



July 17, 2024 @ 10:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING AGENDA

AUDIO TELECONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: (575) 567-3331 PIN: 290 206 733#

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- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. INVOCATION
- IV. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF June 19, 2024 MEETING MINUTES
- VI. PRESENTATION:
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 1. June 2024 Financial Report
- IX. RESOLUTIONS:
 1. 048-07-2024: Resolution to approve 15 college students for Financial Assistance.
 2. 049-07-2024: Resolution to approve 3rd Quarter Revenue from xeroxing, faxing, showers, facility usages, heavy equipment, and the transfer station to be put into Fund 01.
 3. 050-07-2024: Resolution to approve a Budget Transfer to Fund 15 for the FICA taxes.
 4. 051-07-2024: Resolution to Approve the New Rate Schedule for the Transfer Station due to the Increase in Monthly Charges from Northwest Regional Waste Authority.
 5. 052-07-2024: Resolution to Approve Extending Employment for the Transfer Station Attendant, Labor Carpenter 1, and Labor Carpenter II through the End of the Fiscal Year Using Fund 25 Capital Improvement.
- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- XI. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: August 5, 2024 (Planning Meeting)
- XII. ADJOURNMENT:



July 17, 2024 10:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:55 AM**
- II. ROLL CALL: President Sonny Moore, Vice President Mike Halona, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Office Gerald Moore**
- III. INVOCATION: Kevin Mitchell**
- IV. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
Motion: 1st Delphine Bitsilly 2nd Marjorie Francisco Vote: 24-0-1
- V. APPROVAL OF JUNE 19, 2024 MEETING MINUTES:**
Motion to include to read on your own:
Motion: 1ST Annalisa Holian 2nd Lee Rodgers Vote: 23-0-1
- VI. PRESENTERS:**
1. **Vice President Halona** – Thank you students for coming to the meeting so we can meet quorum. Like President Moore mention, we wished we could give more in student financial aid. Achieving your goals of getting an education is all up to you; we are praying, encouraging, and with you, but only you can make it happen. I hope you all are going to college because you chose to and not because your parents want you to. You need to decide who you want to become and getting through the process. And the end, you can get a nice job, nice salary, nice cars, and nice home but it all boils down to who you've become. This is where your roots are, this is home, and it's where your strength comes from. You're not going to get to that level that I'm describing without the challenges, sacrifices, and the decisions you will be making. I always encourage students to write their goals down that way it's not so easy to change or forget. What is your purpose in life? The minute you were born you took the breath of life and spirit; you became an individual. Your parents and grandparents already had all kinds of dreams for you and even given you a Navajo name to identify you. Don't forget about your dreams and goals and let it fall to the wayside because our traditional teaching is: every morning you get up, outside your door awaits all the negative activities to distract you and it never goes away. That is the reason why, our elders tell us to get up early so you can challenge all the negative activities. Don't lose your connection with your creator, that is where you get your power from. But if you decide your going to get inside and not greet the morning, you are just missing all the opportunities available. We want the best for you and remember, you are representing your family, community, and clanship. The one thing I learned is "time, it will either promote you or expose you" So, go out and do the best that you can, it's going to take hard work, but you have our support. We want to give you the stepping stone to get there. It takes all of us to invest in your future.
- Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – I want to thank the students for coming back to the Chapter today. I would like to mention the majority of us here today graduated from Tohatchi High School. And from this school, we've had doctors, nurses, teachers, and even an astronaut. We also have an individual who is currently the CEO of Gallup Indian Medical Center who graduated from Tohatchi High School. So, you can be whoever you want to be, you just have to want it that bad. I encourage the students here to go out

and reach for your goals. I'm always saying, the Navajo Nation is so far behind in technology and we have to move forward for our children. We need our children to come back after graduation and assist the Nation. They can provide the education and knowledge that we sorely lack.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. June 2024 Financial Report -

JUNE BALANCE FUND		
1	Chapter Activities Gen Fund	\$22,280.71
2	NN General Fund	\$5,877.56
3	Land Claims Trust	\$19,970.76
8	Supplemental Youth Fund	\$16,458.59
9	Housing Discretionary Fund	\$8,117.41
10	LGA Grant Fund	\$67,852.76
12	Chapter Stipends	\$23,152.56
13	Scholarship General Fund	\$9,795.00
14	Scholarship Claims Fund	\$2,528.98
15	PEP Fund	\$21,526.53
16	Veterans Fund	\$4,788.78
17	Emergency Fund	\$35,845.02
23	NN Sales Tax	\$126,819.48
25	NN CIP - \$180,000	\$26,818.85
26	Red Willow	\$1,040.37
27	NN CIP - \$200,000	\$3,877.78
34	Agriculture & Infrastructure	\$3.68
40	Unhealthy Food Tax	\$107,350.62
51	NAPI	\$2,299.66
61	Senior Center	\$2,162.99
	Total Fund Balance	\$508,571.09

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – The financial reports are reviewed monthly by Chapter President and Secretary /Treasurer. For the month of June 2024, our books are in balance and everything has been reconciled back to Wells Fargo bank. We reviewed all the checks that were written for the month and all have been accounted for. We found no discrepancies.

President Moore – One of the goals of the late Julie Badonie, was to bring back trust and integrity to the Chapter. She and former Council Delegate, Pernell Halona requested to have an audit completed on our financial records. Tohatchi Chapter has never had an audit done from previous years. Now, we know exactly where we are weak as far as our financial situation. We have been working on the audit Findings, diligently and we've updated our policies according to the Findings from the audit. The auditor general will be coming back in to do a 2nd audit and hopefully they will accept all the corrective actions we have submitted to them. I want to thank our CSC, Maria and her staff for all the hard work they put into

correcting the Findings.

Our fiscal year will be ending on September 31, 2024 and a new year will start on October 1, 2024 for fiscal year 2025. The budget that we receive from Window Rock each year has been decreasing. We use to receive \$800,000 but now we receive around \$500,000 annually. We have been working with Red Willow Farm and assisting them with their expenditures and we do see a lot of good things happening at Red Willow. I also want to commend our Secretary/Treasurer for the work she does. The agenda and minutes are always on time and I appreciate all the work she contributes to keep the Chapter

Kevin Mitchell – I just want to thank our Secretary/Treasurer, CSC, Maria, accountant Jeannie and also Janice for doing a great job keeping our Tohatchi Chapter’s financial records stable with the bank. It is hard work and I just want to say thank you, again.

Patricia Begay, ASC from Window Rock – I work and oversee the chapters under Ft. Defiance Agency which includes District 14.

Motion to Accept the June 30, 2024 Financial Report:

Motion: 1st Kevin Mitchell 2nd Marjorie Francisco Vote: 20-1-1

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

1. **048-07-2024:** Resolution to approve 15 college students for Financial Assistance for fall 2024.

Motion: 1st Lee Rodgers 2nd Marjorie Francisco Vote: 23-0-1

COLLEGE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FALL 2024

NAME	COLLEGE	CLASSIFICATION	AMOUNT	APPLICATION COMPLETION
Emma Tabaha	Ft Lewis College, CO	Freshmen (01)	\$350.00	√
Marisa Denetso	Ft Lewis College, CO	Freshmen (01)	\$350.00	√
Annalisa Holian	IntelliTEC College, NM	Freshmen (01)	\$350.00	√
Charles W Lynch	NAU, Flagstaff AZ	Freshmen (01)	\$350.00	√
Tyra Bitsie	NTU, Crownpoint NM	Freshmen (01)	\$350.00	√
Delicia Begay	Tohono Odham College, AZ	Freshmen (01)	\$350.00	√
Daleighia Chato	UNM – Gallup NM	Freshmen (01)	\$350.00	√
Brianna Begay	UNM -Gallup NM	Sophomore (02)	\$400.00	√
Cecil Begay	UNM – Gallup NM	Sophomore (02)	\$400.00	√
Melvin Scott JR	Ft Lewis College, CO	Junior (03)	\$450.00	√
Adriano Carmona	UNM-Albuquerque NM	Junior (03)	\$450.00	√
Chelsey Hansen	UNM-Albuquerque NM	Junior (03)	\$450.00	√
Alfredo Bitsoi	UOC, Boulder CO	Junior (03)	\$450.00	√
Francesca Noble	NTU Crownpoint NM	Senior (04)	\$500.00	√
Charleston Noble	UNM Albuquerque NM	Senior (04)	\$500.00	√
TOTAL AMOUNT:			\$6,050.00	

Elvis Bitsilly – The heading on the resolution is incorrect. It should state 15 students not 11 students.

Maria, CSC – I'll make that correction to the resolution to state 15 students.

2. **049-07-2024:** Resolution to approve 3rd Quarter Revenue (April, May & June 2024) from xeroxing, faxing, showers, facility usages, rental of heavy equipment, and the transfer station to be put into Fund 01.

Maria, CSC – For the months of April, May, and June the Chapter made \$7917.21 which will go back into Fund 01 and breaking it down into Operating Supplies - \$500, and Diesel Fuel - \$917.21, Hay Purchase - \$2000, Food - \$800, Wood - \$700, and Professional Fees - \$3000. Chapter will be purchasing wood during the winter months and hopefully hay as well.

Fern Spencer – Can Red Willow use some of the ARPA money to pay to have a building moved from the high school down to Red Willow Farm?

President Moore – Moving of the building would not qualify under Federal Funds (ARPA). But I did sign a check for a 2-inch generator pump Red Willow was requesting for.

Elvis Bitsilly – Where is our Council Delegate? There is money being put into a “General Fund” which our Chapter could get to fund our new Safety Complex. I'm glad to see Patricia Begay, ASC here with us today. We have been requesting for her to assist the Chapters in District 14. She needs to be the one informing the Chapters on what is going on in Window Rock. The Community Development Department needs to let the Chapters know what is coming down.

Motion: 1st Emery Begay 2nd Annalisa Holian Vote: 23-0-1

3. **050-07-2024:** Resolution to approve a budget transfer of \$780 to Fund 15 for the FICA taxes.

Motion: 1st Delphine Bitsilly 2nd Kevin Mitchell Vote: 18-0-2

4. **051-07-2024:** Resolution to approve the new rate schedule for the Transfer Station due to the increase in monthly charges from Northwest Regional Waste Authority.

Maria, CSC – Our transfer station receives trash from our community and District 14. The cost currently is \$2.12 per bag, a truck load is \$8.48, and flatbed is \$17. The last time the cost was increase was back in 2007. We were working with Window Rock Solid Waste Department, but they are very expensive so we decided to go with Thoreau Solid Waste. They charge the Chapter \$1400 per month to come out and pickup their trash bins and replace with a new bin. We received a letter from them stating they will be increasing the cost from \$1,400 to \$1,600 per month due to the cost of gasoline and the mileage from Thoreau. So, the Chapter is asking to increase their rate as well. For a trash bag it will cost \$2.65, truckload even with the bed will cost \$10.07, and flatbed load will cost \$16.96

We did call around to the other Chapters in District 14 and they also had to increase their rates as well.

Lee Rodgers - We did not receive the average amount that the transfer station brings in on a monthly basis? It would be nice to see how much the Chapter brings in and how much the Chapter pays the Thoreau Solid Waste Station. My concern is when I have to take my trash to Gallup, I have to make sure it's covered really well because I don't want to get cited for trash blowing out of my truck. When I get there, they weight my truck and I pay \$7.00 for the load. I've been paying \$7 for as long as I remember and it has not changed. Here at Tohatchi transfer station, we are paying \$8.48. My analysis is I'm not paying for \$6 for gas to drive to Gallup if I take my trash to Tohatchi which is a \$1.48 difference. My other concern is if we continue to raise the rates at the transfer station, it would continue to encourage people to do illegal dumping in our community. I don't appreciate having people's trash dumped in the mountains. Currently, nobody is policing it or enforcing it. I see signs that say “no illegal dumping” but people are still doing it. So, how do we encourage our community to dump their trash at the transfer station if we are raising the rates on them? I'm speaking for people who are on fixed income and cannot afford to pay \$8.48 for trash. This is a problem that every Chapter has and it's not just Tohatchi and we should be talking about how we are going to tackle the cleanup of the trash that is being dump illegal.

What are we planning to do for these individuals who cannot afford to use the transfer station to dump trash? After looking at the GPS map, we can see residents with broken down vehicles in them from yard. We should bring in huge dump truck and have people bring in their old vehicle parts and give them credit for it by letting them dump their trash at the transfer station, maybe then they will be encouraged to start using the transfer station. How many volunteers can we get to help us pickup trash? Maybe we could do this every quarter. Instead of feeding us here at the Chapter during the meetings, maybe we can save the money to feed our volunteers. I want to ask the community here in attendance to really think about this, the new rate increase of \$2. We need to see a report telling us how much money the transfer station brings in each month.

President Moore – We do have the cost comparison and we can share that with our community. Ms. Rodgers is right; we should be looking for more resources or alternatives to this problem of illegal dumping. I can tell you right off the top of my head, what we bring in is not enough to cover our expenses at the transfer station. We do have a line item under Sales Tax there is a line item called “Community Beautification.” I’ve even suggested doing a newsletter to address this issue. We could do a mass mail out to our community members and maybe it will make a difference. I believe the signs which the Chapter posted in the areas that had the most problem with illegal dumping has made a difference. If you want to table this resolution, you have the option to do so.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – We’ve had this discussion several times about the illegal dumping occurring in our community including the cemetery. We’ve written letters to EPA in W/R to help us address the illegal dumping but they state they are short staff so it’s really a lack of enforcement. Just like the issue with all the feral animals in our community. But I do like your suggestions as a community we can come together to tried to clean up the community. As far as trying to rent a big truck, I don’t know about that either. I’ve been trying to get some asphalt milling moved from along highway 491 to our Chapter here, but I’ve been told we don’t have the funds to rent. I submitted a request to NNDOT for their assistance to move the asphalt milling but they of course denied us stating they are too busy. But these are some of the challenges we faced.

Lee Rodgers – I think if we could start in small steps and build big. My neighbor Dave has a big metal bed truck who we can ask to assist us with this project. I’m sure if people see what we are trying to do they will want to help. We can pay for his gas and ask him to donate his time. I know we have people in our community who are generous and care about our land. We can announce it on the radio and have coffee and water for them.

Vice President Halona – I believe Ms. Rodgers is saying she wants to spearhead this project to clean up Tohatchi and the surrounding areas in our community.

Emery Begay – I hear and agree with Ms. Rodgers. I know people who use to move up the mountain during the summer months don’t move up anymore. All you see is old shacks which have caved in and no remnants of families who once lived there. This trash issue belongs to each one of us and we should take responsibility for our trash.

Motion: 1st Emery Begay 2nd Alfredo Bitsoi **Vote:**

Motion to table this resolution:

1st Geneva Begay 2nd Lee Rodgers **Vote: 11-8-1**

5. **052-07-2024:** Resolution to approve extending Employment for the Transfer Station Attendant, Labor Carpenter I, and Labor Carpenter II through the end of the fiscal year using Fund 25 Capital Improvement.

Geneva Begay – I’m wondering what the policy states for our PEP workers? If the Chapter is assisting a home and they receive \$2000 and the supplies and materials are dropped off at the home. The

homeowner will than decide to use the supplies for something else. This has occurred recently, where the PEP workers are harassed and told they are not doing a good job. How does the Chapter handle this situation. Is there something written in the policy to protect the PEP workers? And can the homeowner do the work themselves?

Maria, CSC – Yes, the policy is written to protect the Chapter and the PEP workers from abuse or harassment. If the homeowner wants to do the work themselves, they have to sign the agreement form that the Chapter provides. I do notice a lot of people would rather do their work repairs to their homes. So, we'll deliver the supplies and take our inventory and then we'll go back when they say they have completed the work to take after pictures of the project. As far as the staff being harassed, they are instructed to pack up and leave the jobsite immediately. That's when I step in and let the officials know and we take care of the situation.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – Did I hear the PEP workers are paid only \$10 an hour. That's below minimum wage. I can't believe the Navajo Nation is not paying at least minimum wage to the PEP staff. I think this needs to be addressed with our Council Delegate and our ASC, Patricia Begay.

Elvis Bitsilly – I want to mention that the Chapter needs to be accountable for all the materials and supplies being provided to the families. How are we entrusting them for funds that are provided by the chapter and are they going to be using it for the home repair? There is a family who insist on interfering with our projects within the community. They need to be corporative with the Chapter and the subcommittees. We need to keep our PEP staff safe.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – All these issues that have been brought up is stated in the policy. We took a look at harassment issues, people who weren't cooperating and how the Chapter will be handling this is stated in the Housing Discretionary policy. And the reason why we have the staff go into Gallup to purchase the materials and supplies for a project is because of accountability. We need to know exactly what was purchased and we get the inventory and receipts for each project which than goes into a folder. We've been reviewing our policy on an annual basis to keep abreast of all the changes.

Lee Rodgers – requesting the Chapter to grade the road

Motion: 1st Lee Rodgers 2nd Kevin Mitchell Vote: 22-0-1

Cecelia Yazzie – I want to bring up 3 concerns, one is the culvert. Why haven't we received a culvert for our road? Secondly, the water at Hot Springs is gushing out and no way to turn off the water. Third, it getting the road graded up Halona canyon to the top of the mountain.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Maria, CSC – Veteran's Meeting on Friday at 10am. Sewing Classes, July 18-19th at 4pm-7pm. Meet & Greet for all the candidates who are running for office on July 25th from 6pm-9pm. CHID office from W/R will be here on July 26th from 9am-4pm. This is for people who are in need of a new home or repairs to your home. They will be here to take your applications. You can also go on their website to apply and it has a listing of the documents they will be asking for. You can bring your documents with you on July 26th. The primary election day is on Tuesday, July 30th and the Chapter will be closed on that day.

Red Willow Meeting is on July 23rd at 1pm. First Public Hearing on the Land Use plan on August 22nd from 1pm-5pm. District 14 Grazing Committee meeting on August 7th at Tohatchi Chapter at 9am. July 16-18th Navajo Nation is buying wool and mohair at Nakai Hall in W/R from 10am-4pm. Farm & Garden Workshop on August 27th from 9am-2pm presented by Grazing Officer Moore and Mr. Elvis Bitsilly. Also a talk on global warming and climate change.

Vice President Halona – if you plan to take your wool and mohair to W/R, they will only be taking the first 50 people so you need to get there early and make sure you have the wool separate.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: August 05, 2024 Planning Meeting @ 10am.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: 12:53pm

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **July 22, 2024**

cc: Mr. Sonny Moore, President

Mr. Mike Halona, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC