaged rangeland. The other aspect was what they call the Navajo Partition Lands (NPL) in Hopi. When the land dispute happened, it went to joint use area, and then it went to court and they came out with Navajo Partition Lands and Hopi Partition Lands. Back then, everyone who had grazing permit were cancelled and they could not have livestock on the land. Now, they want to re-issue those permits but they are wondering how many units to issue each person. In 2016, BIA did a study called the Range Inventory to find out what the range condition was and of course people still had their animals grazing on the land, so when the inventory was completed, it came back as overgrazed. If we issue grazing permits based upon the inventory, the science, and, the vegetation, then these individuals would only be allowed 10 animal units which would be 10 sheep or 2 cows or 2 horses. This was another discussion as to how are we going to issue grazing permits back to the people who live in the NPL. How do we make it fair for everyone?

The Range Improvement Act, the people who have state brands should not be using the grazing areas, they



have not been brought over. They are a lot of people who have state brands who have livestock out and some in the wrong grazing areas. This will need to be addressed.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, all of the Resource Committee members were in attendance and started the day talking about Title 26. Title 26 says we are a local government and we have a President, Vice President and Secretary. As you heard earlier, the virtual conferencing legislation was vetoed stating all meetings should be in person just like the city, county, and state. One of the big reasons was meeting quorum and the challenges they face like not being able to approve their 2024 budget but this virtual conferencing is not the problem. People just don't want to attend Chapter meetings anymore so is there a need for a Chapter? The band aid is the virtual conferencing but as a Chapter, we can still use virtual conferencing but the people on-line can't vote and they can't be counted as part of the quorum. How can Title 26 be fix? The department of justice said they have come up with 4 models which they presented. I was also asked to speak on this topic as well. Back in 2015 the Resource Development Committee established a task force to try to fix all the issues with Title 26. I was appointed as the chair of the task force, so we had everybody from the accounting office, the Attorney General, DOJ, Personnel Management, Ethic & Rules, Community Development, every program department and division that had to do with the Chapter were on the task force. This was also attempted in 2010 but at the time the Chapters did not accept the revision. We decided to do a whole new system for the Chapters. We gather information about their quorum and the law states there has to be 1000 registered voters in a community for it to be a Chapter. Currently, 40 plus Chapters do not meet that threshold so they should not be a Chapter. LGA came in 1998 with the Local Governance Act and the Chapters are suppose to come up with their own plan, but not one Chapter created their own, so a template was established which all the Chapters adopted. Currently, there are around 45-46 Chapters who are certified. But Title 26 did not tell the Chapter what to do after they became certified so several Chapters did not want to be a certified Chapter because they claimed they did not have the money to operate the Chapter.

What we came up with is to reduce the 110 Chapters to 22 Chapters, for example; Tohatchi Chapter in District 14 would be the main Chapter and the other Chapters would fall under Tohatchi Chapter. We could do our own budget, have our own regional manager, accountant, grant writer, extension agent, and compliance officer, and our own heavy equipment operator for District 14 and we would be able to pay him \$30-45 an hour. This was the model we came up with based on the information we gather at the time. We also learned the Chapters have lost confidence, creditability, and trust in the people. If we went to a regional operation, something like a county we could be able to have more plans but we are limited. Of course, the Government Development Office who were in charge to do government reform but they came out with their ideas. How do we go back to traditional type operations?

They ended the day with the proposed burial and cemetery regulations which has been around since 2015. Some Chapters were charging non-registered voters \$1000 to use the cemetery. We looked at the regulations which was established in 1958 which clearly states, any tribal member regardless of where they reside or where they deacease are allowed to be buried in any Navajo Nation cemetery and it doesn't state there will be a fee charged. Now, families are starting to use family plots which have cause disputes among neighbors and then cremation started up and again there is no regulations for this as well. Another issue is the shrines which have popped along the highways. Since 2015, there has been work sessions and public hearings, and the regulation has expanded. It has come full circle. The biggest challenge was the different ways we have been taught by our grandmothers and grandfathers played a big factor in this discussion. I believe RDC committee has come to the conclusion that everything is complete and the district grazing official, land and farm boards were there. This will be RDC's last call, and they did say they will be straight forward on the cemeteries, shrines would be prohibited, and no more family plots. Those that have them now will be grandfather in, but they have to report the plots so that it can be mapped out.



**Charles Arviso** – The insurance money that you get is it taxable? Because anytime you get money from anybody, you get a 1099 to report to the IRS.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – I did ask that question, and I was told they will be not be taxed because it's considered a public assistance program like Medicaid or food stamps and you should not be given a 1099 form. They did say, when the program 1<sup>st</sup> started, they were issuing out 1099 forms but that was incorrect. Also, you can apply for assistance with the Gallup USDA office and the Navajo Nation program as well. The Navajo Nation calls the USDA program "proactive" but the Navajo Nation calls their program "reactive."

