



THE NAVAJO NATION

TOHATCHI COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Tohatchi Community Land Use Planning Committee Public Hearing Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 10:00 AM Tohatchi Chapter

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order: Time: 10:25 AM Roll Call: 4 Invocation: Fern Spencer

II. Purpose of Public Hearing

*Elvis Bitsilly – public hearing today is in regards to our new amended, revised and updated Tohatchi Community Land Use Plan, this Community Land Use Plan is our final draft comprise with the work of our CLUPC committee, officials, administration and community members, we've been working on this plan since we've became members, we updated our 2018 Community Land Use Plan, we have covered several meetings and work sessions, this plan is what we formatted and put together according to what the committee has put together as a team, we had input from community as well from those who have attended our meetings, Department of Community Development formatted a CLUPC schedule plan, they have a listing of what the Navajo Nation chapters have to follow, when we came in as committee members this plan was introduced to us, this is what we have followed since that time, these are the steps we have utilized with the help from Department of Community Development Senior Planner, Latasha James, these steps indicate what the process is, the committee followed the plan and took care of amending, revising the plan, we have the acknowledgement page with the current District 14 Council Delegate, Chapter Officials. CLUPC officials and Chapter Administration, there are other individuals who have contributed to the Land Use Plan, Table of Contents which we have eight sections.

III. Overview

1. Introduction – our mission and vision statement, Prayer for community, CLUPC Plan of Operation October 2026 to September 2027, this Plan of Operation was formatted by Department of Community Development we utilized this template for our Plan of Operation for CLUPC, we followed this and is a guideline, we meet every third Tuesday of the month and this is our paid of \$125.00 every month, Resolution for Plan of Operation, Resolution for CLUPC membership, Historical time line, timeline starts in the 1800's to today with events and activities in the community, Chapter Officials listing who have served.

2. Community Education Participation Process – 2.1 Community Engagement Participation, CLUPC membership and what we have done as a committee, 2.2 the meetings we've had along with work sessions over time and goes back to 2023 when we started on this Land Use Plan, 2.3 Values, Objectives and Goals, several listings like K'e, Keyah, Tohatchi History, public safety, health, assets, values can be strengthened by Tohatchi, the chapter a place for gathering, there's farming and safety, personal development.

3. Community Demographics / Census 2023 – Tohatchi CDP, New Mexico, data is from the state as well as the national, this data is available on the census bureau, basis information such as housing, population, income, employment, health, race, language spoken at home, Veterans, 23 tables with data for Tohatchi Chapter, Navajo Nation and New Mexico with Estimate and Percent.

4. Existing Conditions – Context Map located in New Mexico, 4.1 Ecological Sustainability, Rangeland, Threatened and Endangered Species, Biological Resource Land Use Map, Species in the Tohatchi area, Conservation Relationship with Nature, Environmental Hazards, 4.2 The Changing Landscape – Natural Resources, Soils Information, Watershed Map, Aquifer – we have lots of ground water, Hydrogeologic Units, 4.5 Open Space, the intent of open space is to preserve areas of beauty, natural, cultural or traditional significance, and wild life in the areas that should not be developed, such spaces are walking trails, lakes, ponds, arroyos, canyons and significant traditional cultural properties, chapter boundaries map indicating District 14 with five chapters, Agriculture – Red Willow Farm 938 acres, 10 to 15 active farmers, 1987 Navajo Nation formally recognized and certified Red Willow with 124 plots.

5. Community Infrastructure – what we have here as far as infrastructure such as gas lines, phone lines, fiber optics, electrical lines, water and sewer, infrastructure map of Tohatchi community area, 2-3 mile radius, 5.1 Gallup Water Project is ongoing with our local community and surrounding District 14 chapters, part of the Bureau of Reclamation, Navajo Nation and Gallup, completed by year 2028 - 2029, Mexican Springs will be upgraded to a new water line system, Roads for our community of Tohatchi, working with BIA, NNDOT, and County entities, up to 18 road projects to maintain, Trail which is running and bike, ongoing since 2016, we do have a subcontractor in place, Public Transportation run on Highway 491 from Shiprock to Tohatchi to Window Rock.

6. Commercial Sites for Development – sites for development present and future, some projects are almost completed, are completed, or ongoing projects, each project listed shows the data information, acres, any surveys done, a categorized worksheet for our community, all projects are broken down into specific details, we do have maps for each project we have listed for each development, land have been withdrawn for the projects, reviewed each project 6.1 to 6.17.

7. Community Facilities, Plan Public Spaces, Buildings – this information was created with information pertaining to Tohatchi's community facilities, plan public spaces and buildings such as chapter house track and surrounding public facilities, examples: Tohatchi Chapter House, Veterans Park, Tohatchi Health Clinic, Solid Waste/Transfer Station; Schools, Tohatchi Elementary, Tohatchi Mid School, Tohatchi High School, Navajo Nation Headstart; Business Sites, Speedway; Colleges, University of New Mexico, Gallup Branch; Churches, St. Mary's Catholic Church; Housing, Teacher Housing, Navajo Housing Authority.

8. Strategies and Recommendations – there are 16 recommendations, example: Recommendation 13 – forming a sustainable community and government, the next major steps would be to hire or train a professional knowledgeable in ArcGIS-ESRI software that can maintain geographic information.

References – updated according to what is now in the land use plan.

Appendix – all supporting documents which include resolutions for the top site development projects for Tohatchi area which includes the ICIP listing, Highway Lighting 491, First Responders Substation and Warehouse, CLUPC checklist for the Land Use Plan and Tohatchi Chapter Basic Emergency Response Plan and Public Hearing documents.

Thank you all for coming to our Public Hearing for our CLUPC Land Use Plan manual.

IV. Adjournment: 11:43 am


Delphine Bitsilly
CLUPC Recorder