



Tohatchi Veterans Organization
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Commander: Manuel Shirleson

Vice-Commander: Laris Manuelito

Secretary: Rosie Deschiney

Sergeant of Arms: Franklin Sandoval

MINUTES

Friday: June 5, 2026 at 9:30 am
Tohatchi Chapter House

JUN 12 PM 2:25

1. Meeting Called to Order by: Meeting called to order by Milton Shirleson, Commander at 10:04

A. Roll Call: Commander

Commander – Manuel Shirleson

Vice-Commander – Laris Manuelito

Secretary/Treasurer: Rosie Deschiney

Non-Commission Officer, Paul Begay

(NCO)

Chaplin: Milton Shirleson

Sergeant of Arms: Franklin Sandoval

B. Invocation: Given by Ernest Leslie

C. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence for 'MIA-POW-KIA": Done by all

2. Review/Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda by Randy Pinto, seconded by Charles Arviso: Laris Manuelito stated that she would like to include 2 other resolutions, one being the resolution for the District Stand Down event and the other one is the basic Cost Share budget with the chapter for the Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans council to discuss and see what the CVO under can do.

With the two additional items the motion was approved with the vote was 9 votes to approve, 0 opposing, and 1 abstention.

3. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 1, 2026: Motion by Charles Arviso, second by Randy Pinto with a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposing and 1 abstention.

4. Introduction of Guest(s): Elvis Bitsilly, Chapter President and Mr. Herman Dennison and Mrs. Beatrice Dennison. Laris appreciated their attendance.

5. Old Business:

a. Planning for the July's Agency Meeting

The prior date of July 3 had been changed due to the holiday falling on holiday so the agency meeting will be on July 10, 2026.

We need to plan on the meals including breakfast and lunch plus decoration for this

event.

Laris Manuelito questioned the use and the current balance of the budget. The budget balance is on a two sided report. Charles also questioned the budget.

She also stated that she was highly disappointed on how this was handled, because there was no communication on how the budget was spent, as the Vice Commander I was not given any notice on how the money was spent. Verbally you gave Rose autonomy on how to spend this money she let Maria use the funds. How many steaks what kind of steaks, from where were purchased, we had 6 thousand and they spent 3,000.

Manuel reported that this was discussed at the last meeting, the purchases were motioned and approved by the organization.

Rosie share the current balance on the budget. We spent \$535.00 on the steaks with we also spent for \$88.70 on paper ware, we spent \$66.98 on the cake from T&R Mart. We spend the total amount of

The discrepancy I have Commander, after Rosie left Maria did not share the information by any means, if it's okay with the amount she found, no quotes given, there was no paper trail, because we all see how the chapter is handling their budget. I find great paws in allowing them into our budget. The trust funds are for us, she has control to be transparent, even though its food for our use, the paper goods that were bought. Is this allowable in the meal budget.

Rosie, the only reason why I went to the chapter where Maria shared the quotes from Safeway with me, I have the quotes. Maria and her staff assisted us with the quotes going with the cheapest meat. You all wanted tender steaks and that is what was purchased with all additional items. Everything was done as to what was asked, everything is noted in the minutes. The cake was order from T&R, along with all the paper ware.

The problem is communication, just to be cleared that all decisions should be shared with Manuel or myself so that it covers you. I don't see the quotes from Safeway that was placed in the binder.

Manuel stated that this was all approved by all of you guys. I told the secretary to take care of everything and work with the chapter.

In the minutes, we only had a few minutes because everything was wrapped around the DOJ thing. We were talking about the cookout and the Agency Council food. We never really planned adequately, because that can't happen, now we are allowing people to buy to purchase goods which are not covered under 16 that could come back on us. If Maria could share this information these things wouldn't happened and be transparent. The way it was handled was atrocious, and I would rather not have things done like this. We have one more complexity than this, how are going to handle this.

Charles questioned that the \$187.87, was paid to an individual to purchase steaks. But you said you found steaks at Safeway, why did we pay the additional amount, Rosie reported that the steaks increase by the \$187.87 and a debit card was used to pay off the balance on the steaks. A check was made in the amount \$450.00 but it was actually

\$535.00 so they used a debit card to purchase the 40 steaks.

Manuel stated that we never had problems like this and should not be practice from this day forward.

Laris on the accounting point of view, who approved the additional cost and who paid for it. Charles asked who cooked the steaks, that was good. Laris questioned who asked for volunteers to help, this was not done.

Phillip James: It's this, a volunteering thing, why do we need accountability, that is pointing fingers, we should be grateful. We should move forward and instead of arguing about this and move forward.

Evelyn I was surprise that Rosie and her son cooked, for me I would like to volunteer in the future and help. I would like to let her know I was surprise that they did the cooking, it was good and I appreciate what you did.

Charles lets continue with the Agency Meeting.

So for the agency meeting, what account are we using?

Let's start with the breakfast; the breakfast will include the following, coffee, tea, water, juice, breakfast burritos, donuts, cookies, fruit tray, and yogurt. Phillip volunteered for two cases of water, we are talking breakfast, why make it complicated. We will need at least 6 dozen donuts. Is it possible to use the chapter's kitchen, most likely won't happen. So maybe we can divide the breakfast burritos and not leave it to only one person.

What about decorations, we will need everyone's input and donations. We just need table covers.

Manuel stated that we have 25 chapters within the Ft. Defiance Agency, so we can go with at least 2 individuals from each chapter. With that bring what you can....

Lunch: We are averaging at least 100 people, what shall we have, suggestion on sodas, most people waste large cans, maybe the small ones.

Menu will be catered: If we cater who are we going with?

Elvis Bitsilly reported that the kitchen has deficiencies and will be updated soon. The policies are getting strict, chapters are getting shut down. He also mentioned that we need to clean up after each use, the kitchen is off limit, our community breaks the

rules we need to be attentive.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided: The lunch will be green and red Enchiladas with hamburger, and chicken, rice, beans, with garnish, sopapillas and/or floured tortillas, churros, cake, with (Ft. Defiance Agency) decoration. Request paper ware from the cater.

Fire Rock, Jerry's, Don Diego's, Chimmy's (505)413-6346 are the recommended caterers.

Elvis Bitsilly stated that we are the host, let everyone eat first,

Motion by Phillip James and second by Ernest Leslie to have the food catered. Vote 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. Ernest will bring water.

Elvis Bitsilly was reminded the recent request to use the podium that he approved at the last meeting and he will share with the administration.

We discussed on the use of the tables and how they should be arranged for the meeting.

We have the four branch flags including the Navajo Nation, New Mexico and Arizona flags.

Discussion on door prizes and that everyone should bring one. Volunteers needed to organize the door prizes. Charles Arviso will provide the tickets.

Decorations will be purchase by each individual. Center prices will be left up to the individuals.

It was recommended that we should meet again before the meeting, form a planning committee. This meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

b. Update on the cost of new uniforms and boots, will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. Stand Down Resolution:

Update on the "Stand Down" is July 29, 2026 at Coyote Canyon, being the second annual, last year it was at Twin Lakes. The 10:00 to 4 pm, menu to include: hamburger, hot dogs, brocks and drinks. The main thing we are trying to figure out is how we are going help pay Bidi Chiti catering utilizing our catering account. This is different in terms of funding because it's helping district 14. This resolution was shared with the planning committee.

d. Cost Share Resolution:

We would like to pass a resolution to have Tohatchi Chapter to cost share.

Elvis Bitsilly noted that Coyote Canyon is hosting this event, they should be requesting assistance through the other chapters, and you have be clear if you want to utilize your veterans budget and want the chapter cost share on this. You want to utilize the catering budget in subaccount 6390 that has a balance of 6,000 dollars, you need to sit down with the administration with clarifications on policies and procedures. Follow the process accordingly on how to follow this. I keep hearing DOJ about food in purchasing food, we did not deny you anything for any reason, the administration requested chapter for legal advice from the chapter's attorney. The chapter has that right to question any sort of spending that's how they process things.

We had donated out of our own pockets the time Twin Lakes had their "Stand Down" event.

Laris will share what will be on the agenda.

Can we pass a resolution on the cost share from the Tohatchi Chapter: Motion by Phillip James to approve second by Ernest Leslie, with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

6. New Business:

- a. Updated budget from the chapter. The budget was made available to the organization along with new binders that included pens, high lighters, paper and etc.
- b. No Confidence is becoming prevalent and being sent to the legislation that holds no water. The president's staff cannot be removed, it's up to the legislation to work with the Executive Branch.

Ernest Leslie, can this be place on the back burner until after the elections.

Talks are being continued with this legislation.

Kyle Lewis is going to meet the Commander, Vice Commander and the secretary to see and discuss how the logistics works with the council. He let us know what they do, the agenda and what our part is and how they are going to go about it. He communicates only through phone and internet. He will be here in June.

7. Honor/Color Guards Reports: None given

8. Officers Reports:

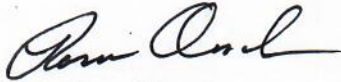
Manuel has none, Rosie none and Laris nothing.

Laris reported that things are being done through zoom, a lot information can't be share, they are talking about Title 12 fiscal matters, Navajo Nation assistance trust fund and how they are going to split the 4% and then how the 1% will be reinvesting

into housing trust fund. The other one is using the 25% of the 4% for housing initiative.

9. Next TVO Meeting: No meeting in July but continuing with August 7, 2026.
10. Ft. Defiance Agency Meeting: July 10, 2026 at Tohatchi Chapter
11. Announcement(s): Next Tohatchi Chapter meeting on June 17, 2026
Coyote Canyon Veterans meeting on June 14, 2026, Charles wish a good Father Day and belated mother's day.
12. Adjournment at 12:30, vote unanimous.

Respectively Submitted by:



Rosie Deschiney