



THE NAVAJO NATION

TOHATCHI COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Elvis Bitsilly
President

Pernell Halona
Vice-President

Delphine Bitsilly
Recorder

Fern Spencer
Member

Priscilla Duncan
Member

TOHATCHI COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES December 16, 2025

- I. Call to Order: Time: 9:15 am Roll Call: 5 Invocation: Priscilla Duncan
- II. Approval of Agenda:
Motion: **Fern Spencer** 2nd: **Priscilla Duncan** Vote: 4-0-1
- III. Approval of Minutes: Tuesday November 18, 2025
Motion to accept and read on your own:
Motion: **Pernell Halona** 2nd: **Priscilla Duncan** Vote: 4-0-1
- IV. Old Business:

A. Community Land Use Plan Update

Elvis Bitsilly – overall plan, anyone have comments or questions; **Pernell Halona** – last meeting we talked about this, get a printout done and a final draft printed; **Elvis Bitsilly** – since last meeting we had a copy printed out, Delphine has part of the draft; **Delphine Bitsilly** – Fern gave Butlers the flash drive, they printed out a copy, what I have to do is, yeah I do, ; **Fern Spencer** – I gave you the copy back, right, I didn't realize she had one sheet for everything instead of condensing it, it came out like that, to double side it will save paper; **Delphine Bitsilly** – what I have to do is, what I'm going to do is print, this is only section 6, I will print it back to back, if I can successfully do that, which I will and I will get the other sections together and do it back to back, for starters I will use my printer at home, when done and when ready to go need to go to another printing business to complete, I'm only going to do the rough draft in the printing, the final completed manual we will take to Butlers, the Navajo Nation printing in Tse Bonito, I will go check on the price to make copies, what is the cost and how many we need to print out, if you're done with your sections, any updates, send to me on a flash drive; **Pernell Halona** – when will we see the print out on the rest of it; **Delphine Bitsilly** – most likely at the next meeting in January; **Fern Spencer** – she needs the rest of ours to put it together; **Pernell Halona** – I know my is all done, dates and correlation of things that happened at the chapter house, update officials; **Elvis Bitsilly** – history of officials; **Fern Spencer** – when did this chapter start, 1950; **Elvis Bitsilly** – 1954 - 1955; **Pernell Halona** – it's here in the manual; **Elvis Bitsilly** – Pernell you have the original file document, add Rural Addressing; **Delphine Bitsilly** – what section to add Rural Addressing; **Elvis Bitsilly** – we need to add Rural Addressing to our Land Use Plan, add it to the section, finalized in January – February, add to section 6, 6.16 – Rural Addressing; **Fern Spencer** – can we put the timeline in the Reference; **Elvis Bitsilly** – yes we can put there and we have to write it down to know we will add to the Reference; **Fern Spencer** – table of contents where would you put Rural Addressing; **Pernell Halona** – First Responders is where; **Fern Spencer** – First Responders if section 6.2; **Elvis Bitsilly** – add new Tohatchi High School to section 6, 6.17, we'll take a tour in January according to Mike Hyatt, Superintendent with officials; **Delphine Bitsilly** – where do we get information for High School; **Fern Spencer** – Jovanna Hanks; **Elvis Bitsilly** – get documents to add to Land Use Plan, Kevin Mitchell to talk to; **Fern Spencer** – what about the bridge; **Elvis Bitsilly** – is it in the sites for development, section 6.18, N108 – Bridge, need to add; **Priscilla Duncan** – I thought it was in the works, the contractor was to move in and start working on it; **Elvis Bitsilly** – it is in the BIA hands, they are finalizing the right of way, finishing the clearance, it's between BIA and the county; **Delphine Bitsilly** – here is the list, get documents from who; **Elvis Bitsilly** – Derick Myer, Wilson Company,

working with NDOT; **Delphine Bitsilly** – does chapter have it here; **Elvis Bitsilly** – not the latest information, I do have a map, it's a propose plan; **Fern Spencer** – same structure; **Elvis Bitsilly** – two lane bridge plus a pedestrian walkway, January 20 we'll have more documents at the meeting, work in progress, we got the basics covered, things have been added on and any documents let us know; **Pernell Halona** – guest who is here; **Sheridan** – I'm with the Navajo Health Education Program, Tohatchi Health Clinic and Gallup Indian Medical Center, here to promote our Health Education, topic is Winter Weather Safety, present at end of meeting; **Elvis Bitsilly** – Delegate Notah is here; **Priscilla Duncan** – Sites Development doesn't have the gas station; **Elvis Bitsilly** – they were to process all the documents and permits with Mr. Wauneka of Navajo Petroleum, they will advertise positions this month, Delegate Notah can follow up with Mr. Brent Wauneka, it's not part of our listing, what's already in place is in our listing, Speedway, Post Office and Navajo Petroleum are part of community plan and are already in there, we can follow up on it, this listing is more for development and ongoing projects.

B. Rural Addressing Mapping Review

Elvis Bitsilly – last meeting with chapter and presentation from SDR who is the contractor who is working with Navajo Nation Rural Addressing, they are putting this project together, Donica did presentation and updated the families and community members, she did a presentation on the Rural Addressing plan, families who were here sat down with her to identify their home locations, got address information, they are only propose numbers in place now with the data until there's a final presentation and confirmation on the road numbers, when it comes next year they will do a final presentation with Rural Addressing, I invited Donica to our CLUPC meeting today and can't make today's meeting but will be here at January 20, 2026 meeting to present the information she presented to the chapter this month, I think she is looking at February to finalized their Rural Addressing with the update information that were made from the last time we met with her, it will be continuous thing, that could be finalized in the spring, chapter will do a resolution to accept the Rural Addressing project, everyone agrees, do resolution and complete it, chapter will work with them to put out the road signs, they put it on the chapter to do their own sign setup, not sure how the other chapters did theirs; **Fern Spencer** – first step was to name roads, when you have your meeting tomorrow, are you going to announce to the people about next meeting to get their information, one person stated she didn't know she was going to be there, attend meetings then you will know, I feel like we will be the ones putting up stuff, we only have three gentlemen working now, what areas to work; **Elvis Bitsilly** – we didn't mention a second community meeting and we probably can do that before we get a final approval, there has to be a presentation, sometime in the Spring, follow the process they have, presentation on the mapping and what is in place; **Delegate Notah** – I did request information from the Police, Public Safety Division Director, this project for Tohatchi started June 16, 2025, they collected field data and resulted in 782 addressable points, 71,962 accessible points, this project is 42% complete from the letter he sent me, the project for the area is schedule for final review with chapter approval submitting new address information, this will be sent to USPS and Global Maps by February 23, 2026, street signage complete by March 18, 2026, one thing that is happening is people are really pushing for the hardship funds to be sent by ARPA, this project is under ARPA, what's happening is Council Delegates are saying they need to have information, how much money will be spent and how much money will be available, this project is kind of behind, it's coming to let's cut off these projects and programs, that's what I'm hearing and it's crazy, the Controller did say he has to start the process of the hardship ARPA funding to send out to the people, he needs access to all the projects, all the programs, what money was spend and what is available, he doesn't trust they will finish some of these projects, a few council delegates saying let's cut it off and start the hardship process, the controller should have information for us by end of this week on what the whole process will be, includes broadband, all water projects, electricity lines out there, this information came from the Division Director, all projects under Public Safety, it's under Michael Henderson (DPS), he gave me data for all chapters, Mexican Springs, Twin Lakes, all in District 14 and gave me Tohatchi's information, ask Donica at next meeting and clarify some of that, ask her what she is hearing as far as what the Controller is finding out how much money is spend and how much is available, how much they intend to spend the rest of the year, this information came last week, the ARPA hardship came in over the weekend; **Pernell Halona** – the hardship money coming in, is three weeks away before the deadline comes, deadline is December 30;

Delegate Notah – 2026, not this year; **Pernell Halona** – 2026, it's next year because the deadline was this year; **Elvis Bitsilly** – it's called encumbered, projects should be encumbered; **Delegate Notah** – I've always seen it as 2026 for expenditures, encumbered they were to look at last year December 2024 and that was submitted, according to the Controller he had all the information, as of now he doesn't know where the ARPA funding is at, there are expenditures that happened that are not recorded with him, he is trying to find out everything that has been spent, right now he is giving a figure of \$300 something million that is left, he has no idea how much of that has been spent, he needs to get the receipts to include in his report, he still needs to know how much they intend to spend for the all different projects; **Pernell Halona** – on this hardship stuff he wants to give the money out; **Delegate Notah** – yes; **Pernell Halona** – how much; **Delegate Notah** – we don't have any information and hopefully we'll have an idea at the end of this week, it could be between \$50 million to \$300 odd million dollars, he has no idea where we stand as far as the hardship, I heard that from him; **Elvis Bitsilly** – this Rural Addressing E911, it was \$30 or \$50 million and it was given to DPS, that's where they hired SDR to do these projects, they expedited those dollars according to the big boss, the money was already encumbered; **Delegate Notah** – I hope so, that part I don't know, all the projects I don't know what was covered with the Controller's office, they spent a lot of money, departments are not submitting the information, the hardship funds he has to start the process, he wants those checks out by September; **Fern Spencer** – who is the Controller; **Delegate Notah** – Sean McCabe; **Elvis Bitsilly** – Susan Cunningham is the SDR President, she gave us a report November 13, talked about the E911; **Delegate Notah** – she needs to talk to the Controller and Controller doesn't have all the information.

C. 1st Responders Substation Update

Elvis Bitsilly – we had a teleconference meeting yesterday on the updates for the First Responders Substation on the floor plan and design, Loren Miller taking their time and not happy with the floor plan, we covered the main infrastructure of the facility, they got in the specifics of the windows, walls, office parts, we covered all that, Dr. Greyeyes came on and said, contractors when can we get a final cost estimate, we need a cost estimate – construction, why are we taking so long and suppose to get this done by this month, a couple months ago they were saying we need to sign agreements, get all the plan and design completed then submit to DPS, they do signatures with Greyeyes and Michael Henderson, DCD, looking at Spring March, any construction could be in the summer, we are trying to get money for the project, she mentioned the TIFF of \$4 million and there's pending unspent money on the project from what I got from DPS, we still have \$1 million, we have \$4 million added to the project, we submitted to capital outlay and how much will we get from Capital Outlay, max is a million dollars, we submitted to the Governor's capital outlay, mentioned to Maria to submit, hope to get money, lobby by Delegate to Santa Fe and hope to get money, \$16 million for overall construction, planning and design should be done and Loren Miller are still working on it, get half the dollar amount \$8 million and get project started by summer; **Delegate Notah** – at District meeting I asked District 14 chapter Presidents to put in kind services funds to the project about \$10,000, it shows how important it is, \$50,000 would be nice, Sonny and I talked to approach USDA under Rural Development, he will setup up a meeting with Rural Development and maybe get several million dollars from USDA, I'm looking for other sources; **Elvis Bitsilly** – Sihasin; **Delegate Notah** – once we get chapter funds, TIFF, Capital Outlay and agreement from USDA and I'm comfortable going to the tribe and get Sihasin Funds \$4-5 million dollars, the problem with going to the tribe is there are other 12 public safety projects across the Navajo Nation, every other chapter would want that amount of money as well, most are in Arizona, if we have all the other funding we can use this as leverage, let them know our infrastructure is done, we are getting all this funding, planning and design is complete, architect is complete, we are ahead of everyone else and it could help with Sihasin funds, you guys would need to be there when we do that; **Elvis Bitsilly** – maybe your LDA's can get started on preliminary approach, we are one of three projects, we are a substation and only substation at the top, there's a list of sixteen, plus the facilities, facilities are looking at \$10 to \$40 million for one facility; **Delegate Notah** – Shiprock and Window Rock, it's a complete setup includes jail and all that is involved, they are number one and number two priority, I will have an issue with Charles Netwon and know how she feels that we're getting all these funds, she did bring it up after a meeting with TIFF and we got \$4 million, she wanted to know how we got ahead, other delegates like Steven Arviso to get a Public Safety building at Marino Lake area; **Elvis Bitsilly** – there's a difference between

a facility and a substation, substation is what we are applying for, we are construction ready and we have matching money, we are ready to go; **Pernell Halona** – other chapters – Coyote Canyon allocated \$300,000 from the state, Mexican Springs and Naschitti and the chapters can get money to the Fire Station will be theirs as well, Cherylyn Yazzie was adamant about putting money in it from the state; **Delegate Notah** – I'll talk to Greyeyes today, as far as the maintenance and care of this building, Dr. Greyeyes and I we did preliminary work on doing rentals from BIA, 501L, they will be renting the space, for the police and EMTs, hopefully they will be paying us for the rental, we can use the money to cover the maintenance when building is put together, the issue with USDA is you cannot, in building the project and building the facility you cannot use federal funds to use the 501L, do we want to use the 501L and stick with that, get several millions from USDA, if we get the money from USDA we need other sources to maintain the building, the maintenance is critical to operate the facility; **Pernell Halona** – pay for maintenance, the county to oversee the Fire station, they were to assign one person here to organize the volunteers, also to maintain the trucks; **Elvis Bitsilly** – the maintenance cost will be with DPS, they will be overseeing and taking control over the facility, Dr. Greyeyes is aware of it and they have to find money for that once the project is done and operating, before they need the money to operate, equipment – firetrucks, no one has talked about that, is needed and talked about; **Pernell Halona** – county can get us a fire truck who will supply it for us, they were excited we were getting a substation, supply the waterline and shovels, axes; **Delegate Notah** – DPS understands they will take care of the maintenance, they are looking at the 501L; **Fern Spencer** – the county will help us, with the Rural Addressing they told us to go back to your tribe; **Pernell Halona** – that's a different process, the county for this area, the one who takes care of the fire department, they run Navajo Nation, Navajo fire department and police station, the county is responsible for us to do our safety; **Delegate Notah** – Rural Addressing, we did ask them to do all our rural addressing, the county did all the east side, the Nation wanted to keep the ARPA funds, our five chapters I made the request for the county to do it, a resolution passed by the chapter about three years ago, Baldwin wanted to keep the money with the Nation, if we went with the county everything would have been done, they were willing to do it but the tribe elected to stay with the Nation.

V. New Business:

A. Family Plot Cemetery Update-Wilfred Yazzie

Elvis Bitsilly – Mr. Yazzie not here today and I invited him here to give update on family private plot, he presented to the chapter and I told him you need to present to us the CLUPC committee, we need to make sure the documentation is in place and handle right, cemetery policy in place for the Navajo Nation which they have to follow when you identify a private plot, this is pertaining to a family private plot, community plot is different which is already set and in place for our chapter, any chapter across Navajo and Delegate Notah is aware of what I'm referring to, the families must follow the process through the Navajo Nation Land Department and fill the application process accordingly, family plots and to bury someone there now they have to get approval, must have official documents stating they are utilizing this family plot of theirs, families ask for an extension of the family plot, it's a whole different process and it's a withdrawal for burial site, similar to getting a withdrawal for a home site, Mr. Yazzie only wants to identify the family plot and not asking to extent land or more land, the documents we have received it doesn't indicate that, to the Begay family and I know you are from that area, I wanted him to be here to explain what is going on and what they are doing, any burials for families in the future they must come before CLUPC, as CLUPC we have to recognize they are following the process and that has to be done, we never done that before, people are doing things on their own and they cannot do that anymore, Navajo Nation has a cemetery burial policy in place, the council has passed that, there's conflict and problems with that, no problems if there's already a plot there and anytime families are to add to the plot they need to notify Land Department; **Fern Spencer** – these family plots in our area have they been recognized by our chapter, do we know exactly where some of these plots are, I know some families have decided to do their own thing in the past, it's good we are hearing this, there are burials grounds around the church and mountain, around the lake; **Priscilla Duncan** – Hamburger Hill and where I live, the Mitchell's, Manuelito's; **Delegate Notah** – there are quite a few, a small portion of what is out there; **Pernell Halona** – the law says you cannot add any new ones, no new ones anywhere out there, existing plots out there they are grandfather in and you can still use them, the problem

with this one here is the fence, they utilized all the area there so they could move the fence out and add more people, when did that come out they were supposed to have a meeting with all families, what happened to that; **Elvis Bitsilly** – with Mr. Yazzie, I don't know if you guys met with them, you can update us; **Jeremiah Begay** – the family never approached us about what they are doing, we don't get notified about what they are doing, we submit a form to Ray Castillo, gave Gerald some documents at Naschitti Grazing Committee meeting December 3rd, we submitted some documents to Land Department, they were there again and I don't know what happened; **Pernell Halona** – what's your position; **Jeremiah Begay** – I'm Mary's son; **Pernell Halona** – what's your position out there; **Jeremiah Begay** – it's kind of in a canyon area and you can't really see it but it's there and if you look at the area from the highway you can see it; **Pernell Halona** – the graveyard is here, every spot in that fence is used up and they are looking to add on; **Jeremiah Begay** – that's what they were trying to do and I see it, they want to extent it at least 20 feet, they marked it, I mentioned it to my mom and siblings; **Pernell Halona** – what is your position on it with your family; **Jeremiah Begay** – we don't agree with it and my mom doesn't agree with it, my mom told the family you shouldn't be doing that, no more burials and throughout the years they've doing it, John Pinto is buried there; **Pernell Halona** – it's all used up and the problem is; **Jeremiah Begay** – it's almost all used up and it's fenced in; **Elvis Bitsilly** – grazing permit, is cemetery inside or outside of the grazing boundary; **Jeremiah Begay** – my mom has her grazing permit, it's inside my mom's grazing area and it's mapped out, a lot of things happening over there that are illegal, fenced in a section close to the cemetery, there's more cluttered, a long time ago when highway 491 was being built, all the people that live there like the Crawfords, they told Pahe Yazzie and all those guys you live on the east side of the road then they move to the west side of the highway, this is according to history, the Crawfords and all those who live on that side know about it, we don't agree with what they are doing; **Pernell Halona** – it's not settled and I thought they would settle it the other day when they were meeting here; **Fern Spencer** – he had the wrong papers; **Jeremiah Begay** - they were trying to combine three grazing permits, they came from different areas like Mexican Springs, Coyote Canyon and Naschitti, they are trespassing, the homesite they are trying to build and you look at it is wrong, reinvestigate the area, we can't take my mom's sheep out; **Pernell Halona** – this is the first time I've heard about it; **Fern Spencer** – our cemetery is filled with other people from other chapters, is Coyote Canyon building their own; **Delegate Notah** – Coyote Canyon and Twin Lakes are desperately trying, they have the money, they need land, Coyote Canyon has a family who was willing to give the land but there is rocks underneath, looking for another location as well as Mexican Springs; **Fern Spencer** – why don't they do a mausoleum; **Pernell Halona** – they got one started don't know what happened to that, they started a cemetery in Coyote Canyon and they keep adding to it, they said it is a flood area; **Delegate Notah** – it's a good size, new one is fenced, work with Rollie and Cope.

B. Catholic Church 40 to 10 Acre Land Withdrawal Update

Elvis Bitsilly – Vice President Rodgers was to talk to Father and Father stated she hasn't talk to him yet reduce 40 acres to 10 acres, the forms for land withdrawal, they won't have to pay the acres not being used.

VI. Resolutions: none

A. Announcements: January 29, 2026, 10 am Economic Development in St. Michaels; Ag Resources Management Plan in Flagstaff tomorrow 10 am at NAU, Chapter Meeting tomorrow with Christmas dinner, 10 am.

***Sheridan Cowboy** – I'm with the Navajo Health Education Program, I work here at Tohatchi Health Center and Gallup Indian Medical Center, part of the Navajo Health Education Program with Division of Health, recently got on board and going to different chapter houses, today I'm doing Winter Weather Safety tips to make sure you're wearing layers of clothes since it is cold, take time to check your heaters, fireplace, clean out your stove, have carbon monoxide detectors, use hats, clothes, gloves and coats, winter driving check tires, windshields and I do presentations at Tohatchi Middle School, did presentation on cyberbullying, went to Tohatchi High School, target 8th 9th and 10th graders, talked about vaping prevention and cigarettes, me and my colleague were here at the educational booth during the Senior Center grand opening, last month I was at the Tohatchi Senior Center and talked to the elders about arthritis and make sure you get that checked, rheumatoid arthritis is different, we do all types of Health topics, keep safe; **Fern Spencer** – what about driving safety, diabetes and I'm glad you

are going to the schools; **Sheridan Cowboy** – it's electronic vaping, we recently got data in an increase of those electronic, it's coming down to 6th graders, we get statistics of how there's an increase of lung issues, did a presentation to 8th and 9th, we try to target the 11th and 12th, they said only one presentation and will work with them, diabetes is a main topic, Navajo Nation Epidemiology came out with new statistics and the number one across the Navajo Nation is covid, intentional injuries, stroke, cancer, diabetes, covid is way up there because they took the data from 2022 to 2024, it was only two years, the public health epidemiologist indicated the last was from 2010 to 2020 and that is where the diabetes, alcohol liver cirrhosis those were up there, cancer was up there too, I did presentation with Head Start in Tohatchi and Twin Lakes since they are open and active, I do handwashing with them, activities with them and brush teeth, I have incentives for them, I like the idea of safe driving and share at the senior center, driving etiquette; **Priscilla Duncan** – there is a program for the Elderly driving, I was trying to tell the chapter secretary if she can bring it to the chapter house using the Unhealthy Food Tax, Driver Education for the Elderly in Gallup, if I took that class I would receive a discount on insurance, do we have a new CHR or is that you; **Sheridan Cowboy** – they do have a CHR in Gallup, vaping pens and are not allowed to get until you're 21 years old and somehow they are getting a hold of them, hand, foot, mouth disease for elementary, they look like rash, is at Church Rock elementary, prevention is isolation and washing hands, no vaccine, CDC shut down and diseases are increasing, giving antibacterial cream to help with the disease; **Pernell Halona** – thank you for coming and giving your presentation.

B. **Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @9am-12n**

C. **Adjournment: 11:06 am**

Delphine Bitsilly
Recorder

Delphine Bitsilly