



THE NAVAJO NATION

TOHATCHI COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Elvis Bitsilly
President

Pernell Halona
Vice-President

Delphine Bitsilly
Recorder

Fern Spencer
Member

Priscilla Duncan
Member

TOHATCHI COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 18, 2025

NOV 20 AM 8:03

- I. Call to Order: Time: 9:10 am Roll Call: 5 Invocation: Pernell Halona
- II. Approval of Agenda:
Motion to accept: Fern Spencer 2nd: Pernell Halona Vote: 4-0-1
- III. Approval of Minutes: Tuesday, October 21, 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

Elvis Bitsilly – work session last week Monday, we covered our sections and overall plan, will be on our agenda at every monthly meeting, we discussed and covered the commercial development sites with the list made by Delphine, the template used by the previous Community Land Use Committee and the vendor who established the plan with the template, we have trouble with IT and technical stuff, we made recommendations to get someone with IT experience, I recommended we do a whole new template, would be easier to copy paste what we have, we have more than 80% complete, Rural Addressing has come up with mapping, it will come to the CLUPC to review and approve, Delphine got her listing up to date; **Delphine Bitsilly** – gave Elvis a flash drive with the section 6 updates, a folder called CLUPC, made all changes to 8 x 11, this is the new order, starts at 6.1 to 6.15, I haven't print back to back of the documents, I will work on it, I can give you the flash drive; **Fern Spencer** – can you send me this copy and check with UPS with Bill, a copy for everyone; **Delphine Bitsilly** – this is Highway Lighting, section 6.1, this is all I have on Highway Lighting, no other documents, 6.2 is the Responders Station or Warehouse, 6.3 all the way to Hot Springs, the index and all those pages will be the last to complete with all the information with pages, etc.; **Elvis Bitsilly** – same layout with this; **Delphine Bitsilly** – it's wrong, if you go back to my flash drive it has the current listing; **Elvis Bitsilly** - order changed for the commercial sites development, are we going to have this one page as it looks; **Delphine Bitsilly** – yes, go back to the flash drive, go to the bottom, there's a document called Section 7 Sites Development, above it, this is the current listing, the information should match all the projects; **Elvis Bitsilly** - remove the blue color and make it white; **Fern Spencer** – the red, when I take this leave the red and take out the blue; **Delphine Bitsilly** – that is there for a reason because I'm not sure if we have that information; **Elvis Bitsilly** – your section Pernell needs to be added; **Pernell Halona** – mine was done except the data from the flash drive; **Elvis Bitsilly** – you have the census data and survey data to be inserted; **Fern Spencer** – are other chapters doing this; **Elvis Bitsilly** – it's just us because we are under the 5 year renewal, they don't have a CLUPC; **Pernell Halona** – the only one who had anything was Twin Lakes, Coyote Canyon doesn't have anything, Naschitti 5 year plan is up and need a renewal, Mexican Springs didn't do anything; **Elvis Bitsilly** – we are a step ahead, once we get this completed and approve we will be setting the tone for the other chapters, we are doing a good job, this should have been done two years ago.

B. Tohatchi Rural Addressing Maps

Elvis Bitsilly – received information from VP Rodgers and meet December 2nd, what we covered yesterday was; **Pernell Halona** – did you guys talk to that lady and name change; **Fern Spencer** – that will be December 2nd with the public, we did do some streets to change, your canyon will stay as Halona Canyon, Hamburger Hill Road, Tohatchi Loop will stay all the way around, same as the High School, Saint Mary's street will remain as Saint Mary's street, my area Red Willow Court will remain as Red Willow Court, Red Willow Farm Road will stay that way, we went over all the different areas, you could see all the houses are, far north is Laverne Buffalo was here and named her roads instead of using numbers, it went up pass the Sleuths, people living by Laura Lowe is Mexican Springs, looking at sheet with the road names and what they are named, have the people come and tell them what is going on to get this Rural Addressing done, Laverne has different roads going to her place, to her mom's place, Jean Crawford, Effie Barney and it is all in there, it needs to be clarified, yes make copies; **Priscilla Duncan** – Bronco Drive ends at the security, Jean Crawford's road is 9684; **Elvis Bitsilly** – we met with Rural Addressing, SDR President who was in Window Rock last Thursday and we met with her here, we had concerns over a report that was given to us during the planning meeting, the staff she had here wasn't helpful or professional about the presentation on Rural Addressing for Tohatchi, meeting will be December 2nd, we covered the streets names and numbers, the list you will get has all the street names and road numbers, the numbers are what was identified by SDR from their survey for Tohatchi, we are going through the list to finalize the names within Tohatchi, we did some recommendation changes that were existing already, make sure they were the proper information given to us by SDR, refresher on what we will do December 2nd, this is the mapping they showed us with SDR, the contractor with Navajo Nation Rural Addressing, MC Baldwin, we only focused on Tohatchi, the green line is the designated chapter boundary, it was being said we are making name changes to streets in Tohatchi and that is not happening, we are not changing street and road names, it will be up to the community, as a chapter we should be done January and February, it doesn't include signage, get helpers to post these signs, we were advised not to use Navajo names or family last names for streets for all Navajo Nation, SDR gave us information; **Fern Spencer** – Laverne had her gates locked, she talk with a man, the road to her house doesn't have a name, she will get with her family to get a name, she will inform the other people, we will let the public know about the meeting to come in and let them know what we are going to do, frustrated with the Post Office with packages and EMTs, we did Hot Springs Road, Sheep Dig Road, Bronco Drive, Buffalo Springs Boulevard, it's the Dennison; **Elvis Bitsilly** – name changed around the loop, look at Delegate Nathan Notah's home, this is Tohatchi Drive, house # is 305; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – all the houses, all the buildings, chapter, are they all numbered, the outline areas; **Elvis Bitsilly** – yes, you will be utilizing the new address with UPS, FedEx; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – this Tohatchi Drive was spelled in Navajo; **Elvis Bitsilly** – yes, it was a Navajo name and changed to Tohatchi, English spelling, Susan Cunningham got the data from NNDOT and that's why they have Navajo names; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – I was at a meeting at Mexican Springs yesterday and they are at same level as we are, Coyote Canyon has their houses numbered, Mexican Springs and Naschitti are a little ahead of us, we are ahead of Twin Lakes and they are working on theirs; **Elvis Bitsilly** – a concern was Mexican Springs Tohatchi boundary, all the information on west of 491 these homes, are they Mexican Springs residents, Etsitty's and Lowe's families, Millers are they part of Mexican Springs or Tohatchi, how do we handle this, didn't mention it to Susan, Barney's boundary line; **Delphine Bitsilly** – what about Road 11; **Elvis Bitsilly** - input Hot Springs Road; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – I've seen two different maps, this one you are showing here, another map is the grazing officials, need to clarify with the contractors the boundary, my thought is boundary goes beyond the Millers house going to Gallup, Miller's vote where; **Delphine Bitsilly** – Mexican Springs; **Fern Spencer** – does it matter where they go; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – some individuals move to Twin Lakes and were told to register with Twin Lakes and they are from Mentmore, Albuquerque people are told to register at Tohajiilee, election office will have to deal with this; **Pernell Halona** – my sister's vote here in Tohatchi even though they live elsewhere; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – the numbers on these houses, when you go to Google Map, do they show the numbers; **Elvis Bitsilly** – no, this is for the E911 system for Navajo, this how they will identify homes on Navajo, how does this all join together, your house number will have a label plus you will have your road number, as a Delegate you will need to follow up, what is SDR going to do with the system; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – will UPS and FedEx have these numbers for deliveries; **Pernell Halona** – after it is published,

numbers on the houses; **Elvis Bitsilly** – the northern chapters are getting their packages; **Fern Spencer** – Newcomb is done; **Elvis Bitsilly** – update from SDR for all Navajo, road changes; **Fern Spencer** – Nathan, do you think you can be here on the 2nd, 10 am; **Delegate Nathan Notah** - so far I'm free.

- C. NN Economic Development – arrived after meeting adjourned.
- D. TAOS, Inc- (EV) Electric Vehicle Charge Station

Elvis Bitsilly – grant application submitted by TAOS, location at Post Office parking lot, application completed by BIG Incentive based out of Washington and Texas, they approach me in October, affiliated with NMDOT, NMDOT has a \$10 million grant, provide funding for EV charge stations on Navajo for tribal communities, they selected Tohatchi because of busy 491 corridor and beneficial for our community to have these charging stations, we are not a certified chapter and we couldn't do that based on having to go through the process, we had a two week time frame to do this, TAOS, Navajo Petroleum and at that time we didn't know they were going to reopen and it eliminated them, Speedway didn't have the space, these charge station are one charge station with a double pump station, request was for one charge station with two pump stations, TAOS will have two charge stations with four pumps, talked to Jefferson Kee and Chavez John, they did meet the deadline, received a call from BIG Incentive at end of the month for who are the successful applicants for the grant, we met with Navajo Nation Economic Development in Window Rock, they approached me about the EV Charge Station and I gave them the information, we have four other communities in New Mexico who are interested in this project and would like to inquire about the grant, five other businesses who are interested in EV charge stations in New Mexico, we are one of six, TAOS and it's their business, the charge station will give them residual income, they will plan and will benefit, they are fast charging stations, Gallup has some charging stations, there's an average of 5,000 vehicles travel on 491 everyday, what happens when it is not being used, power won't be charged until it is being used, power through NTUA, a real good chance it will work out.

- E. Bike Trail

Elvis Bitsilly – we attended an assembly at the high school last Friday with the Bike Trail individuals - IMBA, BIT – a parks company that work with IMBA, Silver Stallion had assembly with middle school students, presentation on what the community can do with the students and community interest in biking, trail riding, presenters there and professionals demonstrated the skills with biking for the students; **Fern Spencer** – I thought they already did this and it was in place at the mid school Thoreau and other school have it and they needed one for Tohatchi; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – who was the group clearing the road behind the post office, there was a group clearing the rocks, frontage road that goes down to the store; **Elvis Bitsilly** – the kids, BIT did a Go Fund Me donation and raised \$5,590.00 towards the bike group; **Fern Spencer** – everything is on the go with the bike trail; **Elvis Bitsilly** – that was a question brought up from Division of Community Development, are these areas withdrawn for your bike trail project, this is an ongoing project for 2-3 years, these trails have been in place forever, Vice President can give more information about the bike trail and land withdrawn, we did follow up with DCD, DOJ got involved and went through this review process, three months ago we recommended to donate the \$5,000 to the project as the chapter, when we are under \$5,000 we don't have to go through the 164 Process, before that it went through the 164 Process because we were donating \$7950.00 as matching money, now as a chapter why don't we donate what we can under that guideline or policy which is acceptable, we can do this in installments and Maria has accepted this, Silver Stallion or IMBA to do the bike trail, we will get it done; **Fern Spencer** – it's still in existence at the middle school, how did Thoreau get it and it was because they are checkered board area, a good thing for schools to learn how to take care of the bikes; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – they get free bikes; **Elvis Bitsilly** – they came to the chapter for support, we already had a trail to use, they are going in phases, money coming out of our Unhealthy Food Tax; **Lee Rodgers** – the \$7000.00 odd dollars, Maria divided in 3 installment payments and we will be approving it at the chapter meeting tomorrow, it's listed on the resolution section, the language in it is design and conceptual phase yet, once the design is done, we will know how much land will be used without having to withdrawn an amount of land, work with land issue, identify the piece of land, disturbed land, request for waiver for all field clearances and the language will be

in the resolution will state our intent, what it will do, we're not disturbing land that is new land, that's my suggestion.

V. New Business:

A. Catholic Church Land Lease Update

Elvis Bitsilly – I did invite Father Dale to meeting, asked him to come for any questions, met with him two weeks, we reinitiated the Boys and Girls Club, he said okay to use building, Land Withdrawal or land lease was never established or done since they existed as a church with the land they sit on now, we can help them get it done so they will have the lease permit, it's long overdue for them, the history on the Church, we will deal with the land department, chapter does have some information about the church, other churches do have their land lease which are the Pentecostal and LDS, Christian Reform doesn't have a lease, we should meet with them, the Baptist church I don't think they have one but I didn't see one; **Lee Rodgers** – the Catholic Church did get a legal document which was stamped by the United States of America in 1916, back then only men attended meetings, women were not included, there were 70 men who put their thumb print to establish here, awarded 40 acres and they only use 10 acres, give the 30 back to the chapter to do something with that, 1970's the Gallup Diocese they did a land withdrawn request to the tribe, unfortunately Tohatchi and Naschitti were left out, they weren't included, they didn't get their land lease in 1970 when other Catholic churches got their land lease, to make it legal and right he would like to get it done with our help, use what they have now which is the 10 acres, since the cemetery is disturbed, there are a couple hogans beyond the cemetery and that is included; **Elvis Bitsilly** – will you follow up on the application process, looking at the General Land Development Department website, follow the guidelines for burial and cemetery, we will cover this burial expansion request by Mr. Yazzie at tomorrow chapter meeting, gave this issue to grazing official; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – they did have rules and regulations prior, this new administration and new council, they had several meetings and they came up with more in depth regulations, they can only withdraw and make it legal for those already in place but you can't do any new burials, burials have to be at cemeteries from now on, it did pass RDC in the spring; **Delphine Bitsilly** – can they add to a current family plot; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – they can do that, Coyote Canyon is doing that now, two families in Coyote Canyon are expanding their plots; **Delphine Bitsilly** – that is what Mr. Wilfred is requesting, the current family plot they want to add additional space; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – additional 1 acre, there might be some objections, they referred it to Gerald Moore; **Lee Rodgers** – I don't think he wants to request the expansion, I think he wants to make it legal and grandfather in with what they have, make it legal; **Pernell Halona** – follow guidelines to make it legal, if there's already a family plot setup out there, you can add to it but cannot start a new burial; **Delphine Bitsilly** – is the plot he is requesting a new plot; **Pernell Halona** – where he is requesting is already a burial site, people are buried there; **Delphine Bitsilly** – I know but there's a fence there and he wants to add one acre, is that grandfathered in; **Pernell Halona** – there are a lot out there that are not fenced; **Elvis Bitsilly** – it's an extension, get the clearance; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – District 14 Grazing Committee are working on it; **Delphine Bitsilly** – he has opposition; **Pernell Halona** – neighbors, do they own that land; **Delegate Nathan Notah** – customary grazing; **Fern Spencer** – where is this place; **Delphine Bitsilly** – where Thomasina Begay and Jeremiah Begay live; **Fern Spencer** – do they have livestock and graze every day; **Delphine Bitsilly** – yes, that is what Jeremiah told me at the meeting; **Lee Rodgers** – cemetery is against the mountain, it's not huge, the expansion will go straight to the highway, will not go towards where they live, they are all one family, as the chapter we can only acknowledge and not support it.

B. Navajo Petroleum Station Reopening

Elvis Bitsilly – it will reopen, Bryan Wauneka gave us a report on what he is doing, let's support it, advertising four positions with a manager in December, working on the documents and information permits, people gave him their input of food; **Pernell Halona** – give him the business so they don't close; **Fern Spencer** – problems with the person in charge, working hours were cut.

C. Tucson Electric Power- (TEP) Status

Elvis Bitsilly – electric power north on 491, Buffalo Springs, Naschitti, I talked to NTUA the other day, the electric power posts in my yard, Lewis Shepherd and didn't know why they were there, replace posts, talked about TEP and what is going on, no continuation with the power is lacking power poles, you have the turn

posts at 45 or 90 degrees angles and are waiting for the poles, once they get the poles they will start the project, will go through Red Willow Farm; **Pernell Halona** – dropped 20 poles up the canyon and they will be replaced, road is graded to the tower, the road needs to be graded to Navajo, NTUA has grader and dozer parked in my yard, talk to them about grading the road 2 or 3 miles further from my house, fiber optic line along the road; **Elvis Bitsilly** - call Kontz at NTUA; **Lee Rodgers** – they have restrict policies, give it a try; **Fern Spencer** – post office, flag at half-staff, needs cleaning, opens when he wants to open, does he wait to post people's mail in their mail boxes, I was told to send email to Shannon Pinto and Ben Lujan, can I do a petition tomorrow; **Lee Rodgers** – did you call the number I gave you in Albuquerque; **Fern Spencer** – it rings and rings; **Pernell Halona** – I thought office was in Denver; **Elvis Bitsilly** – when we went to visit TAOS and talked to Jefferson and Chavez, when we sent our letter to them Amber and Post Master, all TAOS said we are subleasing to Post Office and we don't deal with the problems and personal problems, Amber the last post master is aware of the problems, the upper management team may not know what to do and try the petition.

D.

- VI. **Resolutions: none**
- VII. **Announcements: Thanksgiving Dinners-Chapter and Red Willow**
- VIII. **Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 @9am-12n**
- IX. **Adjournment: 11:10 am**

Delphine Bitsilly *Delphine Bitsilly*
Recorder