



THE NAVAJO NATION TOHATCHI COMMUNITY CHAPTER

Post Office Box 287 Tohatchi, New Mexico 87325 Tel: (505) 733-2845/2846 FAX: (505) 733-2847

Elvis Bitsilly
Chapter President

Lee Rodgers
Chapter Vice-President

Jean Crawford
Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Gerald Moore
Grazing Official

Nathan Notah
Council Delegate

OCTOBER 22, 2025 @ 9:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER AGENDA

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

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET: <https://meet.google.com/vsc-zdtr-mbz?authuser=0&hs=122>

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. INVOCATION**
- IV. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- V. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**
- VI. PRESENTATION:**
 1. Mr. Kenneth Todelo: Chooshgi Community School -
 2. Mr. Howard Leonard Jr.: Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife
 3. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations with Big Incentive Group. Rob Van, owner & CEO
 4. Mr. Sam Bergman: Candidate for NM State Governor
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 1. None
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**
 1. September 2025 Financial Report
- IX. RESOLUTIONS:**
 1. 002-10-2026: Resolution approving the FY'2025 Chapter's Activities General Fund account revenue budget (Fund 01) in the amount of \$5,926.04 for 4th quarter July, August, & September 2025.
 2. 003-10-2026: Resolution to recommend and approve to extend the Employment of the Public Employment Program (PEP) workers through January 31, 2026.
 3. 004-10-2026: Resolution to supporting the Navajo Nation broadband office and its connect Diné initiative, created in partnership with the Navajo people, in the implementation of the Navajo Nation broadband plan, including broadband opportunities, infrastructure development, and access to funding.
 4. 005-10-2026: Resolution to approve and adopt the fiscal year 2026 comprehensive budget (CS-44-25) Navajo Nation General Fund, Land Claims Trust Fund, Co-Stipends, Workers Comp Chapter Official Fund, SYEP Fund, Chapter Non Administrative Cost Fund, Chapter Scholarships, and Veterans' Awards, Budget in the amount of \$334,997.00
- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- XI. NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: 11-03-2025 @ 9:00am Planning Meeting**
- XII. ADJOURNMENT:**



October 22, 2025 9:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

OCT 30 AM 9:4E

- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:20am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Elvis Bitsilly, Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Officer Gerald Moore. Fern Spencer and Priscilla Duncan – CLUPC. Geneva Begay and Sam Natonabah – Red Willow Farm, Chooshgai School Board members: Nita Bates and Ray Barney. Gallup School Board member: Kevin Mitchell.
- III. **INVOCATION:** Elvis Bitsilly
- IV. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion to amend the agenda to add on another in house resolution. Resolution # 05-10-2026 was added to agenda per Maria Allison's request.

Motion: 1st Priscilla Duncan 2nd Lisa Hubbard Vote: 23-0-1
- V. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion: 1st Orlinda Nez 2nd Lisa Hubbard Vote: 17-1-3
- VI. **PRESENTERS:**
 1. **Kenneth Toledo, Principal of Chooshgai Community School:**

Mr. Toledo – We are a grant school and a lot of the responsibility falls on the school board and they govern the operation of the school like the finance, personnel, property, and audit. We have 212 students which is an average over a three-year period, 2023, 2024, and 2025. We also have 57 students who are considered residential students. Forty-seven students are from this community. Assessment is done for grades 3rd through 8th grade which is a requirement by the State and Government. There are 4 categories including Math which the students passed the benchmark. These scores are what we report to the Government, BIE, and the Navajo Nation which determines our funding annually. In English and language arts, 33% of the students exceeded the benchmark and this will determine the school's accreditation. Chooshgai School has 180 school days and 7 holidays which includes Federal and Tribal holidays. We also have spring break thanksgiving break, and winter break and all together there are 215 days which we are under contract. As far as the administration staff, there are 12 employees and on the academic side, there are 34 teachers and assistants and 24 of the 34 teachers are certified. We also have 12 employees in Facility management, and 7 employees who work in the residential building and 6 bus drivers. There are also 5 employees who work in the kitchen and 5 employees who work as security. In total there are 83 employees of Chooshgai Community School. The school provides specialize services for students who needs the extra help. These services are contracted out and can get very expensive for example a school psychologist.

