

**THE NAVAJO NATION**

**TOHATCHI COMMUNITY CHAPTER**

Post Office Box 1236 Tohatchi, New Mexico 87325 Tel: (505) 733-2845/2846 FAX: (505) 733-2847

***Julie Badonie, President Larson Manuelito, Vice President Harry” Sonny” Moore, Secretary/Treasurer Pernell Halona, Council Delegate***

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**TOHATCHI CHAPTER**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING**

**MARCH 04, 2019 @ 10:00 AM**

Meeting Recorded **MINUTES**

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

10.20 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Julie Badonie, President, Mr. Larson Manuelito, Vice-President, Mr. Sonny Moore, Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Leonard McReeves, Grazing Officer, Ms. Geneva Begay, Red Willow Board Member, Ms. Lucinda Barney, Community Service Coordinator, Mr. Ira Burbank, CLUPC Member, Mr. Mike Begay, CLUPC Vice-President, Mr. Pernell Halona, Council Delegate

**INVOCATION**

Mr. Lyle Begay-Community Citizen

**RECOGNITION OF GUEST**

McKinley County Schools (next chapter meeting)-Update

Mr. Jefferson Kee, CCRC, Executive Director

Mrs. Yvette Sandoval, CCRC,

Mrs. Dorothy Baldwin, Klagetoh,

**COMMUNITY REQUESTS**

^Geneva Begay-Requesting for supporting resolution to clean up the canal that feeds the lake. The Water Resource is willing to work with the chapter to clean up around 200 hundred yards of the canal. The Water Resource is willing to bring out an excavator to clean out the canal. They want to use the PEP workers to clean out the culverts. The President requested a letter from Red Willow to be written to the CSC for the request for labors. Mr. Mike Begay reported that the entire lake needs to be cleaned up before we put more water into the lake. There should be an effort by a group of people (or committee) to address the problems with the lake and canal. This has been on the planning boards for many years. Its time to plan to take care of this in its entirety and not piece mill it here and there. There may be environmental issues with the lake at this point. No one owns the lake; however, because its on trust land, it belongs to the Navajo Nation. Not one particular division or department of the Navajo Nation claims ownership of the Chooshgai Lake. According to Ms. Laris Manuelito, the latest allocation of the emergency funds has provisions or it allows monies for this type of clean-up to avoid a flood to the housing and school along the canal route. Back to the request from Geneva Begay, Red Willow, we have an opportunity to clean-up at least 200 yards of the canal before it turns into an emergency situation.

^Mr. Olin Kieyoomia-requests for a supporting resolution for the glove factory located in Church Rock, New Mexico. And he wants to present during the next chapter meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

^Mr. Tom Tony-brought up the concerns of the Council Delegate and his current situation. He was making reference to the recent media articles concerning Mr. Halona’s involvement in on-line dating. He is or will be requested to step-down and if that fails, there will be the next step, to move forward with a recall. This was brought up yesterday during the Coyote Canyon Chapter planning meeting. There were comments that he should be given the opportunity to speak to the community. There are concerns of the community about of this issue, we are in the spotlight, we are also the brunt of jokes and it is embarrassing. It appears that we are covering up his situation. There are social laws that need to be changed was another comment. As elected Officials or as a Delegate, you represent the community and your people, its not about yourself. The people still have the power and the authority. He has to face the community to explain himself. Also remember the Navajo Nation or the Dine’ people are encompassed by the Traditional Fundamental Law. In support, it was stated, he did not break the law and he will address the community. He is not hiding. It is disappointing that his own chapter wants to recall him. The comment made of “witch-hunt” was clarified and requested not to be used. The President (Mrs. Badonie) move away from the Chair and wanted to speak from the floor. She made her comments about the situation and how and what is being said when she attends meetings in Window Rock and other places. The Staff are being ridiculed about his actions. She also made comments about the recent emergency situation and the negative comments from some of the community citizens. After her input, she re-took her seat as President. Mrs. Mary Begay had her input into the situation. We don’t have any choice but to address and resolve the situation, therefore, put this on the agenda. She shared a story about being a leader and the responsibilities of being a moral leader and the responsibilities that are entailed. Back to the discussion, the Council Delegate showed up around 2:00 pm. He understands that he caused the embarrassment. This is his personal situation. He wanted to be in a personal relationship that eventually led to extortion. He filed a police report and it is still pending. He made an apology to the audience. He has not been asked to step down by the Council. He is a church going person. He was asked to reconsider his decision to be our Council Delegate (Mr. Tom Tony). It was brought up that the children, Mid-School, High School are having a “hey-day” with this situation. It is really bad out there with our children (social media) was the comment made by Mr. Lyle C. Begay. There was a discussion on the subject of extortion and how people use the Internet to scam their victims. There was a suggestion to invite someone from the Election Office to answer the question: You can only begin a recall or petition only after the elected individual has been in office for six months or more. There were comments made and compared to the incidents made in the higher offices such as Washington; however, that is the Anglo society, this is a Dine’ situation. Therefore, we need to handle this as Dine’ people and it is our situation.

^Renegotiate the Transfer Station Monthly Charges-$8.80 is the current charges to dispose of trash. The main intent was to renegotiate the monthly charges from the vendor, Navajo Sanitation, and they did agree that they will work with us. This should be done first before we ask for an increase from the community. The people in charge will get together on this and set-up a date. The subject of recycling was brought up, maybe we can or can be entertain in the future. The hours at the transfer station are? Let’s ask the community of Burnham New Mexico and see how they operate and offer free trash disposal at their transfer station.

^Policy Changes for Facility Rental and Others—this has been discussed before, facility rental or chapter rental, people don’t really take care of the facility. People have poured corn into the toilet, beans into the drainage, the rails have been broken. Some chapters don’t rent out their facilities. People just yank their decorations off the ceilings and walls and leaves spots and the ceiling damaged. The current rate is $100. Perhaps we can just close the chapter down to activities temporarily.

^Status of Rental Fees for Work Force Development Office-- The negotiations are still in progress. The two advertising signs along the highway was brought up and who is benefitting from the advertisement. Is someone receiving payment? Who authorized the two signs?

^Review of Budget for Possible Transfers within Fund

01/Fund 17—The CSC will have to reconcile the books first. This may be on the agenda for this month

^Senior Citizen Request for a New Building—the AGA is pending. The Senior Center belongs to the chapter. Ms. Marcella Franklin went through the agreement and did a summary to the audience. They are also working on a backyard garden for the Senior Citizens. There are also on-going plans for a new Senior Center building. The AGA will be on the agenda for the March 21, 2019 chapter meeting.

Community Service Coordinator- the report of crows at the road side food service (trash disposal) (also known as Riverside) between the Giant and Tohatchi- NNOG gas station. The trash is an issue there, and the Plummer family will be contacted.

**REPORTS OR PRESENTATIONS**

**^**Mr. Jefferson Kee, Executive Director-Requesting for supporting resolution for pavement repair and requesting for funds of the Navajo Nation. The cost will be around $300,000. Requesting for two trailers, vehicles (2 vehicles). They transport clients every day. The total cost will be around $750,000. They will be requesting this in one proposal and will submit the electronic file (resolution) to the Sec/Treas. They will be on an agenda March 21, 2019. They will be making the same requests to the other four chapters.

**^**Mrs. Dorothy Balwin-NTEC for the acquisition of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS). Requesting for supporting resolution and will do a presentation March 21, 2019 during the next chapter meeting. See handouts. The resolution will be in favor to keep the NGS open. It would be good to have the pros and cons type of presentation during the chapter meeting to educate the public so they can make a good decision. The Vice-President provided information on the subject, more or less, not in favor of the purchase by NTEC. There was good input from the audience. There was a comment that our Council Delegate should be here to hear the discussion. The Council Delegate should vote as what the community wants and not what the Council Delegate thinks.

**^**President and Other Officials Report --The emergency allocation was mentioned, pending the Navajo Nation President signature.

**^**Snow fall Crisis Report by Staff and President—the chapter President declared an emergency and the NN President declared an emergency on February 20th. We were able to provide and help the elders (high-risk). There was food purchase, wood, and coal, and pellets. Mr. Herb Dennison was already clearing the roads since February 21, 2019. There were disputes on some families wanting their roads graded first and demanded that they be first. This disrupted the schedule of the grader. The employees worked beginning February 21 and worked through the weekend. There were only four volunteers. We needed more volunteers from the community. People still picking up food and what’s left. CSC is busy with summarizing the emergency activities. “we have a good and dedicated staff.” There was a concern with Ella Watchman, she was assisted with wood, coal, and food. GPS and Map of High-Risk Elders—Lyle can be assigned to this task. The Emergency Management booklet of some sort has been in the works but it has not been completed. What about an “alert team”? This is still work in progress. No, we don’t have a written procedure in place. It was brought up, hire a technical person that all chapters can use to assist us with the emergency management document, hire an accountant that will assist all five chapters with their finance. Finance is a core responsibility of all chapters. Hire a chapter manager to assist the CSC with their responsibilities.

**^**Update on the East-Flat Water Line Extension--$833,333 from Sihasin funds toward the project. We met with IHS Mr. McDonnell to discuss this project. They are willing to work with the chapter; however, there are some things that are considered a barrier (s) to the project. This project involves NTUA and Water Management. Somehow the funding has been transferred to NTUA…why? This is another hindrance to the project. Ms. Laris Manuelito was asked to set up a meeting with the Speaker and the Budget and Finance Chairperson.

**^**Update on the resurveying of Potential Business Sites—there are eight sites that are scheduled for resurveying. This is work in progress. This project when it is completed will be shared with the CLUPC and the community.

**^**Grazing Officer Report-Requesting for support resolution for the entrapment of animals. He did not give a report.

**^**CLUPC Report—Cemetery survey, safety complex, the orchard site has been selected, baseball park, and the Veteran’s site for resurvey. We need to sit down with the Veteran’s for a land exchange. The post office is still working with the chapter to begin the renovations. Working with the Health Center as a joint planning group to develop the health center tract and the old BIA school site. It was noted that the baseball park has two homesites south of the park. There is a gardening project with the Senior Citizen Center which is still in the planning stages.

**^**Red Willow Report—see the Geneva Begay report. Question of who has the key to the locks? Just cut it off. The abandon pipe at the Red Willow site, Water Resource recommends that the pipe be reburied. The pipe is exposed and left that way.

**^**Senior Center—See the “Discussion” item for Ms. Marcella Franklin.

**^**Council Delegate Report—see under “Discussion” item Tom Tony discussion. He went over the meeting on the NGS and NTEC situation. There is a individual making presentations on drug abuse and that person might be able to do a presentation here. FEMA reports are tedious; however, it is a necessary evil to continue to receive funding from the Federal government.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR CHAPTER MEETING**

1. Approve the Recent Allocation of Emergency Funds and a Budget in the Amount of $29,323.20
2. Resolution for Budget (Interoffice) Transfers
3. Resolution to Support Coyote Canyon Rehabilitation Center for Capital Items (CCRC)
4. Resolution to Support NTEC to Keep the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) in Operation
5. Resolution to Support and Continue the Entrapment of Feral Animals
6. Resolution to Support Red Willow to Work with Water Resource to Clean 200 Yards of the Canal Feeding the Chooshgai Lake
7. Resolution to Request for Sihasin Funds $100,000 to Clean Up the Chooshgai Lake and the Surrounding Tributaries
8. Resolution to Support the Appropriation of Sihasin Fund in the Amount of $19,000 for the Glove Factory Located in Church Rock, New Mexico
9. Resolution to Request the Council Delegate to Step-Down or Resign Voluntarily Because of the Recent Personal Allegations
10. Resolution to Approve the AGA between the Chapter and Senior Center
11. Resolution Supporting a New Senior Citizen Center
12. Resolution for Housing Discretionary Funds

Motion: Larson Manuelito Second: Geneva Begay Vote:3-0-1

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Red Willow meeting for tomorrow is cancel.

**ADJOURNMENT**

5:50 p.m.

Motion: Larson Manuelito Second: Julie Badonie Vote: 3-0-1

Submitted by;

Mr. Harry “Sonny” Moore

Secretary/Treasurer

Tohatchi Chapter

March 7, 2019

Cc:

Mrs. Julie Badonie, President

Mr. Larson Manuelito, Vice-President

Ms. Lucinda Barney, CSC

Mr. Deon Ben, President, CLUPC

Mr. Mike Begay, Vice-President, CLUPC

Mr. Leonard McReeves, Grazing Officer

Mrs. Dorothy Bitsilly, President, Red Willow Farm

Mr. Pernell Halona, Council Delegate

Staff

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