**Alice Burbank** – What was your input on the Land Status for the people who have grazing permits should be allowed to take care of the land by re-seeding mother earth and develop water themselves.

**Vice President Halona** – That would fall under the "Rangeland Improvement Act" and to encourage people to take care of their grazing area. We shouldn't need laws and regulations; we should know what we need to do.

**Valentina Benallie** – We talk about grazing but people are using the arroyos to dump their trash. Nobody is controlling it. It's reported to EPA and vehicle license number are provided but all they will do is take pictures. We have all these heavy equipment out here. Why can't we load them all up to take to the dumpster. We can use the backhoes, land graders and there are just sitting there and it's not being used the proper way. During the winter, people could not get to their houses.

**Vice President Halona** – The prosecutors would not even pick that up because they have other more important things to deal with, I guess.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS:

### 1. October 2023 Financial Report -

OCTOBER BALANCE FUND		
1	Chapter Activities Gen Fund	\$25,260.83
2	NN General Fund	\$7.49
3	Land Claims Trust	\$13,330.52
8	Supplemental Youth Fund	\$19,692.32
9	Housing Discretionary Fund	\$6,730.10
10	LGA Grant Fund	\$45,011.82
12	Chapter Stipends	\$8,667.03
14	Scholarship Claims Fund	\$679.98
15	PEP Fund	<b>-\$5,571.73</b>
17	Emergency Fund	\$7,964.04
23	NN Sales Tax	\$104,288.35
25	NN CIP - \$180,000	\$29,612.26
27	NN CIP - \$200,000	\$3,877.78
40	Unhealthy Food Tax	\$88,720.99
61	Senior Citizen Fund	\$2,162.99
51	NAPI	\$2,299.66
26	Red Willow Farm	\$2,190.37
34	Agriculture & Infrastructure	\$3.68
	Total Fund Balances	<b>\$354,928.48</b>

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – We finally received our annual allocation from Window Rock and we received \$217,817. Once we receive the financial reports from our accountant, President Moore and I will review the financial reports before we present to the community. For the month of October our books are in balance and everything has been reconciled back to the bank. Again, as always, these reports are available to the community.



Charles Arviso – It was mentioned several meetings ago, the President said the Veterans receive \$1,000 but I don't see it on the financial report. We were also told it can only be spent 2 ways.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – We did receive the funding but its still in the budget and will not be added to the financial report until next month in December. We just received the budget a few days ago and the Veterans did receive \$5000.

President Moore – We had requested for \$317,000 for our 2024 budget and \$100,000 goes toward salary and it stays in Window Rock. Each year our allocation is decreasing. We should be looking at ways to bring in revenue and I've asked CLUPC to look into expanding the transfer station.

**Motion to Accept the October 31, 2023 Financial Report:**

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fern Spencer 2<sup>nd</sup> Priscilla Duncan Vote: 24-0-4

**VIII. RESOLUTIONS:**

1. 006-11-2024: Resolution to approve Septic Cleaning Services for 25 community members with a cost share of \$100 each.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Priscilla Duncan 2<sup>nd</sup> Manuel Shirleson Vote: 23-0-1

- IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next planning meeting on December 04<sup>th</sup>, Community announcements: Chapter will be closed November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> which includes the Solid Waste Station. Arts n Craft sell on November 30 and December 1<sup>st</sup> here at Chapter along with a food sale. \$5 a table to sell your items. Deadline for septic cleaning service is on December 8<sup>th</sup> and cost is \$100 per person. This service will be available for the first 25 community members. You will need a money order made out to Tohatchi Chapter. College students can apply for the spring 2024 scholarships and deadline is December 22<sup>nd</sup>. You have to be registered voter, if under 18 years of age, one of your parents has to be a registered voter with our Chapter. If you are a returning student and received assistance back in spring of 2022, we will require receipts. So, this year the checks will be written directly to the school and not the student. We also have openings for employment for our fall students and will begin work on December 18-January 12<sup>th</sup> which is 4 weeks employment with the Chapter and deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Our annual Christmas dinner is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>

**Red Willow** – Meeting scheduled for December 5th

**CLUPC** – Meeting November 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am

- X. NEXT MEETING DATE: December 4, 2023 Planning Meeting @ 10am.**

- XI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:47pm**

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Delphine Bitsilly 2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Arviso

Submitted by,



Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **November 30, 2023**

cc: Mr. Sonny Moore, President

Mr. Mike Halona, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC