



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 February 17, 2026

I. Call to Order: Time: 9:20 am Roll Call: 5 Invocation: Delphine Bitsilly

II. Approval of Agenda:

Motion: **Fern Spencer** 2nd: **Priscilla Duncan** Vote: **3-0-1**

III. Approval of Minutes: **Tuesday January 20, 2026**

Approval and waive reading of minutes:

Motion: **Priscilla Duncan** 2nd: **Fern Spencer** Vote: **3-0-1**

IV. Old Business:

A. **Community Land Use Plan Review**

***Elvis Bitsilly** – what we have covered and open to members for discussion, what do we have so far, what is next, we had a work session the other day; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – I did the editing on the sections, the sticky notes in orange tell me I’m not sure what I was supposed to do with the page, I deleted all the pictures and I don’t know if we were going to put the project team and credits in the back, do I need to change the language on that and put current officials, will go in the references in the back, 1.2 and 1.3 am I deleting that – yes delete the whole thing, the grazing permit table I couldn’t delete the table, I just wrote it in a paragraph form and still need to get rid of the table, for the Transit I need to scan the document, where are we adding CLUPC, am I adding it under Assets Identified by Tohatchi or am I putting it under Tohatchi Values; ***Lee Rodgers** – there’s a section on there that mentions Veterans and Red Willow Farm and that’s where it goes; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – on the social economic conditions, I cannot delete this chart and I can’t figure it out, the language at the bottom, am I the one to write all the language here for what Pernell and Larry gave us on those socioeconomic things, I will have to look at all the charts and write it up, we changed 2010 to 2020 and it based on the census, did we say we are deleting number 15 Geothermal Hot Springs, I cannot remove this name even if I double click, there is no cursor to change, I was thinking on the First Responders Station put in parentheses Safety Complex, they can refer to it unless I figure a way to do that, or I go to Tse Bonito to that girl and they can help me with that; ***Fern Spencer** – so you’re going to get it done at Tse Bonito; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – yeah I’ll take it to them, I’ll delete 15, Hot Springs, all the sections to 8 I got done, I have to edit those pages and I started working on the Table of Contents, I’m thinking I’m going to redo it in Microsoft Word and convert to a PDF file, I’m thinking by our next meeting this should be put together with the Table of Contents, the References and Appendix, that’s the update on the Land Use Plan, once we get the draft and I will print one copy, everyone will look at it, if it’s a good copy, Donica Sharpe, I will contact her and give her a price quote on the printing, she still will pay for the printing, hopefully by April; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – by next month, why April; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – that’s our meeting, in March I’m going to edit the orange tags and complete it, come March it should be somewhat completed, we all look at it and April it will be the final copy, there’s a lot of scanning I have to do and have to get my scanner to work, the scanning will take some time; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – it should be all done by next month I think, at least your final draft, we can review it and officially make a determination in April, we can call an emergency meeting sooner if we have to, we don’t have to wait on our scheduled dates; ***Fern Spencer** – keep in mind she

works, going back and forth to Tse Bonito, it does take time; ***Lee Rodgers** – how many pages do you need to scan, I can help you, I can scan the pages; ***Delphine Bitsilly** – about 20 pages; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – we can schedule another work session if we have to; ***Maria Allison** – you guys are CLUPC and you can use the office equipment, you have a budget with us, too; ***Fern Spencer** – can help and be here Monday, February 23 at 9 am.

