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June 17, 2026 10:00am

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

- I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:30am**
- II. **ROLL CALL:** President Elvis Bitsilly, Vice President Lee Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, and Grazing Officer Gerald Moore. Fern Spencer and Priscilla Duncan, CLUPC.
- III. **INVOCATION: Rudy Anaya**
- IV. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Motion: 1st Fern Spencer 2nd Aldon Francisco Vote: 16-0-2
- V. **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 20, 2026 MEETING MINUTES:**
Motion to read on your own:
Motion: 1st Priscilla Duncan 2nd Fern Spencer Vote: 14-0-3
- VI. **PRESENTERS:**
 1. **Council Delegate Nathan Notah** – I want to mention for the ARPA Projects, there is still funding available for the chapters. Since Naschitti is a certified chapter, they were able to receive all their ARPA funding for their projects. For the non-certified chapters, they have not received their funds from W/R. I've confronted President Nygren many times to ask him to get the funding out to the chapters. He is responsible for making these projects happen and they take place. So, every council delegate for every district has not received their money. We did change the responsibility over from DCD to the FRF office. The powerline project for this chapter had an allocation of \$105,320.00 and waterline extension \$278,000.00, and the septic system and leach fields projects has \$950,918.00, house wiring project was allocated \$91,445.00. The bathroom additions were allocated \$250,000.00. So, Tohatchi chapter still has quite a bit of ARPA money left or available. The chapter is the one who decided who would benefit from these allocations by resolution.
 2. **The New Mexico Capital Outlay Funds**, we have the waste water system improvement where we have \$100,000.00. The Safety Complex, we have already used the \$4 million that was received from the State. We had a meeting 3 weeks ago with officials and Dr. Greyeyes and we tried to get \$12 million for the construction of the Safety Complex. I am on the selection committee with the State and we came close to getting the \$12 million. We missed by 2 proposals and what hurt us was we had no matching funds and we didn't add in all the meetings we had with the LAM people for the design portion. Dr. Greyeyes did a good job putting together the proposals so next year we should be well prepared on how to put a great proposal together when requesting for funding from the State. The total cost of the construction is estimated to be \$16-17million. Currently, we have \$4million for the construction of the complex. There are 3 phases involved, the planning phase, designing phase, and construction phase. We have completed the planning and design phase and now we are working on the construction phase. I want to mention to the officials and staff, we need to do a better job on the TIF applications. Some of them were very deficient. There were all together around 68 proposals (applications), some were well written.
 3. **The San Juan Lateral to get water to homes**, has approximately \$1million. We need additional \$3million to finish the project. We are looking at Sihasin and TIF funds to complete our waterline

project. So, we do have quite a bit of money available for these projects.

4. **Red Willow Farm**, has over \$100,000.00 I believe and again there are already earmarked for specific projects. I have mentioned many times over that the Navajo Nation does not have a whole lot of money. It seems like each year we work on our budget the money is less and less. The Budget and Finance committee are holding meetings at different location. If you want to have some input in the budget you can dial into their meetings.

The reason why we are low on funds is because we did away with all the coal mines, the oil and natural gas. There hasn't been a whole lot of effort being made to bring in money to the Navajo Nation. I mentioned I am on the Law-and-Order committee and we are trying to make changes to the law and rules for our criminal code. We want to make it stronger for all the crimes that are committed, like thief, DUI, and domestic violence to name a few. We like to make it stronger by giving more jail time or fines. All the new amendments can be found on line and there are also public hearings going on across Navajo. There is also an Agricultural Resource Management Act to re-do those rules and regulations that deal with grazing permits, land use issues with Arizona and New Mexico declaring a drought. The Navajo Nation is also declaring a drought circumstance so it's going to be tough to get some of these rules and regulation approved that deal with the land just because of the drought circumstance.

Hardship fund – We had a meeting with the controller, Sean McCabe, FRF, and some of the Budget and Finance people were there. Currently, we have \$7million in the hardship pot. These are some of the choices the Navajo Nation Council is looking at: everyone with a CIB would get \$13, giving hardship only to individuals 90 years of age and older, or to give it to people who are 75 years and older. Maybe just giving it to the veterans, but they have not determined the exact amount of hardship money. NTUA has about \$100 million that they have not spent. Th deadlines are coming up fast and if they do not use the \$100 million it could possibility go back into the hardship fund. NECA also has \$13 million which may go back into the hardship pot. Also, there are cost replacements which are things that we paid for through ARPA but there is a way you can get reimbursed for that by the federal government which may total in the amount of \$50 million. So, these are funds which could possibly go back into hardship. Some of the projects like the rural addressing has not spent all their funding and the broadband project is also running behind schedule.

The \$24million is missing and is gone. There is no way we will be able to recoup that money and we will be required to pay that money back to the Federal Government. The next council delegates will have to deal with that situation. All of this is still being investigated by the courts so the council cannot move forward with any actions. Hopefully, when all the investigation is completed, we will have answers as to how the \$24million was lost.

I want to mention, I have 6 months left in my term as council delegate and I am committed to finishing out my term. I will do the best that I can to try to work and help the 5 chapters. I'm not giving up by any means. I will continue to help each chapter and I've talked with several of the candidates for council delegate to let them know, I'm will to help them anyway I can if they should be elected as the new council delegate. I had to let them know it requires a tremendous amount of work by a council delegate, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's just difficult to get things done with all the rules and regulations the Navajo Nation has. I also like to thank the chapter youth that are here with us today.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I had emailed you regarding the shortfall of \$850,000.00 for the construction of the warehouse. Did you say, we received more funding for the warehouse construction? And on another note, did the Navajo Nation hire or have a contract with a company called "Gleaming Cube" to do assessments on the Senior Centers to determine what each center needed? It sounded like they were not a legit company from Phoenix. That the assessments were never done.

Council Delegate Notah – No money for the shortfall on the warehouse presently. Still looking into

finding some funds to start construction. The question regarding Senior Center assessments, were never done. The last assessment was done back in 2017 and there was a legislation that I voted against because it wasn't correct. I suggested that corrections be made to the legislation to include new assessment for all the chapters to determine what they need. President Nygren had written it into the legislation before he signed it. From talking with Supervisor, Lesita Desiderio, she was trying to organize the assessments herself. We will setup another meeting for District 14 and we will let the chapter official know when that will be and you'll have to be there to let them know what Tohatchi Senior Center needs.

Also, would you please push the bike trail project for us. We want to sole source the project but we can't get DOJ to work with us.

Vice President Rodgers – Council Delegate, you stated Tohatchi has 1000 and 1000 of dollars in ARPA funding. When I first came aboard as the new Vice President for the Chapter I went to W/R to inquire about our projects. I was told; this is the council delegate's projects, but I made them talk to me. In the meantime I have not received any updates or any information. When I do visit W/R, I'm being told the same thing. It's frustrating, but maybe an email from you giving the authority back to the chapter would help.

Council Delegate Notah – You're right, in Title Two it does say the Vice Presidents are responsible for following and monitoring these projects. You found out how difficult it is to work with W/R and who gave you that information or who said that to you? I like that information because I want to address that person direct and take that information to the Division Director, Candace Yazzie to let her know how her staff are treating chapter officials.

Laris Manuelito – If you could let W/R know that the Vice President and the other officials should have more authority when following up on their chapter projects. It is doable and it can move the projects much faster.

Priscilla Duncan – I would like to thank you for the home my brother Tommy received, but he does not have electricity, water or septic and leach line. I know when a veteran receives a home, they don't get the key to the home until everything is install like the utility, water, and septic tank system. They call it a turnkey when every thing is completed. I was told to go to NTUA to complete an application for electricity and water which we did, but I'm wondering what happen to the paperwork which was initially signed which stated everything was included with the home like water and electricity hookup and the septic system installed. So, I'm asking you to please look into this for my brother, Tommy and push the installations for him. One of your LDA's mention, maybe it would be possible to switch out my name from the septic and leach line project listing to put Tommy on the list since Tohatchi has the funding.

Council Delegate Notah – We setup multiply meetings with the Chapter CSC staff and officials with Patrick Dalgai, CHID Housing, NTUA, Water Resources, ARPA office and FRF office. These meetings gave the chapter staff and officials to address the needs of the chapter. This includes the Senior Centers to provide updates. One of the meetings was with CHID housing where Mr. Dalgai providing information on waterlines, electricity, and septic systems. I do remember Mr. Dalgai telling the chapter staff they need to reach out to NTUA for water and electricity for the individuals who were approved for homes. This is exactly what Naschitti was able to do. They met with people from NTUA to make the new homes turnkey ready, meaning everything was in place and ready for move in.

If the CSC and officials want to meet with Patrick Dalgai, I can setup another meeting and I will also go over all the issues with these new homes with Mr. Dalgai.

Vice President Rodgers - according to my meeting notes from January 14th with Mr. Dalgai he stated everything was going to be included with the homes, for instance; the water and electricity hookups and the septic system installation including a ramp. Mr. Dalgai went back on his word that everything will be included, but I have it in my notes. So, go ahead and schedule another meeting with Mr. Dalgia and we

can bring it to his attention.

Council Delegate Notah – We will be scheduling another meeting but when people tell you that from W/R, you do have to do your part and you do have to follow through. That just the way W/R is and you have to be able to follow through.

Vice President Rodgers – I think the resolution approving these projects for families in our community needs to be updated. Also, they should give us more authority over these projects so officials can work on it with Maria.

Laris Manuelito – who planned this and who puts a house down without any type of infrastructure like waterline, electricity, and septic systems. We have the mentality of feeling entitled and we want it right, now. If we want to do things right, we have to be very diligent about it and it may take a little longer but we are going to get it right. These homes will not last for 15 years before it starts to breakdown. Is there a contingency plan in place once this starts to occur?

Council Delegate Notah – just want to mention that when we do setup meetings the chapter officials and CSCs are there. I think with Maria, she gets overwhelm with all the different rules and regulations you have to deal with. Also, to use some of the \$9billion has to be voted on (referendum) by the Navajo Nation but the Nation turned it down a couple of times stating let it build on the interest. I believe the referendum might be on the November ballot. I also want to mention that for some reason we as Navajo cannot work together or want to be of assistance to our people. There is no accountability.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

1. NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

May 2026 Financial Reports with Resolution 048-06-2026.

MAY FUND BALANCES		
1	Chapter Activities Gen Fund	\$31,171.51
3	Chapter Claims Fund	\$44,309.75
8	Supplemental Youth Fund	\$26,216.13
9	Housing Discretionary Fund	\$10,996.28
10	LGA Grant Fund	\$57,032.63
12	Chapter Stipends	\$30,883.25
13	Scholarship General Fund	\$6,042.00
14	Scholarship Claims Fund	\$7,651.48
15	PEP Fund	\$31,867.36
16	Veterans Fund	\$12,558.32
17	Emergency Fund	\$23,863.76
23	NN Sales Tax	\$114,959.18
25	NN CIP - \$180,000	\$11,881.33
26	Red Willow Farm	\$590.37
27	NN CIP - \$200,000	\$2,911.17
40	Unhealthy Food Tax	\$100,649.05
61	Senior Citizen Fund	\$1,695.55
51	NAPI	\$2,237.56

34	Agriculture & Infrastructure	\$3.68
	General Fixed Assets	
	Total Fund Balance	\$517,720.36

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.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS:

1. **048-06-2026:** Resolution to accept the May 2026 Financial Reports and approve financial resolution.
Motion: 1st Priscilla Duncan 2nd Anita Silver **Vote: 15-0-2**
2. **049-06-2026:** Resolution approving Housing Discretionary assistance for Genevieve Thompson and Tommy Badonie for wheelchair ramps.
Maria, CSC – Genevieve Thompson in the amount of \$1061.06 with Gallup Lumber and Tommy Badonie in the amount of \$1020.85 with Gallup Lumber.
Motion: 1st Fern Spencer 2nd Priscilla Duncan **Vote: 17-0-1**
3. **050-06-2026:** Resolution to approving five community members to work as Poll Judges for the upcoming July and November 2026 elections.
Maria, CSC – The 5 individuals are Fern Spencer, Chief Poll Judge, Beatrice Dennison, Poll Judge, Mary Tsinnie, Poll Judge, Tracy Sam, Poll Judge, and Anita Silver, Poll Judge. Training will be provided on July 2nd at Tohatchi chapter at 2pm.
Motion: 1st Priscilla Duncan 2nd Herman Dennison **Vote: 16-0-1**
4. **051-06-2026:** Resolution approving a budget transfer within Fund 15, the Navajo Nation project employment program (PEP) fund, in the amount of \$2,950.00 to replenish the pep taxes for payroll.
Maria, CSC – The PEP employees will be layoff at the end of the month.
Motion: 1st Herman Dennison 2nd Anita Silver **Vote: 16-0-1**
5. **052-06-2026:** Resolution approving the budget for the emergency Fund 17 to allocate the anticipated expenditures for the emergency legislation #CMA-20-26 in the amount of \$56,050.00 distributed to all 110 chapters within the Navajo Nation.
Motion: 1st Fern Spencer 2nd Priscilla Duncan **Vote: 17-0-1**
6. **053-06-2026:** Resolution to approve the fiscal year 2026 carry over Navajo Nation Gaming Tax Budget in the amount of \$1,437.16 in accordance to the chapter Gaming Fund distribution policies and allocation.
Maria, CSC – This funding stays in W/R and it only covers our utilities and water expenses.
Motion: 1st Laris Manuelito 2nd Lorriane Manuelito **Vote: 17-0-2**
7. **054-06-2026:** Resolution approving the fiscal year 2026 carryover budget for Navajo Nation General fund in the amount of \$2,978.76 in accordance to the chapter General Fund distribution policies and allocation.
Vice President Rodgers – I agree, the amount we get annually from W/R is never enough to assist our community members with their housing needs. I hope the individuals who are running for Council Delegate are listening and understand how important the housing discretionary funds is to our community.
Motion: 1st Lorriane Manuelito 2nd Aldon Francisco **Vote: 18-0-1**
8. **055-06-2026:** Resolution to support a land withdrawal for an existing family cemetery in Tohatchi, NM for Mr. Aldon Francisco and Richard Becenti's families.
Mr. Francisco – The location is on the Hamburger Hill ridge going south on Highway 491 at milepost 24.8.

Motion: 1st Laris Manuelito 2nd Herman Dennison Vote: 14-0-5

9. **056-06-2026:** Resolution opposing water resource impacts associated with the proposed Data Center Project near Gallup, New Mexico, and declaring the Chapter's findings regarding potential impacts to local water resources associated with a proposed Data Center Project near Gallup, New Mexico, and sets forth the community's opposition and requested actions.

Fern Spencer – Has this resolution been given to all the 5 chapters in District 14?

Cody Anaya – Yes, all the chapters in District 14 has it on their agenda, including other agencies as well. Naschitti Chapter was the 1st to pass this resolution and they change a word in the heading of the resolution from “position to opposition.”

Aldon Francisco – I strongly oppose knowing the impact it has environmental and biological.

Laris Manuelito – Even though we are 34 miles away from Gallup, it stills impacts the Navajo people in the area.

Cody Anaya – They are really depending on the San Juan Lateral water for the Data Center being opposed in Gallup. I attended the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply meeting and they had an NTUA representative there. He stated that they are in talks with manufactures and large industrial users because they are trying to justify that by saying it will make your rates cheaper, but the water rates are already high, they have already increased our water rates. He only said the water will be coming to Navajo families after it has gone to the large industries and manufactures which is very disturbing. Just to mention another point, PNM is being purchased by Blackstone to supply water and energy to Data Centers.

Laris Manuelito – Will this resolution eventually get up to Council and will Council have to have a position on this?

Cody Anaya – Council Delegate Nathan Notah did say he would drop legislation if this resolution is passed in our communities and a representative for President Nygren said the President would sign this legislation.

President Bitsilly – I was also at the meeting and the Bureau of Reclamation explained that the water will be under a control usage. So, Gallup will be limited as to how much water they can use is my understanding.

Laris Manuelito - As the motioning party, I would like the word “position” strike in the heading of the resolution to read “opposition.”

Motion: 1st Laris Manuelito 2nd Priscilla Duncan Vote: 18-0-2

10. **057-06-2026:** Resolution from the Tohatchi Veteran's Organization to request for cost-sharing funds from the Tohatchi chapter for the Stand Down event in July.

Laris Manuelito – I'm the Vice Commander of the Tohatchi Veterans Organization. This resolution came about when a couple of veterans had an issue with how we weren't able to utilized our funds for events that are coming up. One is the Agency Council Meeting and the other is District 14 Veterans Stand-down. A stand-down is an organization coming together to provide services to veterans which might not otherwise be availability to them. They provided vision, dental, care packages, and many other things that the veteran might need. This is the 2nd annual Stand Down event in District 14 where the veterans from District 14 are coming together. The event will be catered with Rooster's Grill at a cost of \$2100 and divide that by 5 organizations in District 14 is \$420.00 for cost share. The funding is coming from the Tohatchi Veterans' Fund not from the chapter funds. The Stand Down event is scheduled for July 29th from 9am to 2pm. Coyote Canyon is hosting this year so event will be held at Coyote Canyon. This year we were able to get the NM Veteran Services Tribal Liaison to come out to assist our veterans.

Motion: 1st Delphine Bitsilly 2nd Herman Dennison Vote: 18-0-2

- IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Maria, CSC** – Tomorrow chapter will be hosting a Father's Day Fitness Challenge Fun Run and Walk and Zumba, registration is at 4:30pm, Zumba starts at 5:00pm, and fun walk and run at 6:00pm. The 1st people will receive a t-shirt and gifts for the fathers. On Juneteenth (June 19) the chapter will be open, no holiday. June 26th is the last day for the students' workers and we planned a cookout for them. I have 5 students working at the schools, 5 are stationed here at chapter and 3 who are working in Gallup and W/R. On July 3rd the chapter is closed for the 4th of July holiday.
- Grazing Officer Moore** – Update on the screwworm found down south on a dog who was infested with the worms. They are doing whatever they can to contain it. The worm feeds off living tissue and we will have a presentation on this during our District 14 Agricultural and Farm Workshop on Tuesday, June 30th from 9am-3pm. Other topics include ARMP which is dealing with grazing permits and how they can be allocated by the BIA and NN Fish and Wildlife. Also, Navajo Nation Department of Agricultural will be giving us updates on the feral horses' situation, the AIF incentives programs, and livestock resale. The NN has declared Emergency Drought and they will be someone here to talk about this.
- Fern Spencer** – Tomorrow evening from 5:30pm-7pm, GMCS is having their board meeting at Tohatchi Elementary School. Parents need to be more attentive and need to know what is going on in their children and grandchildren's schools. I learned that they have substitutes who are teaching your children half of the semester in the subjects of Math, English, Science, and History. The issue is we don't have enough teachers; we don't have Native American teachers at our schools. This is sad and needs to be addressed. So, I encourage the parents to come this the board meeting tomorrow. Also, I want to mention the Post Office again, they were closed on the 3rd without notification. A lot of community members were waiting on their checks or medication. I'm tired of the inconsistency of their hours. The lady came out at 3:30pm to start putting up the mail and she then closes at 5:00pm. There were two notices on the window from UPS and the other company who delivers packages and said they were returning the packages since the Post Office was closed. I don't know what we can do to resolve this issue, maybe a petition which I would be glad to do. Last time, the employee was on vacation and they didn't let us know, so I called Senator Shannon Pinto to complain and next day the Post Office was open. The employee is from Sawmill and apparent he doesn't communicate with the main office in Gallup.
- Geneva Begay** – Our tree planting presentation was moved to June 25th and will be held at Red Willow Farm at 9am and lunch will be provided.
- Laris Manuelito** – I would like to request to be added to the Planning Meeting on July 7th. I've been complaining about how people are dumping chemicals, dead animals, and trash on the road N11. I might be asking for a resolution to EPA or having them come in to do a presentation.
- Vice President Rodgers** – District 14 Council chapter officials are sponsoring a delegate forum for the people who are running for council delegates on July 1st at Twin Lakes Elementary School. The candidates can put up a table for meet & greet from 1pm-2:45pm. The forum will start at 3pm to 6pm. Questions for candidates will be submitted to myself or the other district 14-chapter officials. All the questions will be put into a hat for each candidate to draw from so the candidates will not know what questions will be asked.
- President Bitsilly** – Follow up meeting with the San Juan Water Project on June 29th at 10am for Tohatchi and Mexican Springs.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE: July 06, 2026 (Planning Meeting) at 10am.

XI. AJOURNMENT: 1:23pm

Submitted by



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

cc: Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, President

Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC