



# TEMPORARY AUTHORIZE QUORUM REDUCTION MEETING

March 23, 2022 10:00am

## TOHATCHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

AUDIO TELECONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: (575) 567-3331 PIN: 290 206 733#

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**I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 10:10AM**

**II. ROLL CALL:** President Sonny Moore, Vice President Mike Halona, Secretary/Treasurer Jean Crawford, Grazing Officer Moore, and Council Delegate Halona

**III. INVOCATION:** Franklin Thompson

**IV. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**Motion:** Olin Kieyoomia 2<sup>nd</sup> Elwood Yazzie **Vote:** 8-0-1

**Olin Kieyoomia** - I had made some recommendation and requested resolutions which I don't see on the agenda. It's the chapter official's responsibility to accept the resolutions that a community member is requesting.

**President Moore** - You brought several items to our attention at our planning meeting, first being the Tohatchi Chapter website. The majority of these items you have brought to our attention has been discussed in detail. We would like training on how to setup the webpage and we are hoping to get that up and running soon. Secondly, the Unhealthy Food Tax fund, we are working with Mr. Bitsilly on this currently and we will go back to gaming tax restrictions, allowable, and disallowable. Where is it exactly, the chapter can help Red Willow using the Unhealthy Food Tax fund. Lastly, the appointment of Fern Spencer into the CLUPC, this was not on the agenda at the planning meeting, but I believe I mentioned it. I reviewed the applicants and I had a meeting with the other officials and with their help, I made a selection.

**Olin Kieyoomia** - As far the resolution to have Red Willow utilize the Unhealthy Food Tax fund for farming purposes. It should be back on the agenda as "Old Business" at the next planning meeting. This is also an audit finding within the meeting on how we take action on certain item that's requested by the people, because it has to do with budgetary concerns. Why wasn't the public made aware, what's the justification? But now, you stated that on the record, it's now in written form to say you did discuss it. This is also a part of the audit, whether it be a physical or desk audit by the NN Auditor General, officials should be aware these meetings are also included in the audit. These findings are the same as some of the other chapters have had, so let's try not to forget the resolutions that we recommend. I want the action item, especially the Red Willow to be on Old Business at the next meeting.

**V. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2022 QUORUM REDUCTION MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion to read on your own:**

1<sup>st</sup> Olin Kieyoomia 2<sup>nd</sup> Elwood Yazzie **Vote:** 8-0-1

**VI. PRESENTATION**

**NM State Representative D. Wonda Johnson** - I want to give you an update on the status of your Capital Outlay and your funding. It looks like you have some money that you need to spend by June 30, 2022, this last 30-day budget session we allocated \$100,000 to Tohatchi Chapter Waste Water System Improvement at your request. Also \$950,000 was allocated per your request by my colleague. Senator Pinto for the Tohatchi Chapter Public Safety Complex plan. I followed up on your reversions, you have about \$19,000 for Tohatchi Chapter Powerline extension which was appropriated in 2020 and it will expire June 30, 2022. The Tohatchi Red Willow Farm utility road, I believe this has been spent but it says you have \$170,000. Next you have the

Tohatchi Chapter Warehouse construction. This was appropriated in 2018 and still the books at \$112,000 and will expire June 30, 2022. If you can, you should expend those dollars even if you utilize that for plans, design, and construction. Then I had a couple of colleagues who want to know about funding that went to the county as it pertains to them as dual citizens. My constituents said, I live in Gallup and on weekends go home to the reservation and I'm a resident of McKinley County, or I'm a resident of San Juan County, I live in Farmington but I go back to reservation on weekends, how does the state help me since I'm a dual citizen? So in addition to the Capital Outlay project that we are allocated, I received \$1.8 million and my priority list always starts with my chapters who received \$100,000, after the chapters I look at the city and county. I look at the institution and entities our Navajo people utilize. For example: Gallup Senior Center, the parks, and homeless shelter, things of that nature. Our children go to UNM so they got \$3 million, Navajo Technical University got about \$4 million for our students/children and Dine College got about \$5 million for our students/children. We also did some work for tribal libraries Torreon will be getting a new library and received \$300,000 for plan and design. They were able to do this because they are state recertified. So, what we did with the rest of our Navajo chapters is we allocated half a million so our chapters can become state certified. We've done some good work for teachers as far as increase in salaries including teacher retention and recruitment. If you have any questions, you can call me or email me.

**Franklin Thompson** - I would like to ask if the highway 491 also known as "John Pinto" highway can be repaired for potholes and imperfections. Highway was poorly made to begin with and the same problems with the road into Window Rock which we call "Code Talker" road. Also, we are still waiting on the lightening along 491 from Naschitti into Gallup, NM.

**President Moore** - Just an update on the lighting, we are working on this and we now have estimates for the chapters (Tohatchi, Mexican Springs, and Twin Lakes) so we can move forward on this project. The other priority is the Safety Complex and its just something the chapter and the 2 division in W/R have to get together to have the old Detention Center demolished. We are also looking for funding to complete the Warehouse next to the chapter. We are short about \$700,000 to complete and I'm hoping to get it done by summer.

**Representative Johnson** - I want to explain, you have some money sitting in the bank and so we get in trouble as State Representatives and Senators when it looks like the money is not being utilized, so it's harder for us to go back and ask for more money, because sometimes it gets veto. I encourage you to spend what you have allocated.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** - This is new to me and I'm wondering, is it possible to get extensions on some of these deadlines?

**Representative Johnson** - Yes, we always look at our funding list to make sure it does not get reverted and expired. We can only reappropriate it some many times before we lose it.

**Olin Kieyoomia** - What the Representative is saying is we have \$19 million for powerlines, and its concerning when we don't pay attention to the fund allocations from Santa Fe. I'm wondering who is overseeing the projects at the chapter that deal with state funding. It sounds like no one is communicating with CPMD and Santa Fe. Sounds like the chapter officials need to have a discussion to prioritize our projects at the chapter level because you can only reallocate so many times before you lose the funding. Someone needs to contact CPMD to ask who are the project liaisons on these projects. I would also like to ask Representative Johnson to write a letter in support of keeping the Gallup CBOK open. The veteran's clinic by Ellis Tanner in Gallup, NM because I know of a lot of veterans who utilize that facility. I was also wondering who sits on the Highway Commission Board, representing District one within 491 corridors? There are a lot of potholes and Navajos do pay a lot of money to the state of NM and we want to see our roads rehabilitated.

**Representative Johnson** - We are working on the Gallup Veteran's satellite clinic and I believe that one is not slated to close. I will keep you updated and I can also invite you to the meetings. Lastly, I can coordinate a

meeting with Roads Department, the superintendent, to get a feasibility study along this corridor.

**Vice President Halona** - My understanding is there has not been any movement as far as ARPA is concerned. There is still a lot of debate happening on the projects, and some have been taken off the list. When a project is proposed, it goes through DOJ, they review the project and make a determination, if it does not meet the justification, the project is taken out or they can ask if it can be revised. Of course, we learned during Cares Act, where our limitations were, and what the expectation are going to be for the ARPA funding projects. They are really watching the funds to make sure they are being used strictly per federal guidelines. This is where the bottlenecks are starting to happen, chapters and delegates are asking about their projects and wanting updates and status of pending projects.

There were 63 interviews held for the vacant positions with ARPA and the selection were made and have gone out. Some positions are still vacant and have been re-advertised to get them filled. Some of the water and utility projects are starting to come in. I think the enterprises are anticipating that once the funding is released, they will of course replenish/reimburse themselves with the funding that were justified for those projects. The Resource Development Committee has been hearing from varies chapters on some of the challenges they are having with homesites, such as the moratorium, homes that are in the forested area which were put in place back in 1992. Homes that were there prior to 1992, says it should be grandfathered in but the moratorium says no new development, so that has opened up another aspect. RDC will be having a work session so they can be informed of where all the restricted areas are and take action. RDC has the authority to resend or waive. We are still actively proposing to have a reduced requirements for existing resident, existing homesites, we have already started processing a couple of them and waiting on RDC to accept the new ARPR processing for existing residents so they can get utilities, water, and bathroom additions. Now, they are leaning toward what we have been proposing all along from Historic Preservation and Fish and Wildlife who will be meeting with RDC to come up with a problematic agreement. Right now, I don't know of any big projects that have been allocated.

**Olin Kieyoomia** - how much is left from the \$2 Billion ARPA funding?

**Vice President Halona** - I currently don't have that information, I personally don't check to see what the remaining balance is. You can get that information from the new ARPA office that was established and is overseen by Mr. Tom Platero. But if you like, I can get that information for you.

**Tohatchi Health Center** - The new Administrator for Tohatchi Health Center, I started on February 28<sup>th</sup> but I was at GIMC doing orientation and arrived at Tohatchi on March 7<sup>th</sup>. I am glad to be here and excited for the opportunities here. I'm originally from Ft. Defiance, AZ and I've been working in Kayenta for the past 6 years before coming here. I'm going to go over the hours at the clinic, we operate under the Gallup Service Unit. We have staff that work closely with GSU and in return, some of the GSU staff come here to assist because some of our positions are not filled. Some of the priorities I'm working on is getting our health providers positions filled, focusing on our new endeavor which is the "Patient Center Model Home" and getting certified and getting ready for joint commission. I also plan to help carry out the mission with IHS which is to help raise the health status of the American Indian and Alaska Natives we serve. Currently, Tohatchi Health Center operation and scope of services entail, we open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8am-4:30pm, Wednesday from 1pm-4:30pm. Walk-in clinic has opened backup on March 7<sup>th</sup>, providers are seeing patients in-person and setting up appointments. We are doing vaccination; nurse visits are continuing those visits which do not require a provider such as blood pressure checks. Car base testing is also continuing. We are promoting children keeping up with their immunization. Dental and Optometry has the same hours as the walk-in clinic. Our community health nurse is assisting GSU currently. We have 62 staff on board currently at Tohatchi Health Center, and one of the most important messages I want to convey to the community is to please continue to wear your mask, stay 6ft apart, wash your hands fluently, and use hand sanitizers.

**Vice President Halona** - I want to welcome Ms. Bitsue to our community here in Tohatchi.

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** - I also want to welcome Zondra to our community. We have been waiting for a new HSA and we were excited to hear you accepted the position and were willing to come out.

**President Moore** - We would like to include you, Ms. Bitsue on our CLUP Committee and will continue sending invites to you for the varies meetings.

**Vice President Halona** - I believe we need to correct the March 2022 minutes to include a statement that says the February 2022 Chapter meeting was rescheduled to March 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

January 2022 Financial Report - This report was tabled and we need to un-table the financial report.

**Motion:** Olin Kieyoomia 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Delegate Halona Vote: 10-0-1

**Discussion:** President Moore - we send out the Balance Sheet, Check Register, and Reconciliation. What we were missing was the Budget to Actual which will be included in the hand-outs and on the website.

**Motion to Accept:** 1<sup>st</sup> Elwood Yazzie 2<sup>nd</sup> Geneva Begay Vote: 10-0-1

**Grazing Officer Moore** - I'll give update on the AIF program, I'm ready to get the vouchers out, I'm be calling individuals to get signatures and give instructions. I've met with T&R and they are ready to go, just waiting on the funding. I hope to get the priority one group their vouchers before the end of the month. Just remember, we will not be giving out the vouchers all at once, since this will have an impact on T&R. I'm looking at doing 8-10 at a time and stagger the distribution every 2 weeks. Also, in reference to our range conditions, you've seen the weather and wind. I continue to stress to the livestock producers that they will need to adjust their livestock numbers. There is really nothing out there for livestock to graze on. We completed more horse gatherings and equine rescues and pickup about 38 more feral horses in our community.

**Maria CSC** - We have a few more AIF applications from community members here at the Chapter.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Secretary/Treasurer Crawford** -The February 2022 Financial Report: Let's start with the balance sheet, the beginning bank balance is **\$483,712.18** for February 2022 and ending balance is **\$501,684.11**. From the Bank Reconciliation for Checking Accounts, the Combining Balance Sheet amount is **\$500,339.01**. This includes all the fund balances plus total Liabilities which are like Bank debt, money owed to suppliers called Accounts Payable. Wages and taxes owed; it's a certain amount the chapter owes to someone or a company. This equals the Reconciled Bank Balances of \$501,648.11 which is the amount ending on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**President Moore** - Reconciliation has been balance with the Balance Sheet. So, as far as our financial report, we are in balance for February 28, 2022. Budget to Actual report from the beginning of new fiscal year, accounting for all the expenditures is available to community.

**Motion:** Franklin Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Elwood Yazzie Vote: 10-0-1

#### **VII. RESOLUTIOS:**

1. **028-03-2022** - Resolution to approve Budget Transfer within Fund 17, NN Emergency Funds, in the amount of \$1,500 to be put in Gasoline-vehicle, Diesel Fuel, and Professional Fees, within the Chapter Funds to purchase Gas for Heavy Equipment and Chapter Truck.

**Maria, CSC** - Both vehicles, chapter truck and heavy equipment both use diesel fuel.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Elwood Yazzie 2<sup>nd</sup> Geneva Begay Vote: 7-0-1

2. **029-03-2022** - Resolution to approve Housing Discretionary Assistance Fund for Mr. Elwood Yazzie in the amount of \$58.38 for ceiling repair.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Council Delegate Halona 2<sup>d</sup> Gerald Moore Vote: 9-0-2

3. **030-03-2022** - Resolution to approve Samuel Septic Service for Septic Cleaning for 25 registered community homeowners from Fund 23 (Sales Tax) with a cost share of \$90.00 per household.

**Motion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Elwood Yazzie 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Begay Vote: 10-0-1

4. **031-03-2022** - Resolution to approve the NN Sales Tax allocation of \$48,966.00 for fiscal year 2022. It will be accompanied by a Budget in the same amount next month.

**Maria, CSC** - I'm asking the community to accept the resolution in the amount of \$48,966.00 and next month we will provide information on which funds were allocated from the NN Sales Tax.

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Franklin Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Elwood Yazzie Vote: 10-0-1**

**5. 032-03-2022** - Resolution to approve the fiscal year 2022 Budget and allocation of \$14,267.00 for the NN Unhealthy Food Tax Fund.

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Jean Crawford 2<sup>nd</sup> Priscilla Duncan Vote: 10-0-1**

**6. 033-03-2022** - Resolution to approve Fern Spencer as the new CLUPC member for year 2022.

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Begay 2<sup>nd</sup> Franklin Thompson Vote: 10-0-1**

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Planning Meeting April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10am, CLUPC Meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9am, Ft. Defiance Agency Meeting April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 9am, RWFb Meeting March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm, District 14 Planning Meeting March 31<sup>st</sup> @ 5pm, District 14 Grazing Meeting @ Coyote Canyon April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9am. April 18-21 will be the community cleanup week.

Tohatchi Chapter's Website is up and running and if committees want to have something posted let Gena, the receptionist know or Janice at the Chapter.

**IX. NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: APRIL 20, 2022 @ 10am**

**X. ADJOURNMENT: 12:41pm**

**Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Geneva Begay 2<sup>nd</sup> Elwood Yazzie**

Submitted by;



Secretary/Treasurer, Tohatchi Chapter **March 30, 2022**

cc: Mr. Sonny Moore, President

Mr. Mike Halona, Vice-President

Mr. Gerald Moore, Grazing Officer

Ms. Maria Allison, CSC

Mr. Pernell Halona, Council Delegate

Mr. Elvis Bitsilly, LDA