



TEMPORARY AUTHORIZE QUORUM REDUCTION MEETING

February 17, 2021 10:00 A.M.

TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

401-526-8346 PIN# 942946113#

MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

10:12AM

ROLL CALL:

Harry "Sonny" Moore, President, Mike Halona, Vice President, Jean Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer, Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer, Pernell Halona, Maria King, CSC, Elvis Bitsilly, LDA, Julie Badonie, Byron Bitsioe, Delphine Bitsilly, Dorothy Bitsilly, Geneva Begay, Vincent Arthur.

INVOCATION:

Mrs. Julie Badonie

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mr. Sonny Moore – Agenda was read out loud and e-mailed to officials, CSC, and Committee members.

Motion: Julie Badonie 2nd Gerald Moore **Vote:** 4-0-1

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18, 2020 QUORUM REDUCTION MEETING MINUTES

Accept and Motion to read on our own. Delphine Bitsilly, states the minutes should be read aloud since not everyone received the minutes through email. Per Sonny, we will update the email address for callers and send out the minutes for next meeting.

Motion: Byron Bitsioe 2nd Delegate Pernell Halona **Vote:** 5-2-2

PRESENTATION:

Council Delegate Halona – We are still fighting the pandemic and good news is the count of daily infections has been down. It has been under 100 the past three weeks and under 50 for past week. We need to stay vigilant about staying safe. I think it will be like this until end of next summer. Tohatchi Health Center is reaching out to people who are 65 years and older to vaccine. We need to continue to wear our masks, use hand sanitizer, and practice social distancing. It's real important to stay away from large groups and we need to continue our safe practices.

Purchase of equipment was successful - Chapters need to keep on top of this. Need to follow up with CPMD to see when we can get our equipment. It's been hard for me to contact anyone with that department as well since people are just returning back to work and the snow storm added to the situation.

Hazard Pay - There was legislation setup for hazard pay for employees, PEP, chapter officials, and chapter workers. There was some discrepancy on how and who would be getting this pay. We will be doing a work session and then decided how much and who gets the hazard pay. I support this 100 percent and I know a lot of chapter officials have been out there working on the front lines for our communities giving out food and providing services that are needed. Hazard Pay has some glitches and still have people who have not received their pay. I have a new number to call and I'll email to President Moore to send out to individuals who need to call to follow up on their hazard pay.

Jean - Will Tohatchi Health Center be scheduling anymore vaccination drives? Per Delegate Halona, I'm not aware of any future schedules, but I will ask Fawn Damon, HSA for new schedule.

Julie B. - Last teleconference meeting I asked about the powerline project. I had asked you to reach out to CMPD to see what the status is on the project. They have advocated need for electricians, right-a-way and everyone is ready. What is NTUA doing to hook up these people? NTUA is currently doing hookups under

the cares act, per newspaper. I believe this is continuing. People from Tohatchi were taken off the list and now need to get them back on under the Cares Act. There are people who still need services.

The appropriation being made to the gaming industry is a large sum of money. All we are doing is paying for people who have been unemployed since the casinos were closed. I don't think that's fair in bailing out the enterprises.

Council Delegate Halona – I've called NTUA and waiting on response from them. Sonny, can I get a list of the individuals who are on the list for powerline project.

As far as the appropriation is concerned which has been a hot topic. The enterprises who were approved by legislation were Navajo Nation Shopping Centers, Arts n Crafts, and Casinos. NTUA and NECA was taken off and the money for enterprises were cut down from \$34 million to 19 million. Not sure who is lobbying for other larger companies. I still expect President Nez to line-item veto some of those items. 1,100 jobs are on the line and I'm sure the casino deal will go through due to the high rate of unemployment which is astronomical. We are trying to preserve our gaming industry. The casino is slated to open March 1st hopefully to 50% occupancy.

For decommissioning, we have over \$2 million invested in that. It's a hard decision whether we are going to cut them off all together. It's going to take \$35 million - \$40 million to get the casino back on line if we get decommissioned. We can't afford to drop it right now, since the casinos are the biggest revenue along with the mine. The resources are limited and we don't want to cut this off too soon.

Julie B – We are bailing out the casinos now but the casinos don't fund the chapters on the reservation. Where are the revenues going? Why can't they use the funds to provide running water and electricity to community members of the reservation.

Delegate Halona – We don't have enough money to have everyone on the reservation live comfortably. We need to start asking everyone to start building near infrastructures to save money on the cost of constructions of new homes. We were able to hookup 700-800 families with electricity. NTUA can only do 350 hookups a year.

Jean – Maybe we can start educating applicants on cost saving options if they were to select a homesite near water and electricity when we give out applications.

Vice President Halona – One of the challenges we've been discussing now for about 15 years, Land Use Plans. We've been trying to help chapters early on with their Land Use Plan. A lot of money came from NHA through NASHDA who wanted them to identify all residential areas within a Chapter where housing could be built. We are the only tribe who bring up the fact we have a certain percentage with no water and electricity. It's Lack of proper planning! We know what the end results will be without proper planning. All of us are directly and indirectly affected by the lack of proper planning and at the local level (Chapter) people want assistance for the infrastructure. We issue approximately 800 to 1000 homesites a year. This is not going to slow down. It's faster and quicker and it used to be you go to the chapter to get approval for homesite lease, but because of political reasons this process has changed. Now it's between homesite lessee, grazing permittees and grazing official. Even now, we are asked to shorten it up and it affects projects in the process. For people who got homesites before 2016, they have to go back to get consent to get water, utility and sewer, a new permittee might say, "No", and refuse to consent.

What do we need to do? It's really that we have to plan our community. We can't change outside Tohatchi community. We see the symptoms, we see the challenges, and we see the problem. We are growing as a nation and how are we going to address that? The opportunities are not there, meaning on reservation, if you want a home it comes out of your own pocket or NHA, government housing and mortgages. Even the mortgages of new home have increased which is good. People are buying homes and taking ownership. It is going to take strong leadership to make changes and move in that direction. If it's within less than a quarter of a mile you don't need to get clearance for arch and biological and all that is needed is a consent and the rest is done. CLUPC

needs to look at to see if chapter moves toward putting a policy together or designate where those residential areas are going to be and draw out the lots. That's the only way we can address the growing needs of our people.

Sonny – What we want to do is to have CLUPC be more active. Need to assign members to complete projects so we are not just talking about the projects every meeting.

Vincent Arthur with NTUA – I'm originally from El Paso north of Tohatchi and I'm also a registered voter of Tohatchi Chapter. I brought along a resolution and made some edits for you to view. NTUA is requesting for an approved resolution from Tohatchi Chapter to run a 150KB transmission line from here to Crownpoint. This will help the waterline project coming from Farmington to Gallup. The transmission lines connect to substations, from there they branch off to smaller lines into homes. The line will begin or where they are looking to tap in is just north of Hot Springs on top of bluff and will go in direction of Coyote Canyon, Standing Rock and into Crownpoint where a substation will be built. Eight miles of the transmission line will lay within the Tohatchi Community and so NTUA is requesting for the community approval

Julie B – What happen to the project coming Shiprock? And do we need to get grazing permit from permittees? Are there plans to get internet services? I know the fiber optic runs ¼ mile from highway. Is that something NTUA is looking at?

Vincent – Yes, resolutions are in place and NTUA is working on the right-of-way. Some of the challenges are archeological sites. As far as internet, yes, we are looking to expand and you need to contact Mr. Monroe Keeto who handles the internet projects. If you have a pre-proposed list of a group of home wanting to get fiber internet, they can tap into the transmission line.

President Sonny – 150KB line does have a resolution and needs to be tied into the substation south of Tohatchi so when we have an outage, we can rely on the power line from Shiprock. Also, Red Willow needs your assistance to get power to their well. The line that will be run to Crownpoint will be a 115KB line. Broadband topic will be on CLUPC's agenda and will be looking at tapping into the existing towers.

Vice President Halona – A couple of things to be aware, the 115KB line has stalled in Newcomb. There are five families who have opposed the construction. Since its our enterprise they will ask for a waiver, if it was a private company, they would pay for the right-of-way to use the land all the way across. The internet, towers, and broadbands are not free, hospital and schools will still be charged a fee. What kind of benefits will come back to the Chapters for their communities who are contributing revenue to NTUA?

Geneva Begay – 3 phase power line, it's not contracted with 164 and Ben Cowboy is working on this. We need the power hooked up to our well so farmers can start planting this spring. We need your assistance. The money has been allocated from the state and is at Water Resource currently.

Vice President Halona – The Red Willow pump station is coming off a 3-stage power line and not the 115KB line currently under construction. The right-of-away that was submitted wasn't coming off the proposed 115KB line, it was coming off and an existing line to hookup the water for Red Willow.

Vincent - The resolution I'm requesting from Tohatchi Chapter is for 115KB line.

President Moore – We would like to invite you back on March 1st for our planning meeting where we can present the resolution and vote on it.

Dorothy Bitsilly – We have been working with NTUA for years and we ready for hook up. All the supplies, equipment and money are available. I thought these projects were put as priority if all the material and money have been established. Our project is being overlooked. I ask you to please look into what is holding it up.

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Official - Mrs. Manuelito sheep has not been found. No word on where they could be. Yesterday, I had a teleconference meeting with grazing district agency and the hot topic was burial and family plot. This continues to be a hot topic with other agencies as well. Delegate Halona will need to be

in on these discussions. Maybe the DOJ needs to get involve with this particular issue so that grazing official are not criticized for enforcing policy.

UNFINISH BUSINESS

Public Safety Complex – Per Sonny, Maria has worked on this project with ICIP. We need to follow up the re-authorization of monies that are connected to these projects concerns me. If money is not use in a certain timeframe, money will be returned to Santa Fe. We have someone from Farmington to do the demolition and abatement. Senator Pinto has contacted Maria asking for more information on this project. Need to do some lobbying to request for assistance to get this project completed.

Warehouse – Loren Miller, has been hired to design the warehouse and is working with Community Development with Navajo Nation. He will be providing total cost and we'll be submitting to Santa Fe with ICIP program. We will need approximately \$400,000 to complete the project.

Leach field – Several families in our community need to have their leach field replaced due corrosion. We submitted name of community members to OEH and waiting on them to get back with us. Council Delegate Halona maybe able to assist us with this. We currently have some money available to cover cost.

Audit – Is due on Friday and we have worked diligently on this for several days. We have completed the corrective action plan (CAP) and now it will be submitted to the Audit General's office. They will review and respond back to us regarding our CAP measures. A resolution will be drafted and given to our Council Delegate to submit to RDC, Resource Development Committee. They in turn will then vote on the audit CAP.

District 14 – District 14 committee members will have a meeting to discuss which agency we should be reporting to and working with. Currently, Tohatchi, Twin Lakes, and Coyote Canyon Chapter are reporting to Crownpoint agency, Naschitti is reporting to Shiprock agency.

Julie B – Going back to re-authorization, I know some of them will expire in June 2021. Maria contacted Ben Cowboy with CPMD, the contract between NTUA and Navajo Nation is sitting on someone's desk at the office of the controller waiting for a number, need to follow-up with Ben Cowboy. If this can be done before June 30 by NTUA, then we don't need to do a re-authorization and I don't know if it's too late for re-authorization. Chapter will need to follow up on these projects which are due in February 2021. We don't want to lose that money, call Mrs. Yellowman for assistance.

Dorothy Bitsilly – is inquiring about the reimbursement of the cost of labor for the ramp that was built for her. She stated she was told it would be put on the agenda for this meeting. As an official, you should have a kind heart when dealing with people.

President Moore – We will get back with you next week after reviewing the request for reimbursement.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Maria - The financial report has been emailed out to individual who provided their email addresses. They can also find it in the shared drive. If you don't have internet you can pick up at Chapter. Starting with Balance Sheet, all of our fund balances have added up to the total Fund Balance in the amount of \$482,244.01, Currently, we have a variant on the budget for capital activities General Fund, which we need to fix. But we did balance out with Fund Balance and Bank Account. I was informed we are \$4,006.97 short, due to chapter stipends. President Nez veto our stipends and we need to go back into our budget for the year and make adjustments. But I believe we will be ok since our Vice President position was vacant from March 2020. This shortage will be covered by the money that was saved for the Vice President Position. All of our deposits have been submitted and checks have cleared. I am withholding a couple of checks due to the signature card with Wells Fargo, but should be cleared tomorrow. I did contact Flora and Wells Fargo account has been changed to Navajo Nation instead of Tohatchi Community Chapter. The Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer

signatures approval should be valid soon. We do have a discrepancy with a check that was written out to Home Depot, check# 9059 in amount of \$712.40. The check was deposited twice, once on November 30, 2020 and again on January 19, 2021. I am working with Paula (Accountant) with Home Depot to see what happen with this deposit. Our bank account has also balanced out with MIP and our bank reconciliation shows \$428,871.61. I should have an update on the adjustments on the stipends and the discrepancy with Check# 9059 in amount of \$712.40. Per President Moore our books for January 2021 were in balance with bank.

Motion: Council Delegate Halona

2nd Byron Bitsioie

Vote: 8-0-2

RESOLUTIONS:

Budget Transfer from Fund 01, General Activity Fund to cover the negative balance in amount of \$106.78 to other professional fees. We are taking out money in amount of \$400 from financial assistance for funerals to cover the negative balance of \$106.78 in Other Professional Fees.

Motion: 1st: Council Delegate Halona

2nd Julie Badonie

Vote: 7-0-2

Julie – Why is there a negative balance in Other Professional Fees? Per Maria. We did put money in this account to cover Solid Waste for clean up. We collected money for month of December and January 2021. The money went onto Fund 01 account for 1st quarter revenue but January amount is still there and we can't budget until 2nd quarter. In April we can put our revenue back into burial assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Planning Meeting, March 1, 2021, Red Willow Farm Board meeting February 23, 2021 at 10:00am and CLUPC has meeting on March 5, 2021 at 9:00am.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: March 17, 2021 @ 10:00am.

ADJOURNMENT: 1:37PM

Motion: 1st: Julie Badonie

2nd: Byron Bitsioie

Submitted by;



Jean Crawford

Secretary / Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter
February 23, 2021

cc: Mr. Sonny Moore, President

Mr. Mike Halona, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Mr. Maria Allison King, CSC

Mr. Pernall Halona, Council Delegate

Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, LDA

Mr. Byron Bitsoie, Sr., CLUPC President

Ms. Geneva Begay, Red Willow Farm Board