



# THE NAVAJO NATION TOHATCHI COMMUNITY CHAPTER

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**Elvis Bitsilly**  
Chapter President

**Lee Rodgers**  
Chapter Vice-President

**Jean Crawford**  
Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

**Gerald Moore**  
Grazing Official

**Nathan Notah**  
Council Delegate

**MARCH 18, 2026 @ 10:00am**

## TOHATCHI CHAPTER AGENDA

AUDIO TELECONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: (575) 567-3331 PIN: 290 206 733#

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET: <https://meet.google.com/vsc-zdtr-mbz?authuser=0&hs=122>

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. INVOCATION
- IV. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 18, 2026 MEETING MINUTES
- VI. RESOLUTIONS:
  1. **021-03-2026:** Resolution to approve the Unhealthy Food Tax in the amount of \$15,996.00.
  2. **022-03-2026:** Resolution to approve the February 2026 Financial Statements.
  3. **023-03-2026:** Resolution to approve the new heavy equipment operator, Mr. Tom Toney Jr.
  4. **024-03-2026:** Resolution to approve a Budget transfer for Fund 13 student financial scholarship.
  5. **025-03-2026:** Resolution to approve a Budget transfer for Fund 15 FICA taxes for the laborers, receptionist, and office specialist.
  6. **026-03-2026:** Resolution to support the objection of the Government Development office to expedited the Reform Proposal.
  7. **027-03-2026:** Resolution to request for New Mexico Mining and Mineral Department on public comment extension for mining operation and reclamation plan and request for public hearing on permit for La Jara Mesa Mine.
  8. **028-03-2026:** Resolution to Navajo Office of Environmental Health and Protection to oversee the vendor selling in the Tohatchi area.
  9. **029-03-2026:** Resolution to support and approve the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project in applying for shortfall construction funding for the Tohatchi Regional San Juan Lateral Water Project.
- VII. PRESENTATION:
  - 1.
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
  1. None
- IX. NEW BUSINESS  
FEBRUARY 2026 Financial Report
- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- XI. NEXT MEETING DATE and TIME: 04-06-2026 @ 10:00am Planning Meeting
- XII. ADJOURNMENT:



March 18, 2026 10:00am

## TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

MAR 26 PM 2:41

- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:36am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Elvis Bitsilly, Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Officer Gerald Moore. Fern Spencer with CLUPC.
- III. **INVOCATION:** Rachelle Morris
- IV. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- Motion by Laris Manuelito** – She asked about her resolution which was not added to the agenda. She requested her resolution be added to the agenda for this meeting to be voted upon.
- Vice President Rodgers** – She went over the process of how we (officials including chapter staff) have to get the documents (resolutions and agenda) together well in advance of the 48 hours which is a requirement. The Secretary/Treasurer will send out the documents to myself, President and the CSC for review. We also have the Department of DOJ overseeing our processes to make sure we are following policy. If you have a resolution you are presenting, please be proactive and get it into the chapter two weeks in advance. This gives the Secretary time to draft and for us to review the resolutions.
- Laris Manuelito** – She states she does not see this as drama and to please watch how you present your word to the community. Second of all, there were two other administrations who were not as stringent and I have other chapters who are very supportive of this resolution and willing to work with me. This is important to the Emergency Operation Center and I did the presentation. I also have other things that I am working on as well. I'm developing a business. I did get the draft in a little late but you did get a copy and I didn't ask where that was at, I just sent a digital copy. I gave each chapter a digital copy and hoped my own home chapter would be a little more supportive instead of the push back I've been receiving. I'm asking you to accept my digital copy of the draft and just assign it a resolution number. Then you can read the draft from the email as my resolution. I respectfully make this request.
- Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – States there were a lot of requests made for resolutions during the Planning Meeting. It makes it very difficult when I have to do everything the last minute, drafting resolutions and numbering them. It would help if you can send the points describing your resolution so I can help you develop your resolution, but I did not hear from you.
- Geneva Begay** – **Called Point of Order** to stop discussion and continue with the topics on the agenda.
- President Bitsilly** – We had a motion and a second to accept the agenda and now ready for a vote.
- Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Mitchell 2<sup>nd</sup> Fern Spencer **Vote:** 15-2-2
- V. **APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2026 MEETING MINUTES:**
- Motion to read on your own:**
- Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Geneva Begay 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Mitchell **Vote:** 15-0-2
- VI. **PRESENTERS:**
1. **Council Delegate Notah** – stated if you would like to learn more about the Unhealthy Food Tax go to the website "Chapter Budget Policies." It will tell you where you can spend the funds for each of the Budget line items. Another thing I want to mention is before the Budget & Finance Committee decided what the budget was going to be, they opened up public hearings around Navajo and the one close to

- our District was held in Manuelito. They asked the Chapter Officials and Chapter community members to give testimony stating what changes they would like to see in the budget or BIM. I had LDA Moore attend the hearing in Manuelito.
2. We had a Council Meeting and confirmed Charlene Begay Platero as the new Division Director for Economic Development. There was also a resolution which was drafted and approved by council to address the Washington D.C. staff and have them assist the Council Delegates while they are in D.C. and not just the President of the Navajo Nation. We also passed a resolution for \$6 million in
  3. Emergency Fund but not sure how this will be allocated to the 110 chapters across Navajo. But the Tribal Council is wanting to put a cap at \$40,000.00. If your chapter has over \$40,000.00 in Emergency Fund, your chapter will not be receiving any funds. So right now, we have an Emergency Declaration for the Navajo Nation and Tohatchi Chapter and you can spend the money now and there will be another declaration probably this summer for the drought. The Chapter will have to spend the \$40,000.00 before fiscal year end which is September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  4. The Sihasin fund in the amount of \$84 million for Navajo Transportation Improvement Projects. I believe we could get \$8 million for road maintenance and projects for our District. We need to figure out how we can best spend this money for road improvement projects. I still need to get clarification on the logistics of how this funding will be allocated and when it will be available to the chapters.
  5. The Arizona Delegates are wanting to change the date of the 'Primary Election Date' for the Navajo Nation which has already been passed.
  6. I am on the Board for NM TIF and we had a meeting last Friday. The governor is apparently upset with the Navajo Nation because we are not spending the TIF funds in a timely manner. I understand there is information going around stating \$27 million was going to be reverted back to the State because the funds were not spent. But it is actually only \$13 million for the Navajo Nation and this does not include District 14. We will not be sending any money back to the State. The State Senate and the House of Representatives will not be granting extension and there will be limitations. So, we have to spend those funds in a timely manner.
  7. I am also addressing the highway 491 issues. The McKinley County Commissioner and myself are working on the maintenance portion of 491 which includes clearing out the cattle guards and repairing the fencing. I've attended meetings with leadership from District 14 to try to obtain the \$23 million for the 6 areas which is proposed for highway lighting in Tohatchi, Mexican Springs, and Twin Lakes. Money has been allocated from the State of NM for the planning and the design of the project.
  8. Also, we have received quite a bit of money for the First Responders Facility here in Tohatchi. Two million dollars has been spent on the plan and design of the project which is pretty much completed. Now, we are looking for construction money to get the project off the ground and currently we do have around \$6 million to go to construction. I estimate it will take around \$18 million to construct the First Responders Facility so we have a shortfall of about \$12 million. We have been working with Dr. Delores Greyeyes with the Correction Department and she worked on and submitted a TIF application for \$12 million to the State requesting for more funding for the First Responders facility. So, we are getting close to have the First Responders Facility constructed.
  9. Lastly, I want to mention that there will not be very much money for hardship to give out to the Nation like the President had promised. The Treasury Department of the United States is now telling us we can't transfer money from the other projects which were not completed into the hardship fund. What I'm hearing is that it could only be around \$50 million for hardship or it may not happen at all. The President is pushing to move the funds from the projects which were not started into back into housing. I'm not sure if that is possible because the ARPA deadline is December 2026. I will keep the chapters informed about the hardship if it's going to happen.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – So, what you are telling us is all the money that was allocated for the different projects has a deadline of December 2026. If money is not spent it cannot be put into hardship fund, it would be reverted back to the government.

**Council Delegate Notah** – The hardship is probably not going to happen because the Treasury has put a stop to putting money into the hardship fund. Currently, they are desperately trying to put the money into housing projects. The RRR account is the Chapters money in the amount of \$8.8 million for the district and each chapter will

received \$1.2 million. This money is safe. I believe there is over \$60 million in the RRR account.

**Laris Manuelito** – I proposed at the CLUPC meeting a while back to develop an apartment complex for multi-income families. My sister company would be able to start working on developing that area which is already designated for housing and I just needed the ok from CLUPC to utilize that space. Will the housing funding you spoke about help in the development of this project?

**Council Delegate Notah** – I believe everything is already sealed up and they can't make anymore allocations nor will they make changes to the allocations which have already been made.

**LDA Sonny Moore** – my understanding is with the funds they plan to purchase homes from right off the lot which is one of the proposals.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

1. NONE

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**February 2026 Financial Reports –**

FEBRUARY FUND BALANCES		
1	Chapter Activities Gen Fund	\$32,066.12
3	Chapter Claims Fund	\$55,516.14
8	Supplemental Youth Fund	\$26,216.13
9	Housing Discretionary Fund	\$14,215.81
10	LGA Grant Fund	\$65,904.69
12	Chapter Stipends	\$39,051.16
13	Scholarship General Fund	\$6,042.00
14	Scholarship Claims Fund	\$7,851.48
15	PEP Fund	\$67,704.73
16	Veterans Fund	\$14,201.47
17	Emergency Fund	\$24,719.71
23	NN Sales Tax	\$119,865.53
25	NN CIP - \$180,000	\$12,951.83
26	Red Willow Farm	\$590.37
27	NN CIP - \$200,000	\$3,482.39
40	Unhealthy Food Tax	\$103,931.87
61	Senior Citizen Fund	\$1,851.51
51	NAPI	\$2,237.56
34	Agriculture & Infrastructure	\$3.68
	General Fixed Assets	

	<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$598,404.18</b>
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**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – The monthly financial reports indicate we are in balance with our bank, Wells Fargo. Everything was reconciled and we are in balance for the month of February 2026.

**Motion to accept the February 2026 Financial Report:**

**LDA Sonny Moore** – commented that transparency builds trust and Tohatchi Chapter has been doing a great job presenting and sharing financial information with the community. Even though Naschitti does a great job with their financial reports, they are not transparent. They will not share hard copies of their financial reports to the public. Tohatchi chapter will tell you that the bank has reconciled, that means all the checks that were written for the month are accounted for including all the deposited made. The financial reports are provided to everyone here at the meeting and available to the public. I would like to see that process continued. The chapter has developed an excel spreadsheet which lists all the balances in each fund account. As a community member you can request for the “budget to actual” report which will tell you line item by line item where all that money is being spent. So, Tohatchi is doing a good job.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – We voted on the February financial report as resolution number 022-03-2026 when we had quorum this morning.

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Geneva Begay 2<sup>nd</sup> Sonny Moore Vote: 10-0-1**

**IX. RESOLUTIONS:**

1. 021-03-2026: Resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and Allocation of \$15,996.00 for the Navajo Nation Unhealthy Food Tax Fund.

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Mitchell 2<sup>nd</sup> Rachelle Morris Vote: 17-0-3**

**Larson Manuelito** – Do we have a budget for this resolution?

**Maria, CSC** – Yes, currently we have \$103,931.87 in the Unhealthy Food Tax Fund. I will be putting \$5000 back into our operating supplies, \$5000 into advertising, and the balance of \$9000 plus into Infrastructure Land Improvements. For office supplies it will cover the expense to hire a Zumba instructor, line dancing events, hosting fun walk/runs, and purchasing seeds/soil or even fencing for Red Willow Farm. Advertising would cover expense for advertising, like the radio stations and newspaper to broadcast our events here at the chapter. The infrastructure land improvement is expenses cover for land improvement like the Nakai Park, the baseball field, and Red Willow Farm. We can purchase playground equipment, improve the baseball field or maybe wire fencing at Red Willow.

**Larson Manuelito** – Hundred Thousand dollars is a lot of money, so why can't Tohatchi community invest in a little league type of a program to get our children involved. They can have a tournament at the end of year. Our baseball field needs cleaning and our kids can start using it again.

**Sam Natonabah** – Why are we always doing a carryover on this Unhealthy Food Tax each year? The fund amount has always been over \$100,000.00 for as long as I remember. Why aren't we using this fund. Red Willow Farm really needs help and we could use some of this money to improve the farm.

**Laris Manuelito** – The 3-line items you are planning to move this money too has nothing to do with Unhealthy Food. Are these approved internally or does it have to go before the chapter to approve the budget transfers? You say you're going to put \$5000 here and there and now Red Willow is asking for 1% of total amount. I'm a big stakeholder in this because when my business comes up and revenue stream starts coming through, my sales taxes go too. I'm going to have 10 revenue streams which is 10 times and to hear your going to put it here and there because it's not being spent. We could work on a wellness center but those initiatives start with CLUPC, but when I go to their meetings nothing is ever done. So, I'm wondering how the approval to move to operation supplies, advertising, and infrastructure land improvements happen.

**Maria, CSC** – First of all these are not budget transfers. The unhealthy food tax fund is allocated every

year and when the chapter receives the money, it has to be budgeted out and the community can decide on how to expend this funding. But this fund has a lot of restrictions on it and I have to refer back to the BIM booklet to see if it falls under the guidelines.

**Vice President Lee Rodgers** – I myself wondered why we are not expending these dollars amounts before I became a Vice President. But things are different when you become an official and you begin understand the processes and allocations of funding from Window Rock. This Unhealthy Food Tax fund is very restricted and the chapter has given some money to Red Willow Farm and the Bike Trail project will also utilize some of the funds from the Unhealthy Food Tax, but President Nygren did not sign off on our Bike Trail project. It got kicked back and now we have to start all over again with the paperwork. Since we are not a certified chapter, it is difficult to get approval for a project as small as the Bike Trail.

**Geneva Begay** – “**Made a Motion**” to move ahead and vote on this resolution.

**Larson Manuelito** – Called “**Point of Order**” He states he wants to make an amendment to the Unhealthy Food Tax resolution.

**Geneva Begay** – Called “**Motion**” again and states we are not talking about how the funding should be spent but all we are doing is to approve the resolution so we can accept the funds from Window Rock. So motion stands.

**Larson Manuelito** – States it’s a parliamentary procedure, motion is second. The amendment needs a 2<sup>nd</sup> then you act on the amendment.

**Vice President Lee Rodgers** – called for a 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to Geneva Begay’s motion to move forward with a vote. **Laris Manuelito** 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Laris states as the 2<sup>nd</sup> motioning party, she requested to table the resolution.

**Fern Spencer** – We have a motion on the floor, Geneva Begay motioned and Laris Manuelito 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Now, aren’t you suppose to have a vote? After the vote you can open it up to questions. That’s where Mr. Manuelito’s can proceed with his amendment. If you decide to move it to the next Planning Meeting, that’s fine.

**Larson Manuelito** – States he is not following the “Robert’s Rule of Order” and we should be acting on the amendment.

**Fern Spencer** – Larson, you have to follow the Robert’s Rule of Order” in a meeting like this or otherwise everyone will be jumping saying this and that.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** – states we have a motion on the floor from Geneva Begay and it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laris Manuelito. I want to remind you all of what we are doing today is accepting the Unhealthy Food Tax allocation in the amount of \$15,996.00, that’s all. We can discuss how we plan to use this fund during our next Planning Meeting.

**Vice President Lee Rodgers** – answered Mr. Manuelito by explaining what she meant in Navajo regarding the Unhealthy Food Tax. She said yes there are restriction to this fund and you can find all the information on the guidelines of this fund account in the BIM booklet.

**Laris Manuelito** – stated for the record, that the \$15,996.00 allocation from the Unhealthy Food Tax goes straight to the Unhealthy Food Tax line item and not to put \$5000 in Red Willow Farm or \$5000 into operations, or \$5000 into Land Trust.

**Maria, CSC** – replied that she cannot transfer PEP into General Funds or Unhealthy Food Tax to Sales Tax, just some examples. This is a no, no.

2. **022-03-2026:** Resolution to approve the Chapter monthly financial report of combine statements of revenue, expenditures, and fund balances from February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fern Spencer 2<sup>nd</sup> Geneva Begay **Vote:** 15-0-4

**Vice President Lee Rodgers** – I believe if we are going to vote on the monthly financial report, we should have the Secretary/Treasurer give the financial report before we vote on this resolution. So, let’s move

“New Business” on the agenda to reflect this resolution on accepting the February 2026 financial reports.  
**Laris Manuelito** – Called **“Point of Order”** She states the agenda has already been reviewed, accepted, and approved and you cannot change the order of topics. So, it stays as is.

3. **023-03-2026:** Resolution to approve the new hire of a Heavy Equipment Operator, Mr. Tom Toney Jr. for six months under the Public Employment Program for Tohatchi Chapter.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Herman Dennison** 2<sup>nd</sup> **Mary Tsinnie** **Vote: 15-0-3**

**Larson Manuelito** – I think when a person applies with the chapter, they should introduce themselves to the community. Who is Mr. Tom Toney?

**Fern Spencer** – Does Mr. Toney have a CDL.

**Laris Manuelito** – Fringe benefits are not taxes; it is insurance or a 401K or stock options. I would suggest striking the word “fringe benefits” and adding ‘taxes.’

**Maria, CSC** – No, but he is currently working on getting a CDL. The Chapter hired him because the Chapter is in need of a heavy equipment operator.

4. **024-03-2026:** Resolution to approve a Budget within Fund 13, the Navajo Nation Scholarship General Fund in the amount of \$1,800.00 to cover the negative balance in Financial Assistance Fund.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Sonny Moore** 2<sup>nd</sup> **Laris Manuelito** **Vote: 16-0-2**

**Larson Manuelito** – How did the Chapter go into the red for the scholarship account?

**Maria, CSC** – When payment went out to one of the under graduate, the MIP system was update at the time and we went over by \$300 in that account. So, the \$300 was paid out for spring but it was not caught until the update was done.

5. **025-03-2026:** Resolution to approve a Budget transfer within Fund 15 FICA, the Navajo Nation Project Employment Program (PEP) Fund in the amount of \$1,000.00 to replenish the PEP taxes for Payroll.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Sonny Moore** 2<sup>nd</sup> **Geneva Begay** **Vote: 17-0-1**

6. **026-03-2026:** Resolution to support the objection to the office of Navajo Government Development’s (ONGD) expedited reform proposal; demanding legally sufficient review & non-conflicted independent legal counsel.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Laris Manuelito** 2<sup>nd</sup> **Larson Manuelito** **Vote: 19-0-2**

**Larson Manuelito** – In 1926 the Navajo Nation Council approved energy companies to come in and dig for gas, oil, and uranium and other natural resources on the nation. At the time we were given the choice of continuing with a Tribal Council and not a constitution. We are constantly changing the laws and policies and we have government reform who are making more changes. I believe now is the time to stand strong and make a government by us not by Washington or the BIA. We need to form a government that we can be proud of and that we will protect moving forward. I support this resolution.

**Council Delegate Notah** – I do agree with Miss Dennison to hold off on the referendum. I know there are several chapters across Navajo who are opposing this new government reform. We as a Nation are not ready for this and they need to do a better explanation of the proposal. My opinion is to approve this resolution to object to the proposal for a government reform until we as a Nation understand exactly what is being proposed.

7. **027-03-2026:** Resolution to request for New Mexico Mining and Mineral Department on public comment extension for mining operation and reclamation plan and request for public hearing on permit NO. CI008RN, La Jara Mesa Mine.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Geneva Begay** 2<sup>nd</sup> **Sonny Moore** **Vote: 20-0-1**

**Hazel J. Tohe** – The Navajo Nation has some much uranium and outside companies are wanting access to our rich natural resources. Because of the war everyone is making money and greed is the main factor. We should be looking at the health of our people as priority because once they start mining for uranium or other natural resources, our people will be affected and we have seen this happen already. Currently,

the mines that were never cleaned up are affecting our children. They are being born with 19% uranium in their blood which means their life expectancy has shorten to 20 years. There are 500 open mines currently and 35 mines around Mount Taylor which was never cleaned up, but now they want to go back in to do fracking to get uranium again. We are asking NM Mineral Department to do a public hearing so our Navajo people can make comments on how they feel about uranium mining. They are not giving us that right, currently and state all they need is a letter from the Navajo Historic Preservation to give them the ok. What about the people of the Navajo Nation, they should have a say on this. All we are asking for is a timeline for a public hearing and comments. We all need to attend the public hearing to say no and we are strong in numbers. We had a public hearing in Grants about 10 years ago and we experienced racist like you've never seen before. We need to ask for a peaceful protest to voice our concerns. I would like to see a letter from the President of the Navajo Nation requesting for a public hearing as well. Also, I would like to ask Council Delegate Notah to follow up with Historic Preservation to see if we can get a copy of their letter. My organization "Dine Center for Research and Evaluation" submitted a petition letter as well. We have not received a response to any of our letters.

**Council Delegate Notah** – Just to mention, the Navajo Nation is against all and any type of mining because we are aware of all the disparities it causes our Navajo people. I think this resolution will help to tell the government we don't want any kind of uranium mining here on Navajo. The Resource Development Council is very much against the uranium mining.

8. **028-03-2026:** Resolution to Navajo Office of Environmental Health and Protection to oversee the vendor selling in the Tohatchi area.

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Tsinnie 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeremiah Begay Vote:**

**Rachelle Morris** – made a suggestion to support vendors by designating an area here in Tohatchi where they can sell from.

**President Bitsilly** – I think we need to look into this and do a little more research. The construction of the new Safety Complex will begin soon and we don't want our vendors selling in that area. There is an area across from the road (491) but I understand there is gas lines in the area which could be a safety hazard.

**Larson Manuelito** – To what extent will the Chapter have oversight? Right now we are relying on the Department of Health and Protection for their assistance. I don't believe we need their assistance. We could have them come by the chapter and have the President sign off on a document which says they will comply with all our guideline. We do have several business site leases in Tohatchi; we could consider one of these sites for our vendors. Maybe we should table this resolution until we can find a designated area for them.

**LDA Sonny Moore** – I think we are talking about an extreme solution, maybe all need to do is going down and talk with the vendors and remind them of the food handler's guidelines. Things are people who are trying to make a living.

**Geneva Begay** – Motioned "to table" this resolution because there is jurisdiction involved like; Navajo Nation OEH and IHS OEH.

**2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Larson Manuelito: Vote: 16-0-3 to table this resolution until the next Chapter meeting.**

**Vice President Lee Rodgers** – There seems to be some confusing. The chapter is not vested with the authority to go down to the vendors to tell them you can't do this and that. It is OEH's responsibility to make sure they are following the policies and procedures that allows them to sell. We are not discouraging them from selling food. IHS OEH do not have the authority to shut down a vendor even if they see discrepancies.

**Council Delegate Notah** – This is not just a problem here in Tohatchi, Twin Lakes and Sheepsprings is having the same problems with their vendors. If you noticed, Twin Lakes has fenced off the area when vendors use to setup at the old chapter because of the illegal trash dumping and oil from fry bread. I know the Office of Environmental Health and Protection is dealing with this issue across Navajo and I'll have my LDA follow up on this with the office of Environmental Health and Protection.

**Mary Tsinnie** – stated she sells food down there as well and as far as she knows the people who sell there have their food handler's permits. We have customers from not just the local community but people who are traveling by on highway 491 who stop to get breakfast from us and we get compliments on our food.

9. **029-03-2026:** Resolution to support and approve the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project in applying for shortfall construction funding for the Tohatchi Regional San Juan Lateral Water Project.

**Motion: Larson Manuelito 2<sup>nd</sup> Sonny Moore Vote: 19-0-1**

**President Bitsilly** – This a joint effort between Tohatchi and Mexican Springs and the water line will connect to our existing water tank. Currently, we are sharing the one existing line coming into Tohatchi with Mexican Springs. There is a shortfall of \$3.9 million and we are looking for funding and have had resolutions in place. The waterline project has a completion date of year 2028. The next meeting with NGWP is schedule in June 10, 2026 at Mexican Springs Chapter at 10am.

**Larson Manuelito** – I support this resolution but stop changing the plans, be definite.

**Council Delegate Notah** – I want to encourage you to support and approve this resolution and Tohatchi and Mexican Springs is short about \$4 million. The total shortfall for this waterline project for Navajo is about \$30 million. The company Souder & Miller are doing the proposals including a TIF (Tribal Infrastructure Fund) proposal for the \$4 million shortfall. We are also looking at the Navajo Nation for Sihasin funds as well. Danny Simpson is the person in charge for the Tribal Sihasin side.

**Laris Manuelito** – What other resources are you looking at and does this \$4 million include contingency? Can there be a memorandum of understanding agreement or partnership of the shortfall left that Iini MarketPlace can partner with Tohatchi to come up with some funding to donate.

**Council Delegate Notah** – Yes, the shortfall is around \$4 million with contingency and as far as your question regarding an MOU we can definitely discussed that with Souder & Miller. There are possibilities.

**Sam Natonabah** – Mentioned that the waterline is suppose to be 51% owned by Navajo so why are we forking out all that money. Gallup wants the water and they are saying they are paying for it, but they actually aren't. They should be paying for it if they want the water.

**Council Delegate Notah** – When the water settlements were done, Navajo and Jicarilla were given a huge chunk of the settlement that was paid out. What Gallup has done is they bought a lot of the water rights from Jicarilla and that's the water that is coming through here going into Gallup. Jicarilla did not need the water so they sold some of their water rights to Gallup, but Gallup also has a shortfall. They have been going to Washington to requesting for funding and received some funds to pay for their portion of the waterline project. This waterline into Gallup will help the Navajos who are living on the out skirts of Gallup like; Red Rock, Bread Springs, and families on the south side of Gallup.

- X. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** District 14 Grazing Meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Tohatchi Chapter @ 9am. Red Willow Farm Board meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

- XI. **NEXT MEETING DATE April 06, 2026 (Planning Meeting) at 10am.**

- XII. **AJOURNMENT: 1:30pm**

Submitted by



Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **March 27, 2026**

cc: Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC