



THE NAVAJO NATION TOHATCHI COMMUNITY CHAPTER

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Elvis Bitsilly
Chapter President

Lee Rodgers
Chapter Vice-President

Jean Crawford
Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Gerald Moore
Grazing Official

Nathan Notah
Council Delegate

DECEMBER 17, 2025 @ 10:00am

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 NOVEMBER 19, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**
- VI. PRESENTATION:**
 1. Helene Crosby – Native American Election Program Liaison (NM Secretary Of State):
 2. Richard Moore Tohatchi High School Update
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 1. None
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**
 1. NOVEMBER 2025 Financial Report
- IX. RESOLUTIONS:**
 1. 009-12-2026: Resolution to approve Housing Discretionary Funds for Roger Begay to replace windows and Yvonne Begay for walls and flooring.
 2. 010-12-2026-Resolution for Financial Report for November 2025.
 3. 011-12-2026-Resolution Approving College Financial Spring Assistance 2026
- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- XI. NEXT MEETING DATE and TIME: 01-05-2026 @ 10:00am Planning Meeting**
- XII. ADJOURNMENT:**



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DEC 23 2025
December 17, 2025 10:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

- 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. Priscilla Duncan with CLUPC.**
- III. **INVOCATION: Rachelle Morris**
- IV. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Wilfred Yazzie – Asked to address the community regarding his request for a resolution to withdraw land for a private family cemetery in Buffalo Springs. The resolution was removed from the agenda due to the request for expansion of the cemetery. Mr. Yazzie states he completed a Land Department application for a land withdrawal along with an approval from the grazing committee. He is asking to get the support of the community. But chapter received information that the land is in dispute by a neighbor. Mr. Yazzie stated he is not aware of a complaint that was on file. The regulation of the application he had to go through, there is a page where you can provide information for a compliant which would have to go through the court system. The complaintive would have to state which rule is being broken. He went on to say his umbilical cord is buried there along with 24 of his family members and at no time has he heard of a compliant. I believe the chapter is out of protocol and not following the regulations. The land dispute was brought to the attention of the CLUPC and the family who is opposing has stated they have filed for “mediation request” in Window Rock. With that information a decision was made to withdraw the request for a resolution until an investigation is completed and to get Land Administration involved to address the compliant by the neighbor.

Motion: 1st Virginia Harvey 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 20-1-1

- V. **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2025 MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion was made to table the minutes by:

Laris Manuelito – There was a big discussion that was made and it’s not on the minutes, it’s missing. The questioning that was made to my business is missing. When that discussion was made, there was no motion to strike that from the record so it should be on record. I move to table that until those minutes can be restored to the minutes as it should be and move to the next meeting to be accepted. Part of the recommendation is the time line when it’s table to give a time line as to when it’s to be corrected. So I asked for it to be corrected by the next meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – Are you referring to the discussion at the end of the planning meeting? The reason why it was not added in there was because there was a point of order called and the discussion was between you and the other family member. I can add the discussion back to the minutes.

Laris Manuelito – Per Robert Rules of Order if the point of order was done after the discussion, however; if it was during or before, I understand that. But the discussion was already made and on record and there was no motion to strike it therefore it should have stayed on record, including the point of order. And to be transparent, officials across the board shouldn’t be making decisions, thinking oh it should be this and not that because of your reason I understand however, at that point it’s not the official decision themselves to make upon themselves without referring to the community and the other officials. That’s just being

transparent.

Motion: 1st Laris Manuelito 2nd Mike Begay Vote:

Mae Fern Dennison – I would also like to request correction to page 3 of 4 of the minutes in the 3rd paragraph. Correct the sentence from I'm "not" asking for community support to I asking for community support.

VI. PRESENTERS:

1. **Tohatchi High Students** – Mr. Richard Moore, Principal of the High School. We will have two of our ambassadors present today, Rainden Vandervere and Logen Benallie. Earlier this year we had our ESV which are es site visit. It explains where our school of is and we had visitors from the district and visitors from out of state come and walk through and asked our students questions, and to see what they were doing. You should be proud of our students; they have done a wonderful job. So here are some results from 6 categories we were judged on from 0 through 5 and 5 being the highest. School program overview 4.9, pathway alignment 4.9, classroom engagement 4.9, career theme integration 4.9, student ambassadors 4.9, teachers and student panels 4.9. So overall impression with a 4.9 which was the highest score in the district. The overall sentiment was visitors described the Tohatchi High visit as inspiring, heartfelt, and transformative. They were especially moved by the students' confidence in authenticity and the schools' clarity of purpose and the visible integration of academic career in community values. Tohatchi is seen as a model of GMCS graduate profile in action, where belonging, leadership, and relevance comes alive in every interaction. Tonight we have our midnight showcase over in the gymnasium and there will be food, snacks, and giveaways. I would like to invite everyone to stop by, it starts off at 4:30pm and runs until 6:00pm. So, for Introduction to Business it's split into 4 separate quarters, 1st quarter they learn about business concepts, 2nd quarter is Business Ownership which I'm taking this year. For quarter 1 we are learning about document claiming, quarter 2 business documents, quarter 3 entrepreneurship, and quarter 4 marketing and management.

Rainden – I am a sophomore at Tohatchi High School and my 1st year as BPA ambassador. So, Tohatchi High School is known as the home of the cougars. We are a school of business where we focus on applying business concepts into all of our major classes, like mathematics, English, and Science. Tohatchi High School, school of business equips students with essential learning skills and entrepreneurship, ownership, and management. These programs prepare them for future careers as business owners or leaders in their chosen fields driving growth and opportunity in the community. So, Introduction to Business, that is a freshman class, sophomores have Business Ownership in which we dive deeper into how to start a business and run it. Next, we have BPA (Business Professionals of America) where students participate in events in Farmington. Each student is required to take two events which comprise of a team and individual event. I took an individual which was basic office procedures which is typing and a quiz. For my 2nd, I did visual design team where I was paired with 3 other individuals to make a power point to promote a business which was provided by the regionals. Here are some of the careers in business that students can strive for; they can learn to be an accountant, representative, consultant, analysis, or investment banker among others. The business showcase is where the freshman through juniors to showcase their business on a trifold where people can come to see what business is about.

Students who join BPA (Business Professional of America), have the opportunity to further their knowledge and career in today's fast past business environment. Thank you for your time and attention.

Logen – I am a junior at Tohatchi High School and I've been a BPA ambassador for 2 years. I also participate in softball and volleyball and we are here to present Tohatchi High School to you. In all of our classes we get to see hands on things which we incorporate everything that we do. We learned the practical skills like how to run business, the steps to take on how to run a business. We did hands on connections where we worked with other people, businesses who come to the school to present. We get to learn from

them and to ask questions on how they started their business. The career pathways courses here at Tohatchi are Introduction to Business, Business Ownership, Business Management, Business Dual Credit, and Business Work Experience. We also have computer science, carpentry, and digital words. So, Juniors take Business Management where we to make businesses and go on a lot more business trips to tother businesses or other places. Our Seniors have Business Internship and dual credit where they go to work in the morning and they get paid for the work they do which they really like. After lunch they come back to the school where they take their afternoon classes. We receive industry certificates which is a certificate that you receive at the end of each one of your courses. If you pass the course, you can use this certificate into your new job and it's also a good thing to have on your resumes for school and work. For my event, I did speech and business law and ethics so I got to do a lot of talking and for speech I got to choose a topic and present to 2 judges. I received 1st place for business law and ethics and 3rd place for speech. What is really exciting is we have 27 BPA members and we were all going to State in Albuquerque. So, at the School at Tohatchi High School, students are empowered to step into role of opportunity and the spirit of innovation thrives in this educational space we go beyond traditional learning providing a nurturing environment to cultivate ideas turning them into reality. For Business Management, we are learning planning, staffing, and financing. Business Internship and Dual credits is offered to Seniors and you get to choose where you want to work at. The school takes them to work in the morning and they return after lunch to take their regular classes. For the dual credit portion, they get to go to UNM Branch to take classes and these classes are paid by the district. We invite the community to our showcase this evening starting at 4:30pm. Juniors are doing food trucks, freshman's and sophomores are doing businesses. This when we get to show off our creative and what our community needs. Our businesses are based off of what Tohatchi does not have and we wish we had, for example; grocery stores.

This year the Nationals will be held in Tennessee, so if we do place at state, we have the opportunity to go to the Nationals. All 27 BPA members will be going to State so we do have a good chance to go on to the Nationals in Tennessee. The students from Mesa got the opportunity to build a solar powered invention and they won 1st place and received \$500 each.

Mr. Moore – We are one of the smaller schools but we sent the 2nd largest number of students to McKinley Academy with around 70-75 students. As you all know basketball season is here and both teams are doing an amazing job to come see both teams compete.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

NOVEMBER 2025 Financial Reports –

NOVEMBER FUND BALANCES		
1	Chapter Activities Gen Fund	\$17,029.57
3	Land Claims Trust	\$68,369.31
9	Housing Discretionary Fund	\$14,215.81
10	LGA Grant Fund	\$69,301.62
12	Chapter Stipends	\$49,884.16
13	Scholarship General Fund	\$9,592.00
14	Scholarship Claims Fund	\$7,851.48
15	PEP Fund	\$91,441.79
17	Emergency Fund	\$24,719.71
23	NN Sales Tax	\$127,519.34

25	NN CIP - \$180,000	\$13,831.58
16	Veterans Fund	\$15,659.00
27	NN CIP - \$200,000	\$3,877.78
40	Unhealthy Food Tax	\$104,785.82
61	Senior Citizen Fund	\$2,162.99
51	NAPI	\$2,237.56
26	Red Willow Farm	\$590.37
	General Fixed Assets	\$1,040.37
34	Agriculture & Infrastructure	\$3.68
	Total Fund Balance	\$659,404.49

Charles Arviso – I just want to give you a heads up, if it happens or not. Under the account 16 (Veteran Fund Account). Some of the other Veteran Organizations in the agency are trying to get the council to approve gift cards to be issued by the chapter for food. On the other side in 2026, agency will be coming out with a new plan of operation, in that plan of operation I didn't see where it says you have to be a registered voter with a chapter and have DD14 on file. In our current plan of operation there is a clause in there that states you have to be a registered and have a DD14 on file with chapter in order to get assistance. So, if this goes through with the gift cards, I'm sure the chapter will say you have to be a registered voter with the chapter and have DD14 on file. Right now at the agency, you don't have to be a registered voter, all that is required is a completed paperwork to apply for assistance. I don't know if it's legal or if they did away with having DD14 on file or a chapter registration card.

We had our Veteran's Dinner and we were expecting our chapter officials to show up but nobody showed up.

Laris Manuelito – Was there a name change to Fund 03, Land Claims Trust?

Maria, CSC – The name has never been changed, it has always been called "Land Claims Trust" which covers the operation of the chapter.

Vice President Lee Rodgers – I would like to respond to Mr. Arviso, on the day of the veteran's dinner I was scheduled to give a Navajo Proficiency test. I have other jobs besides being a chapter official. These appointments are made well in advance and I apologize for not being able to attend.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – For the month of November 2025, our books are in balance with Wells Fargo Bank. The Chapter still has not received their allocations of the 2026 Budget from Window Rock. The Chapter can also provide a Budget to Actual report on request to community members.

Motion to accept the November 2025 Financial Report

Motion: 1st Virginia Harvey 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 30-1-1

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

- 009-12-2026:** Resolution recommending and approving the housing discretionary assistance fund 09 for the following community members: Roger Begay and Yvonne Begay respectively.

Maria, CSC – A recommendation will be made to Veterans Organization for the possibility of a new house for Roger Begay. His daughter usually takes him back to Albuquerque every winter but this year he stayed behind and we are keeping an eye on him. His information will be shared with Laris Manuelito, Tohatchi Veterans organization.

Laris Manuelito – The public safety building that is coming up initially was suppose to have agreements with State, County, and Navajo Nation to have a jurisdiction within that area. And it's been broken back down to just Navajo Nation. I would highly encourage to reinstate the County and State police present

there at the public safety building, not just Navajo Nation. Initially, that's how it was started and I don't know when the decision was made to take those entities out.

Motion: 1st Laris Manuelito 2nd Priscilla Duncan **Vote:** 31-0-3

2. **010-12-2026:** Resolution to approve the chapter monthly financial report of combined statement of revenue, expenditures, and fund balances from December 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Maria, CSC – will the vote from the financial report be used for this resolution?

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – Yes. This a new directive coming from Window Rock to attach a resolution to the monthly financial reports each month. So, starting this month and every month after, we will be attaching a resolution to the financial reports.

Laris Manuelito – I've been attending meeting for some time and this is the 1st time I've seen the account called "land claims trust. I'm requesting to table this until more clarification can come from where this came from and where the meeting was and the minutes was and that this was asked to be changed. Because land claims trust does not say anything about operation of a chapter. The whole thing is not definable as chapter operation.

Maria, CSC – It is label as land claims trust in the BIM booklet. This is the same across all the chapters.

Vice President Rodgers – I think they should see the whole BIM manual, how pages are in it?

Maria, CSC – it's like 400-500 pages.

Laris Manuelito – I'm only asking for the section that states this has always been the name. If you are suggestion I do my own research, I can do as well.

Elvis Bitsilly – The information requested can be provided after the meeting.

Motion: 1st Laris Manuelito 2nd Jeremiah Begay **Vote:** 28-0-4

3. **011-12-2026:** Resolution recommend to approve 9 registered college students to receive spring 2026 financial assistance from the chapter fund 13.

Maria, CSC – College applications are opened in November and closed the 1st Friday of December.

Amounts students receive: Freshmen \$300, Sophmores \$350, Juniors \$400, and Seniors \$450.

Students are: Teagan Harvey, Tyra Bitsie, Dalilah Tsosie, Chasity Watson, Jana Becenti, Chelsea Belone, Shantella Sells, Alfredo Bitsoi, Amanda Dennison, and Laurisa Clarke.

Motion: 1st Mike Begay 2nd Cecelia Begay **Vote:** 33-0-1

- X. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** **Maria, CSC** – We are advertising for students during their winter break which starts December 22nd to January 2nd. I have 6 high school students and 3 college students who have applied. They will be working and assisting the elders in our community. We will be providing a Christmas dinner as an appreciation to all the community members who attend our planning and chapter meetings. Thank you.
- Joann Jayne** – If you have not heard, I was appointed as the new Deputy Attorney General for the Navajo Nation and this happen last week. I want to share that I'm not the Attorney General, I am the Deputy Attorney General who sits under the Attorney General, but we work hand in hand. The Attorney General for the NN is Chris Beecher. What this office does is we are called the chief legal attorney officers for the NN. What that means is that if there is a law suit against the NN. Say someone wants to file a suit like some outside company and it will be our office who will be responding to the suit. So, it is a different job that I had before as a chief justice. But now I'm wearing my attorney hat now and it's what I went to school for. I have my state bar license. The department I will be working will be looking at any contracts that is going to come before our office for review.

As you know, we have been working on trying to get a bike trail here in Tohatchi Just to let you know, I brought this up at one of my meetings. I said "by the way, Tohatchi has bike trail project and the contract has gone back and forth at least twice. So, those are the kind of issues I will be working on. One of my thoughts is we need to do a better job and now I have the opportunity to see how we can do a better job. I'm very grateful to be here. Thank you.

Charles Arviso – Tohatchi Veterans are still doing honor guard services and posting colors. We are still active, but if you know if any younger veterans have them come join us.

Rachelle Morris (PHN) – I heard talk that there is no CHR for Tohatchi, but there is and her name is Brianna Johnson who will be covering Buffalo Springs, Tohatchi, and Chooshgai area. I asked the supervisor of the CHR if we can share information with the community of Tohatchi and Mexican Springs that we do have a CHR. Brianna is actually the Naschitti CHR, but she covers Buffalo Springs and Tohatchi area. Mexican Springs does not have a CHR, so Coyote Canyon CHR is covering Mexican Springs.

President Bitsilly - Red Willow Farm Board is attending a joint Farm Board meeting in Twin Arrows.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: January 05, 2026 (Planning Meeting) at 10am.

XII. AJOURNMENT: 11:45 am

Submitted by



Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **December 23, 2025**

cc: Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC