OCT 18 AM 8:08

October 06, 2026 10:00 AM

TOHATCHI CHAPTER SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

I. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 11:50 AM**

II. **ROLL CALL:** President Bitsilly, Vice President Rodgers, Secretary/Treasurer Crawford, and Grazing Officer Moore, CLUPC Members: Priscilla Duncan, Delphine Bitsilly & Fern Spencer, Farm Board: Geneva Begay.

III. **INVOCATION:** Vice President Lee Rodgers

IV. **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: 1st Priscilla Duncan 2nd Kelvin Crawford Vote: 16-0-1

V. **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **001-10-2027:** Resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 carryover budget for General Activities, chapter claims trust, summer youth employment, housing discretionary, local governance grant, Chapter Stipends, Scholarship Claims, Public Employment Projects (PEP), Emergency, Navajo Nation Sales Tax, Supplemental CIP, Senior Center Fund, Navajo Nation CIP, Red Willow Farm fund, and the Unhealthy Food Tax in the total amount of **$532,693.05.**

Motion: 1st Sonny Moore 2nd Franklin Sandoval Vote: 16-0-1

VI. **PRESENTATION:**

1. **Maria, CSC** - Provided copies of the chapter's carryover budget in the amount of **$532,693.05**. She went over each line item in the report which is 36 pages long. Report gave detail information on funds

The Fiscal Year 2026 Carry-Over Budget for the following funds:

01	General Activity Fund	$29,313.93
03	Chapter Claims Trust	$27,988.72
08	Summer Youth Employment	$4,519.08
09	Housing Discretionary	$7,590.05
10	Local Governance Grant -LGA	$49,712.53
12	Chapter Stipend Fund	$16,436.70
14	Scholarship Claims	$2,451.48
15	Public Employment Projects	$6,439.03
51	NAPI Fund	$2,237.56
13	Scholarship/General Fund	$3,442.00
17	Emergency Fund	$74,043.71
23	Navajo Nation Sales Tax	$176,363.21
25	180,000.00 Supplemental CIP	$6,792.42
27	$200,000.00 CIP	$2,911.17
61	Senior Center	$1,627.56
40	Unhealthy Food Tax Fund	$109,093.13
26	Red Willow Farm	$590.37
34	Agriculture and Infrastructure	$3.68
16	Veterans	$11,137.22

TOTAL Carry Over Budget: $ 532,693.05

***Questions:**

Franklin Sandoval – asked the difference between carryover budget and comprehensive budget.

Maria, CSC – explained the carryover budget is what is in the bank currently for fiscal year ending 2026 which we will be carried over to year 2027 started on October 1st. The comprehensive budget is the new allocation from the Navajo Nation which has been approved and signed by the President but has not been allocated to the chapters.

***Contractual Services: Stipends for Meetings**

Franklin Sandoval – asked if the CLUPC members provide reports to the community on their activities.

Maria, CSC – The CLUP committee gives a report and update on their activities during the Planning meetings. They have updated and completed the Land Use Plan Manuel which anyone interested can look at. It is located in the front office of chapter. All meeting minutes are posted in the hallway.

***Personnel Wages/Taxes/Benefits:**

Vice President Rodgers – can you explain how funds are distributed among the students requesting for financial assistance?

Maria, CSC – that will be determined when we received the allocation from the 2027 budget and what is left from 2026 carryover.

Sonny Moore-LDA - states there is a policy for Scholarship Funds which the chapter follows.

***Scholarship/General Fund**

Vice President Rodgers – Can you explain how each amount in each category are determined?

Maria, CSC – the amounts change from year to year and the amount for 2027 will be determined when we receive our actual 2027 comprehensive budget added to our carryover from 2026.

LDA Moore – The chapter does have a policy for scholarships and in there is spells out the allocations amounts.

Maria, CSC – there is actually two fund categories for scholarships and we had to deplete the other first and then continue with this fund account.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – based off yesterday's meeting, we were told by DOJ that we under paying our PEP employees, referring to minimum wages. Currently, the PEP workers are paid $10 an hour. Is there a possibility of increasing their wages to meet the Navajo Nation minimum wage standard? It's concerning to hear that we are not paying at least minimum wages.

Maria, CSC – it all depends on what our allocation looks like in 2027 and that determines what the PEP workers will be paid. I either give them a raise or cut the number of PEP employees we can employee. Tohatchi Chapter is not the only chapter that is paying $10 per hour.

LDA Moore – I remember the Council was trying to pass legislation to increase the PEP pay to $12.77 per hour. I believe it has not been codified as of yet, but it has it will be law.

Fern Spencer – I can't believe the chapter is paying the PEP workers $10.00 per hour and not minimum wages. With some of the duties that is requested of them should pay at least the minimum wages. I don't think this is right, we need to do better.

Secretary/Treasurer Crawford – I totally agree with Fern, the chapter should be paying our PEP workers minimum wages. I understand the chapter does not receive enough allocation for the Navajo Nation to pay more, but Council should be made aware that our PEP workers need be paid minimum wages.

Council Delegate Notah – the legislation is for $14.70 and it has not been codified. From what I remember, if this legislation is codified it will be retroactive back to 2025.

Franklin Sandoval – with the Veterans Administration moving to a new financial system currently, the veterans are being asked to wait until November 1st to request for financial assistance. Is the Navajo Nation going to be going through a Continuing Resolution (CR) again this year?

President Bitsilly – there is no Continuing Resolution this year. The Comprehensive Budget was approved in a timely manner.

Maria, CSC – The chapter is different, our funding comes from the controller's office. Everything gets processed there. We have our funds here at the chapter and we can continue with operations. We just need to pass our carryover into 2027.

Franklin Sandoval – As far as the operator of the heavy equipment who is being paid at $17 per hour should be a journeyman.

Vice President Rodgers – As a recall, Navajo Nation pretty much dictated what the chapters should be paying their PEP workers. I'm wondering if that is still the case.

Maria, CSC – yes, in a sense. We are allocated a certain amount each year and the chapter determines how much the PEP workers will be paid hourly depending on the allocation amount and the number of PEP workers there are.

***Emergency**

LaVerne Buffalo – made a recommendation to add monsoon season under "Food Purchases."

***Capital Improvement Outlay: Operational Supplies**

Maria, CSC – we have $6,792.42 in this account and once it gets depleted it does not get replenished. This fund 25 will be closed. The Chapter Renovation account will also be closed out once the funds get depleted.

Franklin Sandoval – during the hot summer months, the elders will need cooling devices to keep their homes cool, but it would not be considered an emergency by the Navajo Nation President. Can we add in a line-item for cooling devices into the budget.

Maria, CSC – Yes, we could add it under the (01) General Fund account and also in Fund 17 as emergency as well. We have purchased several fans for the elders and will continue to purchase items as needed.

***Navajo Nation General Fund**:

Maria, CSC – once this fund is depleted it will also be closed out, this includes the Agriculture Infrastructure fund which has a balance of $3.68.

President Bitsilly – announced we may lose quorum due to a couple of people who need to leave. Suggested we just cover the subject heading to complete the report.

LDA Moore – made recommendation to provide the budget to actual report because it should have the same amount as the carryover total. It is better to simplified things especially working with numbers by using an excel spreadsheet and providing it to the committee members. So, I'm motioning we accept the total amount of **$532,693.05** as the chapter's carryover.

Maria, CSC – the reason I decided to go over the report line by line was because my boss has received complaints from committee members stating I don't share the budget or the different account funds with them.

Council Delegate Notah – requesting to make an amendment by stating the Tohatchi Chapter staff including CSC are doing a great job. You have provided the report with the different fund accounts and explained how they are to be used. I would like to ask LDA Moore to change the motion to add that the community members read the rest of the report of their own and it should be posted for everyone to see.

Vice President Rodgers – We have the financial reports which includes the budget to actual each month and any community member can request for a copy. The budget to actual report is very detail and it will show how the chapter is spending the allocations from the Navajo Nation.

Motion: 1st Sonny Moore 2nd Franklin Sandoval Vote: 16-0-1

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **None**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **None**

IX. ANNOUNCEMENT:

Fern Spencer – stated that community members need to start coming to the chapter meetings so they have an idea of how the chapter is using funds allocated from NN. The staff here do all they can to assist community members and members should not be criticizing them. They should be here at the meetings and not just show up when they need help. Stop criticizing and be active participates.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE and TIME: 10-21-2026 @ 10:00 AM Chapter Meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:15 PM

Submitted by

Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **October 12, 2026**

cc: Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, President
Ms. Lee Rodgers, Vice-President
Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer
Ms. Maria Allison, CSC
Council Delegate Nathan Notah