The amount of funding we received in July 2025 from ICIP is \$2,428,732.00 (I believe this is the amount that was quoted by Mr. Toledo). A new business office manager was hire to review and correct the audit findings for 2025. We hope to have the findings resolve so we can present to DODE and Federal Government in March 2026. In conclusion, I would like to invite the community to come in to visit the school.
 - Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – You stated a new auditor will be hired in November, is that correct?

Mr. Toledo – Yes, we can have an auditor on board for 3 years. The auditor we have now has exceeded the 3 years so we will be hiring a new auditor in November.

President Bitsilly – When is Chooshgai Community School's School Board Meeting.

Lisa Hubbard – School Board Meeting will be held on November 3rd at 10:00am.

Kevin Mitchell – You mentioned you had all certified teachers; I would like to know how you plan to retain them also how does Chooshgai Community School compare to the other schools within the area?

Mr. Toledo – If you look at our data, we exceeded above the district according to our test scores. The district meaning all BIE schools. We can not really compare ourselves with the “public” schools. I believe we may be a little better than the public schools. As far as retention, we do receive funding to retain our teachers. These funds have been distributed to all our teachers and are not considered a bonus, it's retention funds.

Mr. Howard Leonard Jr – I was wondering if there is any data that shows children from kindergarten through 3rd grade who have been exposed to Navajo language and culture helps in their problem solving and basic knowledge of English?

Mr. Toledo – According to research, a child can learn to speak any language where they comprehend the language by speaking, reading and writing from kindergarten through the 3rd grade and beyond.

Fern Spencer – How many Native American teachers do you have working at the school currently? I remember when our student counselors would go up to Chooshgai school and their counselors would come down to collaborate especially regarding the 8th graders who may be transitioning down to the 9th grade here at Tohatchi High School. I believe this conversation needs to be re-developed and I hope you and your staff would be open to this.

Mr. Toledo – We are a feeder school; we feed into other public schools. This would be a transition type of activities and should be occurring twice a year.

Kevin Mitchell – What is the salary of the teachers there at the school and when do you give increases to the teachers.

Mr. Toledo – You have to understand you have to have the money to give pay raises. If you go to the consumer price index which will list the national average and usually its 2.5%. Again, this is up to the School Board. There are 3 levels that a teacher would fall into, level one salary is around \$32,000 and level 3 would be \$85,000 annually.

President Bitsilly – I just want to mention Chooshgai Community School is part of our community. We asked the school for a thorough report which should be done annually especially when you are asking for support in recertification. We've asking to come back to the meetings so the community can ask questions and get more answers before we approve a support resolution. We will have their support resolution on the agenda next month in November for action.

2. Howard Leonard Jr & Kyle Yazzie: Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife Department

Mr. Leonard – Recently, there was a discussion on climate change and the effects of the change on Navajo. People wonder why there is not much rain or snow these days which all stem from climate change. The chapter submitted a support resolution which was approved to ask Fish & Wildlife to assist in low impact land restoration techniques which would prevent water from rain and snow from gushing down the mountainside of the Chooshgai Mountain. The technique used was not from heavy equipment but from your own hands to move rocks and stack them strategically to slow down the water.

Kyle Yazzie – Just some information about our program with Fish & Wildlife. The Navajo Nation Climate Change Program works to help our communities prepare for and adapt to a changing climate. We focus on protecting our land, water, plants, and animals while promoting sustainable practices like recycling, caring for our livestock, and keeping our environment clean. Our goal is to create healthy resilient communities by restoring natural areas supporting locate food sources and educating the public

about protecting our resources for future generations. Our team has also been doing presentations to the elementary, middle, and the high schools. We do a lot of youth outreaches on Navajo.

What is restoration? A process of reversing ecological damage to return a degraded land to a healthy productive state. The practice of rehabilitating natural landscapes back to an environmental balance and or a productive use. These spaces have often been degraded through natural causes or through human activity. We have to allow land and stress to rest. Time and patience are key for land restoration to occur success. Back in 2020, I did work with another organization and at the time we did collaborate with this department. What we did was create one rock dams and we team up with an organization called Dine native plants as well as the climate change program. For Tohatchi, we were able to get a resolution stating the Tohatchi Chapter knowledges upon approval the selected sites will under go restoration with the use of local materials like biodegradable dead and down wood materials and brush. The local materials will be placed at strategic points to slow down and minimize the soil sedimentation flow as researched by CCP staff and impact best management practice to demonstrate water shed management. The Tohatchi Chapter knowledge it may employee Chapter residents through PEP funding for future projects, community assistance will ensure restoration work is effective and well maintain over time. By us education you on dam restoration you will be able to checkup on the dam and repair when needed. We do presentations on climate change, questions on erosion control, and food sovereignty which are our initiatives.

Cecelia Yazzie – I'm wondering if all the areas with bad erosion were repaired further up the road to mountain? Also, the road to my house has been eroding away because of a worn-down culvert and all the rain we've been having. The chapter did do some work on the road by throwing rocks into the erosion but that was washed away by the rain.

Kyle Yazzie – Where we started was high up in the mountains because we are trying to slow the water down from the top of the mountain. We can take a look at it but we are focus on communal roads for communities, but can give you some ideas as to how to go about the repair.

Krystal Yazzie – Does your program extend your knowledge to the youth like internship or programs for the youth to get involved?

Shundii Livingston: With NN Fish & Wildlife under the Climate Change Program - Currently, we were only a year in and a lot of these projects just got started within this past year. We are looking into some internship with New Mexico State University and they do have FFA (Future Farmers of America) so we are hoping to get some funds from there. We are also hoping to work with Tohatchi Work Force when they employee their summer youth employment program. We did work with Rock Springs Chapter and did a compost workshop for them. We showed them how to do compost to eliminate their waste because of the lack of landfills on Navajo.

Fern Spencer – I think you need to reach out to Gallup Mckinley County School curriculum and tell them exactly what you are doing but I also see that you went to the Tohatchi High School and talked about your program and that is what is needed because we don't have that anymore. I applaud your program and I hope you can bring more people who might be interested in your program. We also do a lot of social media since there are only 7 of us to cover all of Navajo.

Laris Manuelito - I just want to encourage you and your program.

JoAnn Jayne – I would like to know if the Navajo Nation has a water management plan and how does Tohatchi water shed fit into that?

Shundii Livingston – I believe that question would be addressed to Water Resource Department. They focus a lot on our water shed here on Navajo. What we do mostly is restoration portion of it.

Big Incentive Group, Electric Vehicle charging stations: Owner & CEO Rob Van.

Mr. Rob Van (teleconference Call) – We are here to discuss the probabilities of getting Tohatchi some

electric charging stations and hoping there will be no out of pocket expense for Tohatchi. Hopefully, the grant we are working on will cover 100% of all the expenses. The grant is the 2026 EV infrastructure grant which is running through the NM Department of Transportation and it's targeting Native communities to fill in geographical gaps. Also the other thing the grant is for, is the benefit and the accessibility in our community. There are about 5000 cars per day that travel by and if you took an average of an electric car to charge which takes about 30 minutes to charge, the profit for your community would be about \$30. So, if you took one charge per day at \$30 at the end of the day, the residual off that car at only 1 charge per day would be roughly \$11,000. There are also options on how the community can benefit from the electric chargers, it can be set at a discount rate or at no charge to community members. You can tell us how you want it setup. We are able to help you secure this grant if you choose to do so for your community, but you would have to commit to 5 years to have the chargers on and also chargers must be accessible 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The operational cost which includes the electricity cost, the network cost, and the maintenance. Just for your information, the average we calculated at \$30 a car these costs were already taken out. So, it would be \$30 per car.

I started the company called "Lighting Electric" in 2001. In 2008 I added a division and took care of energy efficient technology mostly lighting. 2003 we notice grants and rebates were being offered with electric vehicle chargers however; the nuance is you have to get the stations in before the grant comes back. So, my company is making sure to get these in without the community having to front the money, we take care of it all. In 2023, we partnered with several EV (electric vehicle) manufactures so we can get you different EV chargers depending on the manufacture and we also partnered with several charging management systems which at the end of all of it, someone has to manage it whether using a credit card in order to get the machine working. Someone needs to manage that but we do have several partnerships or contractors who will make sure everything gets installed and these chargers do draw a lot of power when they are in use. We specialize in the designing and the building aspect so we take care of that making sure the cars can get in and out. So, we'll do the design on the electrical, design on the ease of use and we do strategic planning and scheduling with the chapter. Not only for the project we need to get done right now but for the next 10 years and what does that look like when everything gets adopted by 2035 to go all electric vehicles. We do offer options on no out-of-pocket cost therefore we pay for all the install up front; we take care of everything if you allow us to get the grant at the end. So, if we turn in the grant application for you now, there is absolutely no obligation for the chapter. We hope this is something your community would be interested in.

President Bitsilly – I was contacted by Big Incentive Group and they were able to present information on EV (Electric Vehicle) charging stations to the CLUPC yesterday. Big Incentive Group will go over the potential of charging stations here in our community. This project is about economic development for our community and how we can benefit from having charging stations for the future. This group is local and they will explain how there are grants available through the New Mexico Department of Transportation for purchasing and setting up charging stations. The areas they are looking at to install chargers are at the Post Office, Speedway, and possibly the new gas station, NN Petroleum. We have to remember; we are a non-certified chapter which limits us from doing busy without Window Rock's knowledge and approval and there is a deadline of October 31st to give our approval.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – If the Post Office is one of the target places to install the chargers, who would be responsible for paying for the electricity? Since the deadline to apply for this grant is next week, I'm wondering if it would require a resolution? I just recently applied for a grant for our Chapter kitchen appliances and it required a resolution along with the application. I don't think we would be able to meet the deadline.

Rob Van - The chargers have meters so it would depend on who pays for it. It could come out of the

residual income or it could be tied onto any facility you want it tied to.

Vice President Rodgers – My concern is the deadline which is next week. We will not be able to pass a resolution by then but we would like to still be considered and we do need to do some research on our end. We need to have conversation with the company who owns the Post Office to see if they would be willing to commit to paying for the electricity. The statistics look very good for our community to have electric chargers because of our location and being right off highway 491. The other concern I have is the Post Office area is not monitored 24/7. These electric chargers could easily be vandalized. The other 2 location would be the ideal place for electric chargers but we don't know who actually owns the stores and if they would be willing to work with us. Other concerns are; will the meters be running 24/7 and what if we don't have anyone charging their vehicles.

Ron Van – These units we are proposing cost about \$15 per year to run even when nobody is using them. The only time it cost money is when they are actually charging so it's very efficient. As far as the possibilities of vandalization of the units, we can add security camera but the chapter would have to pay for the monitoring of it. We do need to turn all documents and applications in by the 31st, however; it takes them about 2 months to decide if you have been approved. We have about 2-3 months after the deadline of October 31st to make a concrete decision to say if we do want the vehicle chargers.

Priscilla Duncan – Can the expiration date of the grant be extended? Or can you request an extension?

Rob Van – Unfortunately, these grants are very strict on the closing dates. Sometimes they will extend it on their own, but I have no indication on this grant.

Grazing Officer Moore – I believe some of us enjoy traveling into Gallup and Farmington and don't mind the drive and also the new cars are built more efficient as far as fuel per mile. I'm wondering if this grant had a stipulation in it to where it states a certain number of Native tribes need to apply for this grant.

Rob Van – I'll be honest with you, with look at these grants and look at what the parameters are. This particular grant is \$10 million and will be divided up. One of the parameters is it must be government owned; it has to be owned by NM or any sort of Native communities. We then looked at the next most important thing was to be able to fill in the geographical areas. Just so you understand, it cost around \$300,000 to install one dual charger.

3. **Krystal Yazzie** – campaign representative for Mr. Sam Bergman who is a candidate for NM State Governor: YouTube Video was emailed from Mr. Bergman.

New Mexico is under attack by Trump and the republicans. They are attacking our public schools, healthcare, veterans, and workers, all of us. In a time when we need everyone to unite in the fight against Trump, I'm here to take on the chaos in Washington and protect the people of New Mexico. In this moment we need leaders to take action against tyrants and not stand idly by. In the courtroom, I've gone up against the powerful, fought for victims, women, workers, and those who couldn't fight for themselves and I've won. As DA I'm fighting back against New Mexico's crime wave by putting violent gang members behind bars, investing in mental health programs and we established a zero-tolerance policy for guns in our schools. We need to fight to protect our most vulnerable at a time when Trump is gutting our Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare and undermining the vital freedoms we enjoy in our state. And we need to start now. We need a comprehensive plan that will not only protect New Mexicans from the chaos in Washington but also to address the critical problems with crime, access to healthcare, education, and economic development. That's why as governor, my promise to you is that everyday I'll work hard to fight for the people of our state. I'll always tell you like it is and I'll never back down.

VII. **UNFINISH BUSINESS:**

1. None

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

SEPTEMBER 2025 Financial Report –

SEPTEMBER 2025 BALANCE FUND		
1	Chapter Activities Gen Fund	\$19,949.77
3	Land Claims Trust	\$52,911.83
8	Supplement Youth Fund	\$719.56
9	Housing Discretionary Fund	\$1,307.86
10	LGA Grant Fund	\$59,980.01
12	Chapter Stipends	\$18,279.96
13	Scholarship General Fund	\$1,492.00
14	Scholarship Claims Fund	\$4,463.96
15	PEP Fund	\$10,638.71
17	Emergency Fund	\$10,659.00
23	NN Sales Tax	\$134,752.18
25	NN CIP - \$180,000	\$13,831.58
16	Veterans Fund	\$590.37
27	NN CIP - \$200.000	\$3,877.78
40	Unhealthy Food Tax	\$104,785.82
61	Senior Citizen Fund	\$2,162.99
51	NAPI	\$2,238.56
26	Red Willow Farm	\$2,237.56
	General Fixed Assets	\$1,040.37
34	Agriculture & Infrastructure	\$3.68
	Total Fund Balance	\$467,363.85

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford –For the month of September 2025, our books are in balance with Wells Fargo Bank. We also have the Chapters total assets amount which is **\$880,726.90** for 2025. The Chapter can provide a Budget to Actual report on request.

Motion to accept the September 2025 Financial Report

Motion: 1st JoAnn Jayne 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 17-0-2

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

1. **002-10-2026:** Resolution to approving the FY' 2025 chapter's activities general fund account revenue budget (fund 01) in the amount of \$5,926.04 for 4th quarter July, August, and September 2025.

Motion: 1st JoAnn Jayne 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 18-0-1

2. **003-10-2026:** Resolution approving recommending and approving to extend the employment of the public employment program (PEP) workers through January 31, 2026.

Motion: 1st Lisa Hubbard 2nd JoAnn Jayne Vote: 19-0-1

3. **004-10-2026:** Resolution approving supporting the Navajo Nation broadband office and it connect Diné initiative, created in partnership with the Navajo people, in the implementation of the Navajo Nation broadband plan, including broadband opportunities, infrastructure development, and access to funding.

Motion: 1st Laris Manuelito 2nd JoAnn Jayne Vote: 17-0-1

4. **005-10-2026:** Resolution approving and adopting the fiscal year 2026 comprehensive budget (cs-44-25),

Navajo Nation general funds, land claims trust funds, co- stipends, workers comp chapter official funds, SYEP fund, chapter non administrative cost fund, chapter scholarships, and veterans' awards, budget in the amount of \$334,997.00

This resolution was added in during the meeting per request from Maria Allison, CSC.

Motion: 1st Herman Dennison 2nd Geneva Begay Vote: 17-0-1

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Grazing Meeting on November 5th at Tohatchi Chapter at 9am. Red Willow meeting on November 6th at 1pm. Veterans' Day on November 11th chapter will be closed. CLUPC meeting on November 18th at 9am. Thanksgiving Day, November 27th and the 28th chapter will be closed.

******The chapter community members were asked if they would like to change the time of our meetings back to 10am. The majority of the community voted yes, so starting next month (November) meetings will begin at 10am. There is also daylight-saving time coming up on November 2nd so clocks turn back and hour.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: November 3, 2025 (Planning Meeting) at 10am.

XII. AJOURNMENT: 1:00pm

Motion: 1st Sonny Moore 2nd Priscilla Duncan

Submitted by



Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **October 30, 2025**

cc: Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC