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November 19, 2025 10:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:15am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Elvis Bitsilly, Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Officer Gerald Moore. Priscilla Duncan with CLUPC and Gallup School Board President: Kevin Mitchell.
- III. **INVOCATION:** Elvis Bitsilly
- IV. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
Motion: 1st Treva Roanhorse 2nd Kevin Mitchell Vote: 20-0-1
- V. **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 22, 2025 MEETING MINUTES:**
Motion to read on your own.
Motion: 1st Priscilla Duncan 2nd Kevin Mitchell Vote: 18-0-3
- VI. **PRESENTERS:**
 1. **Kevin Mitchell and the GMCS Superintendent, Mike Haytt, and Jvanna Hanks Deputy Superintendent:**
Kevin Mitchell – I brought GMCS administration out here today so they can give an update on the process and construction of the new high school. Also they can give you updates on school achievements and how they schools are progressing.
Mike Hyatt (Superintendent) – I would like to announce that Mr. Kevin Mitchell is your new School Board President. He has been part of the great work that is happening in your community. So congratulation to Mr. Mitchell. We have provided some materials we want to discuss and go over with you. We have some exciting things happening with our academic performance in the entire county, specially in our rural parts of our county and Tohatchi is one of those rural communities that was a part of the greatest growth that we had as far as the school district and advance placement or performance with our students. This last year, we had over 60 students who scored advance in the state assessment, that's the largest group of students that we've had in GMCS's history, so we are very excited for that news. We get state assessment data from last spring to see how our students are doing; it comes in very slow throughout the year but we just received some of that information which we wanted to share with you. In addition to that, this is the 1st time we have seen and we are very excited about is the work we have been to help the student do better with their Science, Math, and English, and some other areas. This is the 1st year our county schools out preform the city schools in growth. Also, of all the schools, there are 16 elementaries in our school district. We rank them and actually give incentives to our staff for their performance of their students and Tohatchi did incredible this year. So I want to give you some of the rankings of some of your schools and how they performed. We are excited for Tohatchi Elementary; they actually came out number one in growth in English Language Arts and number 2 in Mathematic growth. Tohatchi Middle School came in second in Mathematics across the whole county. We also want to give you an update on the Mckinley Academy Program where students can attend college dual credit courses an opportunity to receive their Associate Degree. This is a program we started several years ago. You probably now know a few students who attend that program have been successful and some of them have moved on and gone into college and their future

careers. When we 1st started six years ago, we had only 5 students from Tohatchi, we now have to take 2 buses from Tohatchi for the 72 students who are participating in this program and it's by far the largest student participants from your community. Students who get an early start on their college career toward their future actually career are much more likely not only to graduate but to earn more money in their life. We want them to be successful in their life and so we are very proud of them.

Deputy Superintendent Jvanna Hanks – I don't know if any of you were able to attend the showcase we recently had at Tohatchi High? But you are always welcome to attend those types of events. In our Career Pathway the Tohatchi area is working on the business school of, so people from around the State of New Mexico actually came to Tohatchi to learn what your students are doing in order to advance their careers in high school and to learn from them and how those students are working. They are being put forward as exemplars, recently watching the Legislative Education Study committee down in Las Cruces, they specifically mention our students because they know the work our students are doing, how well they are doing and working toward their future careers. This is exciting news and we look forward to some types of events. Additionally, there was a handout you may have received that has our accomplishment on it and we like to highlight these and remember the work we are going through. Part of this is the funding we have been able to bring back to the community. Through the empowerment of the warden work we were able to do, that is the reason we have been able put in a new Tohatchi High School. We are very proud to have a new facility for the students of this community. We would love sometimes in January after we set a date for you to walk through the new school. We do anticipate being completed in March of 2026 and we would love to give you first access to look through the new school. As Superintendent Hyatt mentioned, our students are excelling every single day and by no means are we looking to stop. We want to continue that growth and we want to show the State how great our kids are because we know that they are. So, we will continue to do everything that we can and to give them the tools and resources they need to do that. We have continued to provide school supplies not only to every single student who attends GMCS but we also give classroom kits to all of our teachers to help relieve that burden to make sure that they have the tools to be successful. We continue to give retention incentives that is approved by the Board of Education and that's just to show our dedicated staff that stay with our students that we value them and we want them to with GMCS for a very long time. We are also very proud of our Navajo Language and Cultural curriculum and assessment that we have built. We have made great strides over the past several years including in putting together a formal framework with our Cultural Education Department and we have been working with the Department of Dine Education, sharing with them the work we have done. So we hope even more students will have access to that curriculum to be able to ensure the continuation of the Navajo Language and Cultural.

Over 95% of our high students are participating in career pathway at this time and we are exploring more options to get ourselves up to 100%. We are also continuing with our paid internships for our students. We will be sending out our community survey in December and I will send it to the Chapter's email account. I encourage everybody to provide us feedback, and please make sure your voice is heard. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – Who is the person responsible to repair the flashing light that has been down for some time now near the high school turnoff?

Mr. Hyatt – We actually stopped there before the meeting to take a look at it. This would be county's property. We can provide the equipment but we can't install those types of things. We will reach out to the county to take care of the repair of the flashing light sign. My 2nd question, we've had flooding, several times over where the new school is being constructed. Has this issue been addressed where there will be no flooding of the new school.

Mr. Hyatt – The architects took a lot of time and effort to make sure that they have a drainage plan. They

built a water tank for the water drainage area where the water will drain into.

Maria Allison (CSC): We are having a coat drive this month. If you can donate a new coat please drop off here at chapter house. These coats will be given to the students at the elementary, mid school and high schools.

I reached out to the counselor from high school to ask the students to design a new "Welcome to Tohatchi" sign which will replace the old sign south of here. The new signs will be place on each side of the community. We have around 17 drawings and I would like to ask the community to pick a drawing they like and submit it in the tin can on the table.

2. **Wilfred Yazzie: (requesting a resolution for family cemetery)** – I have requested for a land withdrawal for a burial site. I've gone before the District 14 Grazing committee and they have given me the ok to proceed with the land withdrawal. They said I would need a legal survey completed along with GPS coordinates. The GPS coordinates were completed and I'm not asking for a support resolution from the Tohatchi Chapter. The cemetery is located North on highway 491 at milepost 32 in the Buffalo Springs area. This cemetery has been used since 1945 and as of today we have 44 family members buried there. We do have a fence around the cemetery currently to keep out the livestock. This burial site is where my grandfather started his family. My family members still live in the area and they have livestock. We named the cemetery Tsosie Dennison Family cemetery.

President Bitsilly – Are you just wanting a recognition of the cemetery or are you asking for expansion of the cemetery? I'll show you the website you need to go to to get the correct documents downloaded and printed. It sounds like you just want the burial site to be recognized and there is no expansion of the cemetery. If it was an expansion of the cemetery, you would have to go through the land withdrawal process with the land department, but this is something else so you don't need to go that route. All you are asking for is the recognition of the cemetery. This is the Navajo Nation law and not the Chapter's policy. As of today, we cannot recognize a resolution request because he do not have the proper documents are not in place yet. We should have gotten this request at the planning meeting. I know you were there but all the documents need to be place at the planning meeting. Whenever you get your proper documents completed and signoff and properly submitted then yes, we will follow through with your request as a Chapter.

Wilfred Yazzie – My understanding is we need a site approval of the cemetery to use as a burial ground.

Gerald Moore – Just to support your efforts, Mr. Yazzie, You already have everything line up and all need to do now is use the checkoff list to make sure you have everything together. Now, all you need is the resolution.

Tohatchi Chapter staff will download the correct application for Mr. Yazzie. He will come back to the chapter later today to pick up the application.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

OCTOBER 2025 Financial Report –

OCTOBER FUND BALANCES		
1	Chapter Activities Gen Fund	\$16,527.60
3	Land Claims Trust	\$49,293.17
9	Housing Discretionary Fund	\$1,307.86
10	LGA Grant Fund	\$58,924.09
12	Chapter Stipends	\$13,464.11
13	Scholarship General Fund	\$1,492.00

14	Scholarship Claims Fund	\$4,463.48
15	PEP Fund	-\$472.28
17	Emergency Fund	\$24,719.71
23	NN Sales Tax	\$133,333.98
25	NN CIP - \$180,000	\$13,831.58
16	Veterans Fund	\$10,659.00
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	\$441,865.42

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford –For the month of October 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 October 2025 Financial Report

Motion: 1st Priscilla Duncan 2nd Sarah Tom Vote: 32-0-3

IX. RESOLUTIONS:

1. **006-11-2026:** Resolution approving the FY 2025 Carryover Budget for Navajo Nation General Fund in the amount of \$2,524.00 in accordance to the Chapter General fund distribution policies and allocations and will be placed in fund account (09) Housing Discretionary.

Motion: 1st Treva Roanhorse 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 31-0-4

2. **007-11-2026:** Resolution to support the request to the Navajo Nation Board of Education and Health, Education & Human Services committee of the Navajo Nation Council for Chooshgai Community School to be re-authorized to continue grant school operation from July 01, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

Motion: 1st Pat Morris 2nd Julia Thompson Vote: 39-0-4

Note: Lisa Hubbard, Melissa Bitsie, Jeremiah Begay, Sherry Tom, and Ray Barney are registered voters with Tohatchi Chapter who were on the teleconference call.

3. **008-11-2026:** Resolution approving the Chapter monthly financial report of combined statement of revenue, expenditures, and fund balances from October 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – 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.

Motion: 1st Treva Roanhorse 2nd Fern Spencer Vote: 32-0-2

- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Red Willow Farm meeting on December 2nd @ 1pm, CLUPC meeting December 16th @ 9am. **Important:** December 2nd is the Rural Addressing meeting at 10am, District 14 Grazing Committee Meeting December 3rd at Naschitti chapter @ 9am. Chooshgai School Board meeting on December 08th.

Please remember the Chapter is having a coat drive. You can drop off a new coat with the chapter.

- XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: December 01, 2025 (Planning Meeting) at 10am.**

- XII. AJOURNMENT: 11:53 am**

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jean" and last name "Crawford" clearly distinguishable.

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

cc: Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC