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May 20, 2026 10:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:28am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Elvis Bitsilly, Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Officer Gerald Moore. Fern Spencer, and Priscilla Duncan with CLUPC and Geneva Begay with Red Willow Farm
- III. **INVOCATION:** Louise Curley
- IV. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Motion: 1. Priscilla Duncan 2nd Geneva Begay Vote: 16-0-1
Amendment to agenda was approved by both motioning parties.
APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 22, 2026 MEETING MINUTES:
Motion to read on your own:
Motion: 1st Fern Spencer 2nd Mary Tsinnie Vote: 17-0-1
- V. **PRESENTERS:**
1. **Darryl Bitsoi:** Candidate for Council Delegate.
Mr. Bitsoi – Introduced himself and his clan. He mentioned that he had a meet and greet at Naschitti Chapter over the weekend and plans to hit all the other chapters in district 14. He stated he is currently still employed and if he were to be elected as the next Council Delegate for district 14, he plans to retire.
 2. **Louise Curley representing Cody Jansen-Anaya:** Candidate for Council Delegate.
Louise is here representing her niece Cody because Cody is at Naschitti Chapter. Louise states she would do just about anything for her niece Cody. When asked to represent her at Tohatchi Chapter she had no problem filling in for Cody. Cody received the Chief Manuelito scholarship while attending college. Louise states my family is ready for this hard work and we ask the community for their support. Cody is educated and she has passed resolutions at Coyote Canyon chapter. Cody reads and writes and she has worked at Sandia and Los Alamos National Labs which are national security jobs that are classified. She is willing to do everything she can to assist you and work hard for you. Cody's mother Delores was very instrumental in her children's upbringing and exhibited a fine example about being honest and transparent.
 3. **Rochelle Garnenez:** Candidate for Magistrate Judge, Division I.
Ms. Garnenez was not in attendance.
- ** Request to be added to the meeting agenda:**
1. **William J. Nez, Sr.:** Candidate for Council Delegate requesting to address the community.
Mr. Nez – Here with his father, Mr. Irving Nez and his mother was Betty Morris-Nez. My grandfather was Charley Morris. My paternal grandparents were Ella B. Nez and Roy Nez. My wife is Trinia Yazzie-Nez and we've been married for 33 years and have 3 children. I am currently a program manager for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration.
I am currently working on 136 projects building homes for veterans. We have built and completed 35 homes across Navajo. We also providing home improvements for 122 veterans and our goal is 293 to have this completed by January 2027. I also worked for NTUA as a project manager and I have the

capability of working with millions of dollars. I was also a project coordinator for the Deputy General Manager for NTUA for 2 years working with Rex Kontz. Before that, I was a Case Manager Specialist for the Navajo Nation Department of Child Support Enforcement. I worked over 2700 child support cases. I also worked as a Case Manager Specialist for the Navajo Regional Behavior Health Authority. So, I worked with residential treatment centers as well as therapy group homes. I also worked as an enforcement officer for 2 years in Crownpoint. Before that I worked for a food distribution center in Ft. Defiance for over 2 years as well. I want the community to understand I'm running for council delegate because I want to make a difference. One of the things I've seen is funding from New Mexico Capital Outlay not being used in a timely manner and so it gets reverted back to the State. For example: the power line projects where the right-of-way was paid for but the funding for project was reverted back because the Navajo Nation did not pay for the invoices. I believe over \$200,000 was reverted back to the State from these chapters. I also want public safety in our communities and enhance the emergency, fire, and rescue program. This would include combating alcoholism by creating treatment centers here in our communities. I would like to work with Aging and Long-Term Department to keep our Senior Centers open. Also, the rounding up of feral animals like the horses and cows. Last but not least is making sure the windmills and water troughs are being repaired in or district. If you want a true leader to empower our communities, I'm asking for your vote.

Vice President Rodgers – District 14 Council is planning a forum where the community can ask questions. We don't know the date or time as of yet, but we are working to get this completed. The previous year, it was held at Tohatchi Elementary but the parking was over capacity so people were parking in the residential area. There were complaints from the residential people so hopefully, it will be at Twin Lakes Elementary. We still have not iron out all the coordination that it will require, but we would like to schedule it for July 1st. Once we get the place and time, I'll be announcing it on KGAK radio station.

2. Request also made to hold off on two resolutions: 042-05-2026 and 046-05-2026. Chapter did not have the names of the individuals who will be working as poll workers and poll judges on election day. For resolution 046-05-2026, the presenter, Mr. Timothy Begay was not in attendance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Un-table:**

033-04-2026: Resolution approving a budget transfer within fund 25, the Navajo Nation CIP funds in the amount of \$6965.90 to replenish, repair, and maintenance construction equipment and chapter renovation.

Motion to Un-table:

Motion: 1st Fern Spencer 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 21-0-2

Voted on the Resolution

Motion: 1st Rosemary Wood 2nd Sarah Tom Vote: 23-0-1

2. **035-04-2026:** Resolution approving a budget transfer within Fund 01, the General Fund in the amount of \$1,311.69 to add the line item, Waste disposal Collection.

Motion to Un-table:

Motion: 1st Fern Spencer 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 23-0-1

Voted on the resolution

Motion: 1st Fern Spencer 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 23-0-1

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

April 2026 Financial Reports –

APRIL FUND BALANCES		
1	Chapter Activities Gen Fund	\$32,562.26
3	Chapter Claims Fund	\$48,547.81
8	Supplemental Youth Fund	\$26,216.13
9	Housing Discretionary Fund	\$10,996.28
10	LGA Grant Fund	\$60,518.49
12	Chapter Stipends	\$33,935.31
13	Scholarship General Fund	\$6,042.00
14	Scholarship Claims Fund	\$7,851.48
15	PEP Fund	\$42,713.98
16	Veterans Fund	\$14,072.43
17	Emergency Fund	\$24,719.71
23	NN Sales Tax	\$116,489.32
25	NN CIP - \$180,000	\$12,890.87
26	Red Willow Farm	\$590.37
27	NN CIP - \$200,000	\$2,911.17
40	Unhealthy Food Tax	\$102,909.50
61	Senior Citizen Fund	\$1,851.51
51	NAPI	\$2,237.56
34	Agriculture & Infrastructure	\$3.68
80	General Fixed Assets	
	Total Fund Balance	\$5489,059.86

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 April 2026.

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. **042-05-2026:** Resolution approving the selection of Navajo Nation Primary and General Election Poll Judges for the July 21, 2026 and the November 03, 2026 General Election for the community of Tohatchi, New Mexico.

**** This resolution was put on hold because the 3 poll workers had not been identified.**

2. **043-05-2026:** Resolution approving a budget transfer within Fund 03, the Navajo Nation land Claims Funds, in the amount of \$1,200.00 to replenish Diesel Fuel and Water Expense account.

Motion: 1st Geneva Begay 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 16-0-1

3. **044-05-2026:** Resolution approving the Summer Youth Employment Budget to hire 13 students to work the summer months with a budget of \$13,105.69.

Maria, CSC – School end on June 10th and we would like to employ students with a total of 80 hours which is 2 weeks. We also increase their pay rate for high school students from \$10.50 to \$11.00 and for college students the rate increased from \$11.50 to \$12.00. Summer employment will be advertised and closing date will be on June 13th and work will begin on July 6th.

Motion: 1st Mary Tsinnie 2nd Geneva Begay Vote: 18-0-1

4. **045-05-2026:** Resolution approving a budget transfer within Fund 27, the Navajo Nation “\$200,000 CIP Fund” in the amount of \$600.00 to replenish, repair, and maintenance construction equipment account.

Maria, CSC – Our heavy equipment operator has been busy with maintenance all the heavy equipment like our backhoe and repairs which were needed. So, now we need to replenish Fund 27.

Motion: 1st Herman Dennison 2nd Mary Tsinnie Vote: 18-0-1

5. **046-05-2026:** Resolution of the Tohatchi Chapter requesting the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Naabik'iyati' Committee, Office of the President & Vice President, Resources & Development Committee, Budget & Finance Committee to increase the stipend amount for the district council and agency council meetings from \$150.00 to \$300.00 for Fort Defiance Agency.

**** This resolution was also put on hold because the presenter was not in attendance.**

6. **047-05-2026:** Resolution approving the Chapter's Monthly Financial report of the combined statements of revenue, expenditures, and fund balances from April 01, 2026 to April 30, 2026.

Motion: 1st Herman Dennison 2nd Arlene Bia Vote: 16-0-2

VIII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Grazing Officer – Next district 14 grazing meeting is on June 3rd at Coyote Canyon @ 9am. For all livestock producers need to be aware of a fly called “a new world screw worm.” Next is the homesite lease guideline, any new homesites that are coming onto the Navajo Nation will need a permit number to transport onto the Navajo Nation. You can get a transport permit number from Land Department in St. Michaels to all the companies who sell mobile homes. Also, the Navajo Nation Land Department will be bringing up all family plot again. If you have a family plot, please notify me or the Chapter. They are looking to identify these plots just in case construction will be coming to the area for example; water and power lines. These plots will need to be identified so they can be put on a map as not to disturb.

There are 2 agricultural workshops this month, one next month. This week Thursday and Friday is NM livestock days at McGee Park. The cost is \$100 for registration. The other one is coming in June, the Southwest Indian Agricultural Association Conference Livestock Days in Prescott, Arizona. The cost for registration is \$175. District 14 Agricultural Production Workshop is scheduled for June 23rd or June 30th. The date has not been set as of yet. The event is free to the public.

Red Willow Farm – Geneva Begay: There is solar and electrical training for graduating students who are interested in these fields. The hands-on training is for one year. There is also Job Corp which is free in Albuquerque and Utah.

As far as the farm, we have 2-acre plots available to you and we had Water Resource come out to level some areas. We would like to have the Chooshgai Lake back to what it was before that is why we are advocating for restoration of the lake. We need to have the tamarack and Russian olive trees removed so the water can settle there again. We need to be thinking of our future generation. We have 2 garden beds in front of the chapter and it produces oxygen for us to breath and we breath out carbon dioxide. We need to take care of our plants and planting trees is very important for our health. So, on June 18th we will be planting trees which means we will have trees available for the community to plant at their home. Please join us here at Tohatchi Chapter at 1pm on June 18th. On June 9th we have Josh Cotty come back to talk about pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths and birds. This cycle of life which includes the bugs, the people, the air, and the water.

Then we want to bring back Navajo stories back for our children here at the chapter. We also need a farmers' market here in our community which is a goal of Red Willow. We have WIC programs for the youth and there is also Senior WIC for the elderly with the State of NM. People who are 60 years and older can apply for a card to get \$100. You can go to the farmers market in Shiprock to buy vegetables. I would recommend also to save your seeds from the vegetables to have a seed bank.

Mike Begay – The trees that will be provided to grow at home, will they be drought resisted trees?

Geneve Begay – Yes, we mentioned that to Sadie Lester who will be providing the trees. You will learn how to plant trees successfully. You will learn how to take off the roots and spread the roots apart. The proper way to put a tree into the ground.

Sam Natonabah – Some people like to use cow manure but it has to be dried out so I think horse manure is a better compost to use for planting. Even using sheep wool is good to use for planting.

CLUPC - Priscilla Duncan: We met last week to review our plan of operation manual which we are updating. The last time it was updated was in 2018. We had an individual come out from W/R to assist us with the Manuel. We also had a CLUPC in-service last Friday at 9am to 1pm and developed a time line as to when the Manuel will be completed. The work is very intense and required a lot of our time to complete. The Manuel will be sent to W/R to review and will then come back to the chapter for public hearings and will be voted on to approve.

Senior Center – Beatrice Dennison: Senior center will be celebrating Father's Day Luncheon on June 17th starting at 11am. We will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, and fruit salad including watermelon. We are talking about doing a couple activities/contest like having the men make dough and fry bread. Next will be the watermelon contest. Just a reminder that the Senior Center is re-opened and we serve lunch at 11am-1pm. It really helps the Senior Center if we can more people who aged 55 and older to come in and eat lunch. The Navajo Nation Aging and Long-Term Department looks at the numbers of community member who participate daily. The more people, the more money our center will be receiving.

If you have a disability that is preventing you from coming to the center to eat, you can get a doctor's or CHR referral and the food can be delivered to you at home. They are working to get Mexican Springs Senior Center opened again.

Maria, CSC – We have 4 graduating students, Harlen Henio, Naomi Brockwell, Tracy Sam, and Mason Nabahe who worked here at the chapter for the past 3-4 years. We wanted to honor them on their graduation but I understand they are still at graduation practice. Tracy is a culinary student and she worked at the Senior Center and she will be attending NTU for Culinary Arts. Mason will be attending UNM in Gallup. We did get a cake to celebrate their achievements. I'm not sure where Naomi and Harlen are planning to go to attend college.

June 18th the chapter will be having a fun walk and run for Father's Day. It will start around 4:30pm.

Priscilla Duncan – Just to let you know that we don't have a CHR in our community and the PHN, Rachele Morris has taken another position. So the community does not have a CHR nor a PHN. If you are counting on the CHR or PHN to deliver your medications. You will have to go to the clinic to pick up your medications.

Maria, CSC – The veterans will be having a cookout on Memorial Day at the Veterans Park.

IX. **NEXT MEETING DATE June 2, 2026 (Planning Meeting) at 10am.**

X. **AJOURNMENT: 12:28pm**

Submitted by



Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **May 30, 2026**

cc: Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC