



January 07, 2026 10:00 AM

TOHATCHI PLANNING MEETING AGENDA

TELECONFERENCE: 1-219-803-8769 PIN# 160 108 500#

Video call link: meet.google.com/ahs-epsf-aep

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. INVOCATION

IV. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

V. COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:

1. Lucinda Bitsoi: Tohatchi Middle School Principal -
2. Ms. Evangeline Muskett: Senior Citizen Center Supervisor -

VI. REPORTS:

***Council Delegate Report/LDA:**

1. NN Council Winter Session 2026
2. NN ARPA Projects 2026

***Community Service Coordinator/Officials' Reports:**

1. NM Capital Outlay Requests 2026
2. TEC Grant Fund
3. Chapter Audit Review update
4. Bike Trail Project update
5. Senior Center OEH update
6. NGWSP Project

***Red Willow Farm Report:**

1. Red Willow Farm projects

***Grazing Officer Moore's Report:**

- 1.

***CLUPC Report:**

1. Rural Addressing Review

***Tohatchi Veteran's Report:**

1. Veterans Organization update

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution to approve 1st quarter revenue for October, November, and December 2026.
2. Resolution to approve the extension of employment for the PEP staff to April 2026.
3. Resolution to approve the NTEC Grant fund in the amount of \$15,800 and put into Fund 01 (General Funds).
4. Resolution to approve a budget transfer in Fund 23 to transfer \$3000 from Office Equipment's Repair & Maintenance and put into Heavy Equipment Repairs.
5. Resolution to approve a budget transfer for Veterans Fund 16 for catering and operating supplies.



January 07, 2026 10:00 A.M.

PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

TELECONFERENCE: 219-803-8769 PIN: 160 108 500#

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ahs-epsf-aep>

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:17am

II. ROLL CALL: President Elvis Bitsilly, Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and CLUPC member: Priscilla Duncan.

III. INVOCATION: Jean Crawford

IV. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

V. COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRESENTERS:

1. Mrs. Lucinda Bitsoi: Tohatchi Middle School Principal – requesting to be added to the Chapter Meeting agenda on 01-21-26. She will be providing testing data, attendance information, and other updates for the Middle school students.

2. Ms. Evangeline Muskett and Orlynda Dennison: Senior Center Supervisors for Tohatchi and Naschitti. Ms. Muskett states she is from Coyote Canyon and currently the new supervisor for Tohatchi Senior Center. The Senior Center was re-opened on October 13, 2025 and we are currently opened for dining in and home deliveries which includes the community of Mexican Springs. We have 4 staffs, 2 cooks and 2 drivers. **Drylene** Herbert is the cook and Sharon Lawless is the driver. Cory Begay is the cook for Mexican Springs and Winona Tsosie is the driver for Mexican Springs. In December, I was notified that I will be overseeing both Tohatchi and Mexican Springs Senior Centers. Back in November 2025, Ms. Geraldine Thompson from OEH (Operational Environmental Health) came to do another walk through and she did find deficiencies again which needs to be addressed. She stated I can shut you down today, but I'm willing to work with you by giving you an extension of 30 days to correct the deficiencies. I met with Chapter officials and CSC, Maria, President Bitsilly and VP Rodgers regarding the deficiencies and they were willing to assist with the corrections. They requested for the PEP workers to correct the deficiencies that were listed. On December 30th OEH returned requested to do another walk through. To her surprise, she was glad to see the majority of the deficiencies had been repaired or corrected. The main issues she had was with the HVAC system, fire extinguishers which need to be served, and the kitchen emergency exit door which does not open. Other minor deficiencies she brought to my attention was the defibrillator which needed new batteries, fluorescent light cover is broken in the back room, the toilet seats in the men and women's bathrooms, the roof was leaking in the women's restroom, and the hand towel dispenser.

When we opened the center back up in October the number of meals being provided was 289 participants, in November it was 352, and in December it was 297. We've been enrolling community members who are eligible for the free lunches. I would like to request a resolution to ask for assistance from the Chapter to do the repairs of the Senior Center when needed. I don't want to see our center shut down again for deficiencies.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – Did OEH give you a new deadline as to when the repairs need to be completed? Also, regarding the HVAC it was my understanding new HVACs were being ordered for all 110 chapters across Navajo. The purchase orders were submitted to Navajo Nation two years ago.

Evangeline Muskett – She gave me the month of January 2026 to do a correction action plan to be submitted back to her. Ms. Thompson, (OEH) said she would be back in August to do another walk through.

Orlynda Dennison – We have been trying to do the contract to get the HVAC replaced, but DOJ keeps rejecting our contracts. We've submitted the contract 3 times and DOJ keep finding something

wrong with the document. We make the corrections and submit it to their liking, word by word but we keep getting pushed back. Our program supervisor, Lesita Desiderio she is working on the contract again. There are a new contract template and form so we are trying again and, in the contract, we are asking for a "brand new" HVAC. In the meantime per OEH's request, we are just getting the HVAC serviced. I know that the HVAC system was again a deficiency and we need to provide the documents regarding the servicing of the HVAC which was completed on February 11, 2025. Since the month of February is coming up, I have already started getting quotes and hopefully we will have someone to come in to service the HVAC again. I received quotes from Laroc Refrigeration, Red Hand Heating & Cooling, and I'm waiting on the 3rd quote from Storm Refrigeration. We went with Storm Refrigeration last year and I've shared this information with Evangeline and she has the paperwork.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – Who is responsible to have the fire extinguisher serviced.

Orlynda Dennison – It is our responsibility. I guess there was a misunderstanding at our Agency office as to when these fire extinguishers should be serviced. It should be serviced annually. Again, I received quotes for the service and I submitted the paperwork to our Agency office on December 10th for payment. Then I did a follow up on December 29th asking to get a status on the payment, but at the time our office had not process anything yet. I'm hoping they understand the urgency of this matter and the possibility of getting our Senior Center shut down again. I will be following up again with the Agency office.

We are asking for a resolution because it takes our Agency too long to get simple repairs done. But if we can get the chapter to assistance with the cost of the repairs, that would work. Some of the major repairs like the roof damage. Tohatchi Senior Center was allocated funds from Sihasin in the amount of \$150,000 to repair the roof damage to the Senior Center. I believe previously, Mr. Johnson had reported the leaks from the ceiling. We have the funding for the repair but I have no experience in the procurement process and we need Maria's assistance on how we get that moving. Also, our Council Delegate granted each Senior Center \$50,000, \$15,000 would go to our equipment for instance; like appliances, stove and refrigerator. The remaining \$35,000 was allocated for repair and maintenance and can be used to replace all 3 doors at the center. We put in a contract and it is currently at OOC and it has a bid number. The bid closed on October 28, 2025 and I've reached out to our program supervisor yesterday asking to see if we have received any bids. Unfortunately, she has been out on medical leave and waiting for her to get back with me. If we have not received any bids, we will bid it out again.

President Bitsilly – I believe Senior Center is asking to use their \$2000 for minor repairs. You do not need a resolution for that.

Maria, CSC – First of all, that money was put into the Chapter account by your advisors and your local committee. They were the ones who raised the \$2000 and I believe Pat Morris was the secretary/treasurer at the time for that committee. She is the one who setup the \$2000 account. She would need to explain to you how this funding should be used. If Mrs. Morris says it's ok to use the fund for repairs, then you would need to submit a resolution for a budget transfer because the fund is sitting in office equipment, office supplies, furniture, and funeral expense. If you want to reestablish a new line item and will need to transfer the fund back into this new account. It will be a process and I'm not sure if you plan to bring back the advisory committee who raise this money.

Vice President Rodgers – I think we should use the \$35,000 to replace all the doors and put it into a resolution to DALTCS (Division of Aging and Long-term Care Support) and let DALTCS know we want to use the \$150,000 for a new roof for the Senior Center.

Priscilla Duncan – I believe what you are trying to say is a request for a contract. There is no contract yet because you are still looking for vendor. Also, it depends on how the NN words it as well, it could be a requisition. Usually, a contract is anything over a \$100,000 but I don't know the numbers for Navajo Nation.

Orlynda Dennison – The Navajo Nation refers to it as a contract and anything over \$5,000 they say we have to do as a contract.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I'm wondering if the Navajo Nation or the agency you work with encourages the staff to attend meetings in Santa Fe regarding the Aging and Long-term Services program? There is a meeting coming up next month in February. I believe they provide beneficial

information for our Senior Centers.

Orlynda Dennison – We actually we have zoom meetings with them (Aging and Long-term Services) and they keep us in the loop with updated information. I took some elders from the Sheep Springs Senior Center last year to Santa Fe.

Wilfred Yazzie – I went to the Senior Center to pick up some lunch for myself and my wife. I was told I could not take food home with me. I like to have lunch with my wife but I can't pick up lunch to take home to her. How can I get lunch delivered to her at home?

Orlynda Dennison – Our Senior Centers do not allow to go plates which is a rule that is coming from the higher ups that we follow. We service clients who are home bound or if they are high risk. They may have a lot of health issues that prevent them from coming to the Senior to eat. We can't just put anybody on home delivery; there are eligibility requirements. You can also get a referral from your doctor as well. You will need to apply and submit a doctor's referral along with your application to get food delivered to your home for you and your wife.

Evangeline Muskett – We are also looking to form a Senior Council Committee. We have informed our elders about the committee and we even asked Pat Morris if she would be willing to establish a committee, but she did not seem to interested. We need 4 people for this committee.

2. **Wilfred Yazzie** – I've been requesting for a resolution asking the community for support for a family burial plot. I made my presentation to the community last month and I was told there was a complaint filed therefore the Chapter did not want to move forward with the resolution request. I was suppose to hear something from the person who was making the compliant but I have not heard anything. Now, I would like to make that request again during the next Chapter meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I reviewed your documents you submitted to the Grazing Officer and to the officials. In the letter you provided you stated you want to expand the cemetery, but you have a neighbor who is opposing the expansion. In the NN regulations, it states I can make that request but I'm not making it now, but for the future. The Grazing Officer has already completed the GPS of the existing cemetery.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I believe we are looking at 2 different situations here, one for the withdrawal of the existing cemetery and two is the expansion of the cemetery. We can entertain a resolution for the land withdrawal but not for the expansion since it is being opposed. I think this should go back to Grazing Official and or the Land Department.

May Fern Dennison – What we are trying to do is set rules (land withdrawal) for the existing cemetery.

Vice President Rodgers – When the plaintiff (Mary Begay) made her compliant she said she was never given the privilege to make her statement on it. I'll translate what she shared with me in Navajo. She stated that I was never informed on the very 1st person who was buried there. My grandfather is buried near there too and I tried to convey that to the Yazzie/Dennison family and they did not listen to me. As the years passed, the Yazzie/Dennison family continued to buried their family members there without consulting with me and my family. Then a fence went up around the cemetery and again without my consent. She then filed a complaint with the Grazing Officer to ask for a mediation meeting.

We as Chapter Officials are following Navajo Nation Law under Title 26 and any type of land dispute is not resolved at the Chapter level. It would go before the Grazing committee or the Land Use Committee and that is the reason why we had to step back. The district 14 Grazing committee is holding their monthly meeting in Coyote Canyon this morning and it would have been an opportunity for you and your family to attend that meeting. When this land dispute is resolved, then we can look at your documents again and your request for a resolution.

Wilfred Yazzie – I hear what you are saying, but over 80 years or so since the 1st birth all my aunts and grandmother. My grandmother was from that area so we are descendants from that family. I grew up right there and my umbilical cord is buried there and we herded sheep in the area so we have equal rights to the area just like she has. But to deny us our right I don't understand. There is also this regulation from the Navajo Nation on how to request for a burial site. And in there it states the burial site that is already existing can be grandfathered in and should be grandfathered in. We have 24 family

members buried there and the cemetery is not full. It would probably take another 80 years to fill and that was the expansion I was talking about. Now, the complainative is taking away our rights which is the same right that she has. I don't see her here at the Chapter. In the application itself, there is no mention of a mediation or check mark for that. The next step was to come to the Chapter to request for a resolution. She can take this dispute to court because like you mentioned you as officials are not in that position.

Vice President Rodgers – Working with the courts for the past 30 years, I think what really got to this whole thing is the word “expansion” I know it's in the future but if I were a lawyer and I wanted it right now, I would not have put that word in there at all. I know you have those plans for the future but just that one word is what got Ms. Begay and family and they wanted to stop everything. So, at the planning meeting if you make that clear that you are only asking to withdraw land for the existing cemetery. Just keep making it clear.

Wilfred Yazzie – If the word “expansion” is a problem, when drafting the resolution make a specific statement to what you just stated and take the word expansion out. I would like to go on with the resolution. Do I come back on January 21st for the Chapter meeting?

President Bitsilly – From my point of view, these documents that were presented to the officials is between family and not the chapter. We will need a statement about this situation that is on-going between the two families. I was recommended that the families get together to discuss this issue and get it clear between the families. As of today, we cannot move this forward until we get something in writing because there are 2 families involved and the other family is not here. I wasn't expecting you to be here today so I did not bring in the documents that you submitted to us. Again, we as officials cannot get involved, but I am glad you want to get the family cemetery recognized by the Navajo Nation for you and your family. I would recommend you get together with district 14 Grazing Committee and Land Department to get this issue resolved. Then we will be able to move forward with your resolution without the word “expansion” in the resolution. Maybe re-write the letter to omit the word expansion and present it again.

Wilfred Yazzie – I plan to attend your CLUPC meeting because that is where the complaint originated, I understand. I have not seen a formal complaint.

President Bitsilly – I will follow up with the documents that were presented. CLUPC was only able to listen to the compliant because it's a community land issue. This is a very sensitive issue because of the cemetery private plot. Understand, we are not making any decisions on this matter.

May Fern Dennison – I would like to know who has this compliant in writing? We as a family have not been presented with this compliant. This is really getting frustrating and we are all getting up in years. We want to get this resolved.

President Bitsilly – The document was given to the Grazing Office and he has the document. I would contact the Grazing Officer and discuss this situation with him and see what he recommends.

VI. REPORTS:

*Council Delegate's Report given by LDA Moore:

1. NN Council Winter Session 2026

Sonny Moore, LDA – Going back to NM Capital Outlay, you're working on a packet and I'm working on a packet so let's get together and come up with one. I do have spreadsheets which I created for all 5 chapters and it shows all the capital outlay projects and the funding amounts. There is \$3.5 million for the highway lighting, \$850,000 for the warehouse, and \$4 million from TIF, but we are looking at \$16 million to construct the Public Safety Building. Right now, the Council Delegate is working on another funding source and is at the NM Caucus meeting. For highway lighting, one is the turnoff to Coyote Canyon from highway 491, 2nd is the Johnson Road, 3rd is the Chapter house area and 4th is the elementary. All Twin Lakes has received from the State is \$100,000, but their total cost for the highway lighting is around \$17 million to do all 4 areas. Tohatchi has not received any funding for the highway lighting. Mexican Springs has the most amount of money for their highway lighting and can move forward to complete their project.

The issues we have in expending these dollars lays with DCD because there is nobody to process the IGA's from the state. Some of the funding will be expiring in June 2026, we can't let that happen. So, we need to hold DCD accountable and have them start processing the IGA's. We have a meeting schedule on Friday with Patty Lundstrom just on their ICIP. We are also trying to setup a meeting at the McKinley County School where the superintended office is with Representative Johnson, Senator Pinto, and Senator Munoz.

Another thing I want to bring up is the possibility of working with Naschitti as a certified chapter just like what Tuba City has done. They received funds from the \$521, they hired a project manager and hired a fiscal agent and running with that money. Tohatchi chapter could do something like that; it's just something to think about.

We received \$2 billion from the federal government which has all kind of guidelines; you have to qualify and follow those guidelines. Out of the \$2 billion, we are able to get \$521 million reclassified as Navajo Nation funds. What is holding up this money is it requires a policy and scope of work.

According to OOC, Sean McCabe, we have \$800 million and he will be in the process of reverting the monies that were assigned for projects but never moved the project. The money will go back into a pot and the Council has yet to decide how this money will be spent; maybe hardship. Someone might say, let's put the \$521 million back into ARPA, what will happen then?

Vice President Rodgers – Who is suppose to come up with the scope of work, it is the chapters who should be coming up with the scope of work to give to Window Rock? Or is it Window Rock?

LDA Moore – The FRF office is suppose to come up with the guidelines.

Vice President Rodgers – FRF office are attending meeting after meetings and getting nothing done. When I went to their office to ask what they need us to do for our bathroom addition, powerline, waterline, septic, and cemetery. I asked if they had anything in place? They had nothing to share with me. They came here to the chapter and said they were just monitoring the projects, I asked 'what projects' you don't have anything on the table. So, all that money is spent on them attending daily meetings. They should have started with meeting with chapters to get scope of work and come up with a standard checkoff list.

Sonny Moore, LDA – I hear your frustration, the FRF office make their reports to the budget and finance committee who is headed by Mr. Wilson Stewart.

Maria, CSC – As far as CHID housing is concerned, we met with Patrick Delgai, Delegate Notah, LDA Casey Begay, and the others chapters. What we were told is they are going by work order phases, 1,2,3,4,5, & 6. When we met with them 2 years ago, they told us our 1st client was going to be under work order 3 which is under the Zenni home enterprise. Because of all the issues and problems with Zenni homes these homes were put on hold. In the meantime, they are looking for a new contractor to build homes. So now, our clients were pushed back to work order 5 and 6 and we probably won't see any homes until a new contractor is hire. The list of the families who we felt needed a new home and would qualify after we did the assessments, home visits and had approved their paperwork. Well, these individuals were taken off the list and someone added new names for new homes. Mr. Jeffery Goodluck stated he met with me here at the Chapter and I had changed the names. The day he states we met with him here was the day the NN was given administrative leave from 12pm-4pm. So, we did not meet with him, but he did meet with Mexican Springs, Twin Lakes, and Coyote Canyon Chapter that morning. We were scheduled to meet with him on 1:30pm but the NN was closed at 12pm. I was disappointed with Mr. Goodluck because I wanted to know who changed the names on my list and why did we fall back to phase/work order 5 & 6? I plan to do a resolution, if need be, to have the original names of the 5 that were selected put back on the list for the Chapter. The people he had listed

don't even have homesite leases, or they are not living near infrastructure like electricity and waterline. Another person they have listed qualified for a veteran's home and they are also signed up for CHID home. I did write a memo to Delegate Notah and 'cc' Sonny and Casey regarding the meeting.

Sonny Moore, LDA – I reached out to Casey Begay and he will be contacting you and I did tell him the sooner the better. This is ARPA money and the deadline to expend the funding is December 31, 2026. In one of the RDC meetings, Delegate Claw made a recommendation to just buy mobile homes of the lot since we are nearer the deadline of December 2026. This topic may come up at the council session. Another issue with these homes is the contractors stop building because they said they are not being paid.

Priscilla Duncan – I have a relative who is involved with getting homes for the veterans for the Arizona side. I asked him "what is the total cost of the mobile home that are being delivered in Arizona?" His response was \$56,000 and the contractor is a Navajo owned business and he probably negotiated with a mobile home manufacturer who is building the homes. Why can't we go with that for our chapter?

Maria, CSC – We were informed the going price for a home is at \$187,000 currently, not the \$300,000. In that case we could probably add 2-3 more people to the list instead of the 4 names already on the list.

Vice President Rodgers – who do we address this resolution to? I ask because I was told this project is your delegate's project. He is the one who needs to follow up on these projects. They won't share any information with us. The resolution should be address to Council Delegate Notah.

President Bitsilly – I believe we have the dates for the winter council sessions as January 26th – January 30th.

2. Navajo Nation ARPA Projects 2026 -

***Community Service Coordinator/Officials' Report:**

1. NM Capital Outlay Requests 2026 –

Maria, CSC – The deadline for Capital Outlay was December 12 and I submitted for 3 projects which includes the Public Safety Building, the warehouse for the Chapter equipment, and the highway lighting. Lighting will go from the NN Petroleum Gas Station going north pass the high school. We also submitted funding request to the Governor for the Public Safety Building. The first two are shovel ready. The land has been withdrawn and we have the plans and design for the Public Safety Building. Now we are looking at \$15 million for construction of the building. I believe we are receiving some funds from TIP in the amount of \$4 million. We are working with Dr. Greyeyes from W/R and Parsons from Phoenix. On February 6th, the state capital in Santa Fe will host Indian Day and this gives the NM Chapters an opportunity to pitch their projects and request for funding.

2. TEC Grant Fund –

Maria, CSC – Back in October our Secretary/Treasurer worked on and submitted a grant application with NTEC (Navajo Transitional Energy Company) from Farmington. They run the coal company near Farmington. We requesting funding for kitchen appliances, like stove, refrigerator, freezer, and an isle for our kitchen. We received news that we were awarded and we were ask to attend a banquet in Farmington to receive our award. We were the only non-certified chapter who received an award in the amount of \$15,800. We had submitted an appliance listing in the amount of \$28,000 but the \$15,800 will be helpful in replacing some of our appliances. The check has been cash and is in our account. So, I'll be requesting a resolution to accept and approve the NTEC funding for \$15,800. We will start purchasing our appliances as soon as we budget it into our account.

3. Chapter Audit Review Update –

Maria, CSC – Had meeting with 2 of auditors from W/R last month. We started with a meet and greet and going over the findings one by one. Since it's the holiday season and people are taking leave, it was

suggested that we meet again after the holidays which will be a 2-day visit. We hope this will be schedule for this month. We provided all our policies to them for them to review and our property inventory. Once these documents have been reviewed, they will be coming out to the chapter again for another 2-day on-site visit. Once they complete the on-site visit, they will go back and review everything and come back to me to discuss other findings. We are hoping to do an exit meeting by February and if we pass, they will do another 6-month review which will lead into an annual review. I am feeling position about this audit

4. Bike Trail Project Update –

Maria, CSC – The bike trail is not going anywhere. We've tried several times with Land Department along with my boss, Patricia Begay. We are hoping to get a letter from the land department stating we do not need a land withdrawal. We reached out to Byron Bitsioie, but he had other questions and requested a meeting with myself, officials, and CPMD including Michele Peterson.

Roxanne Martinez the liaison between the NN and Silver Stallion is also working on getting President Buu Nygren and Scott, the director of Silver Stallion together for a meeting. They are hoping for a one-on-one meeting with President Nygren. The bike trail documents did go through the 164 process with everyone's signature, but it was kicked back. President Nygren is questioning his staff to see what happen with the documents. The 2nd time I submitted the packet, it stopped at CPMD office with Michele Peterson. Michele is brand new to CMPD and still on a learning curve. I was told the packet should not have been stopped because the funds are not in W/R but here at the Chapter. She should have signed off on the packet and moved it on to the next person. So, Roxanne wants to do a meeting this month with President Nygren and the officials and have the President sign the documents in front of us. In the meantime, I am working with Christine Barney from Mexican Springs to put together a bid just in case that is requested. Silver Stallion and Tohatchi Chapter are working together to push this project to completion.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I ran into Shawn McCabe with OOC and explained our situation regarding the bike trail. He agreed this project could and should have been handle at the Chapter level. There was no need for it to go to Window Rock for processing. After attending a meeting on the NGWSP in Albuquerque with Eastern Agency. Everybody had issues with the 164 process and recommend that they do away with this process because it delay everything. Mr. McCabe did mention he is working on a new process which will replace the 164 process for chapters. Something that will be more chapter friendly and would benefit our communities.

5. Rural Address Mapping –

***Red Willow Farm Report:**

Sam Natonabah – Nothing much to report, but the weather station should be installed sometime this month. The safety of dams I believe are suppose to be coming out this month to do their inspection and give us a report on the results of the inspection. Also, BIA hasn't gotten back with us on when they will be doing the eradication of the trees. As far as the farm is concern, there is nothing going on. I don't see people working their field. Just to give warning, I plan to do some burning of shrubs at the field and I do have my burn permit. Next RWF meeting will be next Tuesday at 1pm.

***Grazing Officer's Report:** Grazing Officer is in Coyote Canyon attending their meeting.

***CLUPC Report:**

Priscilla Duncan – the person who is overseeing the rural addressing project for our area she was here back in December. The community members who were in attendance got to sit with this person to go over the map and identify and name their roads. The people had an option to re-name their road, but it had to be approved. The meeting was advertised in the newspaper and on the radio and we had around 25 people who attended. They plan to send another representative to come to our CLUPC meeting to give an update on the rural addressing project.

We are also working to complete our Plan of Operation Manuel. There were changes made and now they are re-printing the pages where changes were made.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – Who approves the names for the streets and roads?

Vice President Rodgers – The National Addressing System out of Washington D.C.

*** Veteran's Report:** No report given

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution to approve 1st quarter revenue for October, November, and December 2026
2. Resolution to approve the extension of employment for the PEP staff which includes the office specialist and the receptionist to April 2026.

Priscilla Duncan – Regarding the PEP staff, weren't these positions advertised last fall?

Maria, CSC – They were advertised in August and nobody applied. The current staff's employment will end at the end of January 31st, but because of our audit and the findings that they are familiar, I need them to stay on so they can help me prepare for the auditors and the on-site visits.

Vice President Rodgers – Personally, I like continuity especially if the staff know what they are doing. Yes, we do get complaints from the community, but Maria mentioned she did not receive any applications for employment from the community. I feel comfortable with letting Maria have her staff to help complete the audit. We should just consider making them permanent employees. You have my support because they are doing an excellent job.

3. Resolution to approve the NTEC Grant fund in the amount of \$15,800 and put into Fund 01 (General Funds).

4. Resolution to approve a budget transfer in Fund 23 to transfer \$3000 from Office Equipment's Repair & Maintenance and put into Heavy Equipment Repairs.

Maria, CSC – We do not have a heavy equipment operator currently. I did ask Mr. Jim to come back but he refuse the job. So, I have re-advertise the position for the heavy equipment operator. The backhoe and the grader need maintenance and it has not been maintenance for some time now. I have to request for someone from Gallup to do the maintenance which can get very expensive. The operator we had 3 years ago did a good of keeping up with the maintenance of the heavy equipment. I would like to start using the "old" backhoe again. There was nothing wrong with it, we just stop using it because we got a new backhoe. It probably needs a new battery and new tires. We need to get the heavy equipment maintenance and start grading community roads again. I've been receiving a lot of requests for this service. Currently, Twin Lakes has been assisting our chapter with burials only.

Sam Natonabah – Does the position for the heavy equipment operator require a CDL? I also want to mention when we get another operator, maybe we can get someone from workforce to train the operator.

Maria, CSC – The reason they need a CDL is the State requires operators who drive on the state highways to have a CDL. Workforce does provide training for the operator but Mr. Jim refused the training. Training would provide a CDL license and partial training on maintenance of heavy equipment.

5. Resolution to approve a budget transfer for Veterans Fund 16 for catering and operating supplies.

6. Resolution to approve the ICIP projects for years 2027-2031.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Maria, CSC** – We did hire 7 high school students for their winter break and 3 college students to work 2 weeks. The students assisted 27 community members with wood which included cutting and stacking the wood. We did purchase a lot of wood which was chopped into smaller pieces to fit into stoves and stacked the wood inside the barn. We coordinated with the Senior Center to get names of individuals in our community who was in need of fire wood. The students really enjoyed helping with the wood cutting and delivering to homes.

We also did a coat drive including new coats for kids, and adults. President Bitsilly and students delivered 7 of the coats to homes. Some of the coats were donated to the Senior Center. We had 12 kids coats which were given out across the street from the chapter and the rest were given to the elementary school. They were very happy to receive the coats. We have the January activity calendar available and I'm working with the diabetes program for the month of February to schedule some fun walks and runs. We do have youth activities on January 14th from 3pm-5pm. We also will have the vital records from the Gallup and W/R

office here January 16th from 10am-2pm. If you are in need of a birth certificate or a family's birth certificate you can come in and get one printed for you. Also we have a health fair scheduled for the January 22nd from 11am-2pm and Zumba class will be provided and other health resource information available to the public. There will also be a fun walk and run directed by the IHS Health Department.

The Chapter received some potatoes, vegetables, and fruits which is available to the community. Bring your bags to pick up some food.

Vice President Rodgers – Are announcements being made on air for all the activities listed on your calendar. You have a lot of wonderful activities listed like the office of Dine Youth, Vital Records, and the Health Fair.

President Bitsilly – We will be hosting the NGWSP meeting on March 11th. We will hear about the project itself and the funding source. The BB99 and eastern chapters and 371 lines. I have a document which shows the funding from Sihasin that list Mexican Springs and Tohatchi for \$3.9 million. Delegate Simpson drop legislation a month ago for Crownpoint and eastern and the legislation was passed to finalize these projects. I mentioned this to Delegate Notah at our district 14 meeting to follow up on this. It is my understanding hopefully this money is still there. The money came out of a pot from Water Resource Department from Navajo Nation. Hopefully, this money will be transferred to all the water projects including our San Juan hookup. The water project is projected to be completed by 2029. We have to get it completed. This money is not guaranteed.

Sonny Moore, LDA – Mr. Tsinnijinnie was the Mexican Springs Planning meeting and he submitted a draft resolution for both Mexican Springs and Tohatchi. I believe it's best to have the resolution in place.

Priscilla Duncan – I was listening to President Nygren when he mentions there are X number of dollars for septic tank cleaning. He recommending going to your chapter to get assistance with your septic cleaning. Can someone please look into this for our chapter.

President Bitsilly – The TIF funding was coming out of the capital outlay money which was going to be reverted back so the State put that money to the TIF projects. The TIF money was \$13 million, the Navajo Code Talkers received \$8 million out of the \$13 million. Tohatchi Public Safety/1st Responders received 4 million. Now, we heard Senator Pinto wants to pull the \$8 million from the Code Talkers which the Delegate said no to. There is another pot of money in amount of \$29 million on reversions from the State. She will probably tap into that money as well and I hope we can get some money out of that if we don't get \$8 million from here. If this doesn't go through hopefully, we can get that \$8 million because it's going to be reverted back. There is where the committee is having an issue with. The code talker committee do not have a land withdrawal for the museum. Hopefully, Senator Pinto will give us some money.

Priscilla Duncan – I saw an article in the paper about the State giving monies to the tribe for water. Apparently, Navajo Nation Water Sanitation is getting a whole chuck of money for McKinley County.

President Bitsilly – That's the \$31 million I mentioned

Vice President Rodgers – Amber Crotty, chair of the Indian Affairs committee under the NM that's where the \$8 million going to Tohatchi for the Safety Complex was mentioned. She said we need a report from Michele Peterson to justify why President Nygren is wanting to give Tohatchi \$8 million. We need to let LAM corporation know we need an update ASAP. We need to show we are 100% complete on the design and we have already started the pre-construction activities. This will help Michele tremendously in her report to Amber Crotty.

Sonny Moore, LDA – We need to reach out to Delores Greeyes to let her know we still have a balance of \$593,000 leftover from the State allocation. Maybe it can be transferred over to construction.

IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING DATE: January 21, 2025 @ 10:00am

X. ADJOURNMENT: 12:50 pm

Submitted by:



Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter – January 16, 2025

cc: Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC

Mr. Nathan Notah, Council Delegate