B. Traffic Speeding on N108 Loop- Post signs, speed bumps, other

***Elvis Bitsilly** – brought to my attention about a week ago, the administration, Maria mentioned a couple of things, N108 loop goes across the bridge to the other side to the elementary school, post office and to Highway 491, speeders are an issue and put a stop to it, posting signs and speed bumps; ***Maria Allison** – the speeding happens in the mornings between 7:45 and 8:00, it's mostly the clinic employees, we reached out to the director at the clinic and I emailed her, I told her there are two vehicles from there, gave the license plates and description of the vehicles, every morning they are speeding, she responded back and she said she met with the staff, they were told to slow down and come to work early, it still is continuing, senior center van was leaving and almost got hit, students waiting alongside of the road for bus to pull up, the elementary and Chuska bus come this way, dogs are getting hit, I told the guys let's make our own signs and put them up, I need to get the supplies, I did reach out to BIA Clarence Tsosie, he responded back with the government closure, he lost most of his employees, only two are there now, he will try and get supplies, they are still speeding through the area and other side, too; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – NHA housing area as well, three sections – low rent side, south side housing and mutual housing, the road runs in between, we call on NHA to help and I don't know if they can do anything, they could say that's BIA road, they are only responsible for what is in the housing, any speed signs in the housing area; ***Fern Spencer** – there are speed signs in my housing area and they take them off, there are speeders who go around the loop around midnight, Window Rock School District they have two signs for 10 mph in middle of the highway and are there until there's no school and has to be with security guards, those signs can be put out by your workers, police not helping and if they could sit by gas station and watch, truckers parked along the Lee's area going south, contact those people who drive their diesels through here to slow down, fines would be nice; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – I don't see any policy from anybody like BIA, I don't recall what Clarence told me, last year in an email I asked him about speed bumps, I think he said he would accommodate us to setup if we furnish the material, where are we going to put them, it will be the chapter staff decision if we do ourselves; ***Fern Spencer** – what does your board member for GMCS say about the signs in what Gallup McKinley County Schools can do because all those schools are right there and Chuska; ***Elvis Bitsilly** - I haven't inquired anymore with them after my discussion since last year because they wouldn't do anything, highway lighting we have to go further, we went to Santa Fe, Cerna quit at Transportation, Department of Transportation of New Mexico, the 20th is his last day; ***Fern Spencer** – can't help because highway was 666 changed to Highway 491 and that's why they can't do anything; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – the county said that, Anthony Dimez, he didn't want to do anything and that is disappointing, Cerna said no it doesn't matter, I showed him the document and it is still valid, I was with Delegate Notah, we've been neglected too long; ***Lee Rodgers** – I would suggest a resolution to the county to tell them to clarify, where is it to nullify the original agreement, what legal document can they provide to prove they nullified the agreement, I bet there's no legal document in place to say that just because it change from triple 6 to 491 does not nullified the agreement that was made, it's still the same highway, only difference is the number changed, they need to show proof, where in the books, where in the books does it say it nullified the agreement, according to the state of New Mexico this agreement is still valid, let them answer to us; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – county and the state; ***Lee Rodgers** – ask for clarification on the matter; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – should we indicate BIA; ***Fern Spencer** – everybody that is involve; ***Pernell Halona** – when Bart Stevens was director of BIA, Julie was supposed to do a resolution, ask BIA because it's their responsibility to do a curb and gutter, BIA tarred the road and it's there road, they are the only ones to work on it, we were supposed to have a resolution for the curb and gutter as well as a sidewalk, that was when Bart Stevens worked there; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – this is the road issue which I showed to Cerna; ***Lee Rodgers** – that takes care of the 491 issue and speeding, the loop around here like you said the BIA is responsible, that would require a separate resolution to the BIA, look for the old resolution from Julie's time and what does it say, what did it ask for and we can build on that if it is available, if not available then we need to do a

whole fresh resolution and start again, focus on the main priority on hand first which is to control the speeding and speedbumps if we put too many stuff in there and it will become overwhelming for them and they won't do anything, focus on one thing, we do need speedbumps; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – NMDOT and Navajo Nation we took care of that, the flashes will be coming up soon, highway lighting request to capital outlay, N108 loop we work with BIA, I think I seen that resolution Halona was referring to, resolution to Clarence Tsosie, I will follow up on that; ***Pernell Halona** – the resolution did include speed bumps, I think it had highway lighting; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – cattle guards cleaning, Cerna stated County should be responsible for cleaning, homeowners should be responsible for cleaning of cattle guards to their turn offs, Cerna said yes we can do it, McKinley County said no; ***Fern Spencer** – will it get done or not; ***Lee Rodgers** – 50/50, if you think about the right of way, the cattle guard is sitting 50/50 in the right of way, they should be responsible for it, it's on their right of way; ***Pernell Halona** – get Pinto in on it and it's part of her responsibility; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – it's not just Tohatchi, it's all over New Mexico side, everyone has the issue with the state, counties, the school bus drop-off McKinley and San Juan county line, move to Naschitti instead at county line, they heard us; ***Fern Spencer** – was Shannon in those meetings when you guys were there; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – not with Transportation, road millings scrapes, asked can we get some of the milling and they said yes, send a letter or resolution to me and I'll do it, we'll provide the equipment depending on how much you need, we can't let you have all of it, you can have some of it, we will use the template resolution Ramah used; ***Lee Rodgers** – I thought it was given to the chapter; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – we didn't have the means to move it, a small pile by the Petroleum, Navajo Nation Department of Transportation can do three loads, they can furnish their equipment to us, the state can do it as well and we can work with them.

V. **New Business:**

A. **Tohatchi Emergency Response Plan**

***Elvis Bitsilly** – I have the latest copy the chapter passed and implemented, who has seen the plan for Tohatchi Chapter, Vice President and myself want to let the committee know we do have this plan with the resolution and this was approved in 2024, resolution to approve the new Tohatchi Emergency Response Plan (ERP) effective June 24, Maria is well aware of this because the Coordinator and administration, higher officials and CLUPC may have been involved in this, we need to be aware of it and know what it is, read and review it and I will get a copy to you guys, we have this in place, District 14 chapters have a District 14 emergency response plan as well, I was nominated to that committee (planning) at our last District 14 meeting, there are five of us, there are five other officials on the plan of operation committee, we are assigned to these projects, assigned with four other chapters, I will follow up on the District 14 plan of operation emergency plan, it was implemented in 2019, chapter has one, now they have five chapter plans, I don't know if it's conflicting with what the chapters have or is it to have for District 14, we will review as we meet as a committee, what it is leading to is the first responder substation, I would like our chapter to schedule a meeting with the first responder teams to come here, it's not CLUPC, it's a chapter request, do we cover the District 14 plan or Tohatchi, I think we should cover Tohatchi first the emergency response plan, our school bus accident on 491 and we have to be prepared, I asked what is our plan and do we have one, we do have a plan but we haven't reviewed it, like today we got snow, what do we do, chapter officials go drive around and check on the community members, who would I know who to check on, this is where the CHR comes in, how do we work with our senior center, Headstart and their families, all entities need to work together and are part of this emergency response plan, the schools, churches, clinic, it's us officials and CLUPC, what do we do when something happens, who is the first responders, I talked to Kevin and he was there, why wasn't I contacted and he didn't say anything, who are next in line in the change of command; ***Fern Spencer** – 1: the response team, when do you plan to have the meeting; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – District 14 chapters need to meet, I'll initiate it and need a place for the meeting maybe here, thinking next week in afternoon, have a quick review, round table meeting with the District 14 chapters that are on that list as members, discuss what we need to do and I know the emergency plan will need to be revised; ***Fern Spencer** – you will have that meeting with your people, I would like a copy like the rest of us the document you have there - 2, 3 – the gentleman that gave the workshop, that still needs to be done, for me I would rather have it for our chapter, if the other chapters want to have that workshop that's fine and not as a whole group, people who want to be part of the responders group, it should have been done after that

presentation, at the planning meeting and nobody here, they moan and groan about not knowing what's going on at the chapter, can't just sit back and watch, if you come to our meeting you can voice your opinion too, they talk about the staff, I told them they do a lot of work and you may not see it, the gentlemen who work out back do a lot of work too, do you guys ever say thank you; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – list of contact people and what their responsibilities are, the other plan with the five District 14 chapters and what they put in place years back, looking at screen – District 14 Emergency Response Plan November 2019, has been in place for seven eight years; ***Lee Rodgers** – expand on what you said about people expecting chapter officials to go out there and check on people, how do we know who to check on, are people calling in for help to the chapter and how is the chapter documenting it, the administration documenting those calls, are we getting any calls at all; ***Maria Allison** – the only calls we get from the community are what are you giving out, do you have water and other chapters are giving out stuff, two community members call us for wood and we don't hear from anybody else on emergencies, when it comes to roads we have six people call us and we have six areas we deal with, everything we document must be on a form 213, fill out the emergency response form, submit to Window Rock, our boss and emergency response team, no serious inquiries in Tohatchi, when we had a CHR she kept us updated on clients who is at risk, who are the priority, we keep the listing, when the weather like this we do a call out, we go out to check on them ourselves, the new CHR hasn't introduced herself to the chapter staff, the senior center driver gives us information on community members who are at risk, we do have a response team in Tohatchi, we started when Mr. Moore was here, we need to do an update on the listing, Chiapetti no longer in Tohatchi, we would meet on a quarterly basis, we do have an email we put together, for instance when we had that shooting, they got onto that email and we issued an email to everybody to look at and be on standby, everybody did their lockdown, if you guys want to be a part of the list we can put you it; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – these names are on the list, going through the response plan on the screen, Public safety support, police dispatch, fire and rescue, hopefully all are current numbers, Forestry Department, Natural Resources, Transportation, Active shooter – need to update, chapter may be part of this, bomb threat yeas ago, kids getting to social media to post things, medical emergencies, animal attacks, drug overdose, hazardous material spills, I don't think we had one; ***Maria Allison** - yes we did right after the pandemic, it was fuel by Buffalo Springs, work place and domestic violence, structures and wild fires, tornados; ***Pernell Halona** – yes there was one at El Paso in 2020; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – we had tornados out in Arizona; ***Fern Spencer** – Navajo Housing Authority down here, what authority do they have, if any at these housing areas about driving up and down the road, firecrackers, yeah it's your homesite and it's your problem, what do you guys do; ***Lee Rodgers** – they only have a say in public housing, the rest of us are not covered, you do on your own because you have your own house, we need to do something about it; ***Priscilla Duncan** – was approached by a person who lives down on the flats saying there are people driving around that way, us ladies who live alone and do you guys talk about neighborhood watch, I told them to come to our meeting; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – those are some things that come up in the emergency response plan issue, community alert; ***Pernell Halona** – how do I do community alert in my area; ***Elvis Bitsilly** - firecrackers going off over the weekend, we don't enforce the No Fireworks Policy, the homeowner will be responsible for the damage; ***Fern Spencer** – when is the meeting for District 14 Response Plan; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – I haven't setup meeting yet, you can come, the first responders are meeting virtually this afternoon, 1:30 pm; ***Lee Rodgers** – senior center meeting at 1, not sure where we are meeting; ***Fern Spencer** – what's wrong with the senior center; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – Vice President initiated meeting request to follow up with the supervisor; ***Lee Rodgers** – they have discrepancies to get done by March 30 and we thought they were taken care of, apparently it wasn't, there fire extinguishers, doors, HVAC system, the HVAC was certified and it will end this month February, the deadline is March 30 to get a new certification which they need, Orlinda was having price quotes done for the fire extinguishers and never got done, it still is not done, they need to get the price quotes updated and take it over, and have it paid, give price quote to chapter so it can get paid, nobody is getting it done; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – three meetings here at same time, you are more than welcome to attend meetings; ***Lee Rodgers** – Elvis is on the Emergency Plan and I'm on the Plan of Operation, we are having our meeting on Thursday; ***Maria Allison** – this week we're getting a home for Tommy Badonie from CHID program.

B. NTUA Fiber Line Installation to Chuska Towers Site

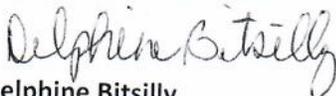
***Elvis Bitsilly** – Pernell Halona will update us with poles and fiber line install; ***Pernell Halona** – the fiber line they are talking about across the Navajo Nation from the north to the south, along the highway from the west to the east they are putting in a Optic Fiber Highway, main line going across the Navajo Nation, going on for several years, a spin off from the tower on top of the hill, making access for a wider range to get to people, in 2020 with the virus, everyone was trying to do homeschooling, get computer usage out to the families, we spent \$50 million from ARPA funds, they shut everything done and the project continued, the lines they are putting up on the hill will be connected to the optic fiber, it will be used by the public once it's been established, there's optic fiber that runs across here now, along the highway; ***Priscilla Duncan** – only good for one mile from highway, I can't use it; ***Pernell Halona** – the optic fiber use to supply to the people here, they are replacing the poles and they should have been done back in December, roads graded all the way up to the main tower at top of the hill and getting a lot of traffic now up the mountain, only 12 to 15 miles to get to Navajo from here, they started by replacing roads, replacing posts and making higher, poles in the mountains are getting replaced to handle the extra wire, all the lines and posts are all replaced right pass my house, 3 miles to go to get to the top of the mountain, they don't have a tree permit to cut down the trees, they are waiting on the tree permit and that is another delay, the project will continue until it is finished then there will be access to the public, communication for students to have access to internet, I called Rex Koontz and no information from him yet, I'll share with you when I receive it; ***Lee Rodgers** – the road improvement is just up the point where it goes to the mountain; ***Pernell Halona** – up to the TV towers then to Mexican Springs road; ***Priscilla Duncan** – a person from NTUA came and told us about this, fiber optic is thin like a strand of hair, we may have to do away with Choice; ***Fern Spencer** – meeting at NTUA was cancelled, not sure when they will have that meeting; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – they just setup meetings, it's the San Juan Lateral Gallup water line, working towards on eastern Navajo side construction, we just sit in on the meetings, we have our project 90% complete, we need \$4 million, that's the water project.

C. Gallup Boys & Girls Club Meeting

***Elvis Bitsilly** – met with them last Friday at the Boys & Girls Club, Fern, Priscilla, and myself, a representative from Albuquerque – Ms. Owens, CEO Marissa and two from the board of the Boys & Girls Club, we discussed updated information from the representative of Albuquerque Ms. Owens, she gave us documents on what some of the requirements and policy the Boys Club should be following there in Gallup, they did mention they are following the practices, they are open to our recommendation to place a sub New Mexico Boys & Girls Club in Tohatchi, the technical parts of it are still coming, we are discussing it piece by piece, what to expect and not expect, what are some of the issues we may encounter, the overall plan and policy in dealing with children, teens, kids when you have a Boys & Girls Club, there are a lot of policy involve in that, very restricted in certain areas, for example – being in a room as an adult with a child in a secure room or in a room by yourselves and it's not allowed, even in the restrooms, schedule another walkover with the CEO Gallup over here at the Catholic Church, see what building look like and what is the capacity; ***Lee Rodgers** – square feet per child; ***Elvis Bitsilly** – looking at things to start up with for example - staffing, registration for kids, working with the schools, working hours, accommodate how many staff, oversite is the New Mexico Boys & Girls club, how to work with the budget, who is going to contribute to the budget, there's funding from the federal level that these kids get when they become members of the Boys Club, get a certain amount of dollars that goes to the program and operation of the facility, that is how the one in Gallup operates, I don't know how they are operating and they are getting their money from donations, grant funds, here in Tohatchi will be a Branch and Gallup will be the oversite of the Boys & Girls Club over here, we will have a big part in who we hire here to operate, coordinate or facilitate the site here, who will have responsibilities administratively, have a person who is qualified to do the work, legal stuff involve like MOU or MOA between the entities – Boys Club, chapter and Catholic church, liability of the whole operation, the insurance, gave us an awareness of what we can do and can't do, continue to work with them, can we contribute as a chapter – how much can we contribute, what kind of funding do we have, we have the Unhealthy Food Tax, I know we can use that money, it's a matter of implementing it, do a resolution and I don't think we have to go to Navajo but can go to DOJ to review the documents, we have to make sure we are abiding by the liability laws, Nation laws, make sure we are following that and not out of line, the agreements have to be made, I don't know how it was established; ***Lee Rodgers** – I think it came

from the Youth Department, now there's not much funding; *Fern Spencer – Etsitty lady ran it; *Elvis Bitsilly – it's doable and it will take some time and work, recruit kids with the interest, not only for Tohatchi and for the neighboring chapters to get their kids here, involve the schools, there will be a lot of coordination between several of us, transportation and who will buy the vehicle, they transport kids to the facility in Gallup from the schools, they have a driver staff that does that, meals, operation budget in place at minimum of \$100,000 per year, one staff will be the CEO will be a full time person, other staff will be part time basis depending on the needs and kids; *Lee Rodgers – a good idea to meet with Michelle Morris and Valarie Etsitty, ask them how they ran it before to get ideas, liability is a concern, how did they get the students there, did the school bus get them there and that's a liability, how did they get home after hours and that's a liability, talk with the two young ladies and see what is expected, I'm sure there was an agreement with the school or parents have the responsibility to bring the kids in, will require a legal documentation to sign a disclosure to cover insurance; *Fern Spencer – Valarie Tom is the one who ran it over here and other worker was Michelle Morris, she said it would be open from 2:30 to 6:30; *Elvis Bitsilly – 3:00 to 6:30; *Fern Spencer – depending on when school ends, the liability issue and having the persons employed there is another thing to take care of, the junk that was around the different areas, the clothing that was there, they gave us what the practices are, indicators of success, the lady running the facility in Gallup has a lot of ideas, they do contests like robotics that go around the country, the students got to the place themselves to do homework, it's a good program; *Priscilla Duncan – she said they have a grant that pays \$525 per child, they get money depending on the number of kids; *Fern Spencer – there are about 85 students, they have a waiting list; *Lee Rodgers – each child gets this much, how are we going to know the money is spent on Tohatchi and not diverted to Gallup, write on MOU we are allowed to look at the finances; *Priscilla Duncan – if Tohatchi opens up a Boys & Girls Club do we request for a grant and since we will be under Gallup, we want to do our own activities here in Tohatchi; *Lee Rodgers – the lady from Albuquerque will help us with the grant and we provide the data to them, we may write a narrative; *Elvis Bitsilly – this is under the Boys & Girls Club and this is what they provide which is Native Services, this is what Gallup is utilizing for their policy, being in Gallup they are providing services for Native kids, it's under the Boys & Girls Club and it's nationwide, we should have this and nobody knows about this. *Fern Spencer – do you know about the gas station down here, is it happening or not happening; *Elvis Bitsilly – no we don't hear a respond; *Lee Rodgers – they could open the door tomorrow and they are concerned about their revenue, it's about making money, they are worried about losing money, they are asking Navajo Nation Department of Transportation (NNDOT) and Fleet Management to do a memorandum of agreement with them, they want NNDOT and Fleet Management to make a promise we will use your gas station for their gas purchases, vehicles and equipment, NNDOT and Fleet Management are not responding. Navajo Nation Fleet Management wanted to come in and to set up right there, they wanted to use the gas pumps for Navajo tribal staff, for travel only but the chapter we said no and sent in a resolution saying a no. In the meantime, traffic has increased since you guys left and we are getting congested at the Speedway store, our community people are saying how come the Petroleum isn't coming back in, if you can't get this going we will ask the next bidder to come in, Sinclair, it turns out Sinclair is under Speedway. Navajo Petroleum is certified fuel.

- VI. Resolutions: none
- VII. Announcements:
- VIII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 @9am-12n
- IX. Adjournment: 11:40 am


Delphine Bitsilly
Recorder