

**Tse Alnaozti'i' Chapter**  
**January Regular Chapter Meeting Minutes**  
**by Teleconference & In Person Limit of 25 persons**  
**January 16, 2022**  
**1 p.m.**

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:41 p.m. by President Haskie

**II. ROLL CALL**

Roll Call of Officials

President: Jeanne Haskie- PRESENT

Vice-President: Gerald Henderson- PRESENT

Secretary/Treasurer: Jourdan Washburn- PRESENT

Grazing Member: Alonzo Cohoe- PRESENT

Council Delegate: Amber Crotty- PRESENT

12 REGISTERED VOTERS- IN PERSON

13 REGISTERED VOTER- VIA ZOOM TELECOMMUNICATIONS

3 GUESTS- NON-VOTERS

**III. INVOCATION**

Invocation given by Vice-President Gerald Henderson

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

Secretary/ Treasurer Washburn read the standing agenda into record.

Motion By Christine Benally                      Second by Elouise Brown

Darlene Smith: The resolutions forthcoming, is that allowed?

President Haskie: She said it will be given to us. These documents were due by Wednesday. I will make that exception for this meeting. For the future meetings, they need to be given to us according the policy of 48 hrs. before the meeting.

Christine Benally: I think that needs to be approved by policy by the people and not just a decision.

Secretary/ Treasurer Washburn: We heard your statement, the response is, all documents and agenda need to be provided 48 hrs. before the meeting to the community. This is noted in Title 26 and that's what President Haskie is basing it upon. There is a motion and a second, we will now take a vote.

Christine Benally: I also want to add, these resolutions that are being presented, if it regards the land, they have to have the consent attached to it. The voting members and permittees need to be present. That needs to be exercised as well.

Elouise Brown: Are you referring it to the helium resolution, regarding the 48-hr. notice?

Secretary/ Treasurer Washburn It pertains to all resolutions and reports.

Elouise Brown: I just informed Jourdan that I was unable to get the resolution on time. I asked to strike that resolution.

Phyllis Todacheene: That is what I heard from Elouise, she requested it to be withdrawn.

President Haskie: Just to clarify, you are withdrawing # 6 and 7?

Elouise Brown: Yes, that's what I told Jourdan earlier. I am on the road. I have no choice right now but to do that.

Christine Benally: What is 6 and 7? I only see to #4. Where is the agenda? Is it on Facebook?

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: Yes, it was emailed out, available on social media and currently on Zoom and Facebook.

Christine Benally: What's the Facebook page?

Elouise Brown: I didn't receive the email.



Lastly, I want to appreciate OPVP, Council for signing in the Hardship relief. We know it's been a process with paperwork. We do want to provide every eligible citizen to apply for the dollars that have been provided during this time. Also, elders over 60 will be receiving a \$300 check sometimes this week or next week. We are looking at housing manufacturer and development. We asked NECA to develop a housing manufacture site. We want to build multiple homes for the Navajo nation and not just one home per chapter. This month is Human trafficking prevention month. We will have an awareness if it is safe and have some education. On Naabikyati floor, we discussed the helium operation. We had a few work sessions. I want to thank the chapter officials for engaging and continuing to get that updated information. Some areas of concern, the legislation requesting for an operating agreement and what does that mean. That limits the company to just do exploration. In the work session, they combined everything. It does not give them the authority to drill. We will be hearing that before council, unfortunately there was not an amendment to change the name of Beautiful Mountain. With that action from the Chapter today, that could be developed for consideration if Speaker moves it forward. I'd like to introduce Melinda Arviso, she is with the Office of the Speaker, she's the speakers' staff. We work together and have been following this legislation. At the last meeting, there was a request to translate this into Navajo. She is here to give you an update and we did ask for a community meeting and community discussion.

Melinda Arviso: She is the legislative staff for Speaker Damon. There were a lot of concerns brought up for this legislation from the Council floor. Including the questions about permit holders, the traditional meaning behind activities and what does the community think about this. This is over 500-page legislation. It has been requested between all involved to speak with the community and provide answers to the people and listen to what the people must think about it. It will be explained properly and potentially move forward. There will be upcoming scheduled meetings. I know NNOGC has provided some dates. Speaker Damon wants to hear himself.

Delegate Crotty: We know with supporting the chapter leadership, if a legislation requires more, we want to get together and discuss these things. I don't know if the Chapter was apart of the last issue, with the bridge. There was a lot of different opinions in the community. If we can continue to have those discussion and make some modifications and more education. We could get to an outcome that benefits the community. This is part of my report, and I am just looking back at some challenges. I am reminding the community to talk things out and to have dialog with one another.

Christine Benally: I have some comments. DOJ does not represent the people; they represent the Navajo Nation Government. The landowners have not been engaged, they don't have consent, and this is moving forward. I looked over that document, there is nothing that shows the people were considered. I know the chapter is talking about the 1.7 million going to the chapter, it doesn't even say that in there. The agreement is with the people, under the treaty, fundamental law, the US religious freedom, the rights of indigenouse people. It is up to us, and it isn't. When I mentioned the agenda, the resolutions need to have consent from those impacted and that's not included. Then those impacted, need to be there and vote. That's why those resolutions mean nothing. That's why I already emailed Speaker Damon to come and speak with the people. We will see if that does happen. We should have been included from the beginning. The landowners aren't being told anything. The consent needs to be there for the Council to further acknowledge something like this but that's not what is happening. Daniel Tso said that on Wednesday. The three sites, the people are going to be targeted. How are they going to feel when it targets their community? People were not aware of it. People work, herd sheep and busy, they don't make it to the public hearings or chapter meetings.

They should have been approached. I asked them, who came and saw you? They said no. They told me; they didn't agree with it. This happened before the pandemic and now they are using it as an excuse. I mentioned the laws that are being violated. It needs to be in the Navajo Language too. The Navajo Nation is causing trauma to the people. This affects everyone, making us not sleep at night, their health is going down. I think that needs to be considered. The white people used to do that to us and now it's the Navajo Nation doing it to us.

President Haskie: You can come to the meeting on Sunday and voice your concern there. You can explain that to them and more people will be here to listen too.

Christine Benally: I just want all that on record!

## **2. Community Health Representative, Berlinda Dickson**

Berlinda Dickson: I have been working as the CHR in the community for the past 7 years. COVID 19 is still active in the community. We currently have home test kits from the hospital. If someone doesn't understand it, the 2 office persons come get me and I can go through it with them. I talked with Dr Percy yesterday and some people are wasting these kits. We have been told to train those who are asking. I went to a home yesterday and was under his advisement. There are 2 tests in the kit. There is a reason. Everyone knows the signs of the COVID. If you are showing symptoms, you take the test, not both. It's one kit per person. My chapter is fortunate to have these, and I am sure it's Jourdan that did this. Not all the chapters are this fortunate. I have been in this position for a while, no one comes to see me. I have a lot of information, brochures to give out to the people. I have them ready to give out. I put them on the information board, and someone tore them down. It costs a lot of money to make those colored copies. I remember I attended the last chapter meeting. I explained the 213 forms and send those to Window Rock. I detail what people need for those who have tested positive or exposed. Health Command Center reviews those, then they call you, but you must answer them. Then they send it to the pod site, then they ask the CHR, supervisor approves, I pick up and then I deliver. I call them before hand and make sure they stay inside. That's how I used those forms. I saw in the report, but I don't have to be at all chapter meetings. I don't oversee just Sanostee, I see Gadiiahi and Sweetwater. I do have to attend their meetings as well. I enjoy my job too. Last meeting, I told you that you can get information on the Navajo Department of Health. Get up to date with all the information. They just handed out good masks, I also have sanitizer as well.

Marilyn Billey: I like to have your phone number.

Berlinda Dickson: I update the bulletin board, 928-551-4530 is my work number. It is monitored, so please do not ask for money because some people do.

Marilyn Billey: I called but I don't get a response.

Berlinda Dickson: You can also call the office and leave a message. I save all those messages.

LaVerda Washburn: Do you have any timeline of when they will be getting out N95's to the people?

Berlinda Dickson: I work closely with Jourdan, and I have asked HCOC, but they have not given me a timeline yet. If you use regular masks, use two of them. If we do, we will post it for people to know.

## **3. Grazing Official, Alonzo Cohoe**

Alonzo Cohoe: In the past month, we started doing the tally counts for the Ag Infrastructure Fund to purchase hay. It's for all livestock owners to get help with hay. There wasn't a lot of tally counts done in 2021. I think I only have 100 permits done. I know some are in court or transfer. I have done 10 more and doing the applications for the hay assistance. The chapter office does have some and I am carrying them as well.

When I am out doing tally counts, I have them fill out the applications. They are due by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Sanostee has 210 permits now, but we've only gotten 70 % tall counts since 2010. Please call me so we can do your tally count, so you can also sign up for this hay assistance. The homesite lease legislation they just talked about, we voted against that under Northern Agency Grazing Official. We do not agree with it. We continue to hold grazing permit meetings monthly. Ours will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm and we will talk about updated issues. We will also go over our conservation plans as well. My cell number is 505-354-3028. Text me first and ill get in touch with you.

Christine Benally: Can you email a template of the conservation plan to me? I can than forward to those who are also interested.

Alonzo Cohoe: Okay, I will. Thank you.

**4. Tse Alnaozti'i Veterans Organization, Leo Billey**

Commander Billey: We lost a comrade in Nov, Theron Arnold. I went to the funeral. We laid him to rest. The reception was at the church. It was a drive through food give out. The chapter put a sign at the entrance. It was nicely made that said thank you veterans. Someone spray painted it and ruined it. Who would do that? Do they not respect the Veterans? Also, there was money sent to Shiprock Agency Office in a lump sum. It was all disbursed to the 19 chapters. With the little money that we have here at the chapter, we use those for appointments. Shiprock Agency Veterans Service Officer and Secretary were chased out. The office is closed now. We do not know if someone will be filling those positions. The veteran's director does not help us either. We try and put him on the agenda, but he does not work with us. He is only a in law. It's just not right for him to be appointed in this position. The advisory committee keeps asking for someone who is Navajo and speaks the language to speak for our veterans in DC. He replied, President Nez already appointed him to do the job. He doesn't consider our needs of the veterans. We keep complaining about it, but they aren't listening. We also talked about the Council Delegate support. We feel it should go back to basic and each chapter have a delegate. This will ensure each delegate focus on the needs of their community.

**5. Sanostee Day School, School Board Member**

Phyllis Todacheene (report given and attached to minutes) Additional information: Vacancies are open. Principal was selected but the person declined the position.

**6. SASI, School Board Member**

Sarah White: The school is in the same situation, working online with Zoom. The teachers are teaching from home as well. Students are learning and we are getting good reports. They all have tablets and laptops. The same as the staff. Last month, COVID affected the kitchen staff, so it was closed. Now it is back up and the students are getting their meals, including Sanostee and Beclabito. The closer homes go to the school. New dormitories are still in the works. WE had our meeting last Saturday, but I forgot my report information. I'll report that next month. The staff like custodian, security, and office staff, they continue to put in work hours.

**7. CCSD, School Board Member- Not presenting at this meeting.**

**8. Chapter Update-** Report was disbursed and attached to minutes.

- i. Housing Discretionary Assistance- Open this month, applications due by 01/31/2022 @ 5 pm. Must turn in all documents by deadline.

- ii. Scholarship Assistance- Applications for Spring are being accepted now and due by 01/31/2022 by 5 p.m.
- iii. Motor Grader is currently being repaired. The oil pump is being repaired, which is a repair of a little over \$17,000.00. We are hoping by next week it will be up and running. Once done, the operator can blade the main roads. BIA and NDOT are working on their emergency priorities elsewhere at this time.
- iv. Chapter Certification is on the table. The reason it's being considered is because of the opportunities it has for our chapter. We can hire our own people for our CSC, we can request for monies outside the approval of the Tribe. Those type of things and contracts can be negotiated within the chapter.
- v. Previous Post Office/Trading post is being discussed with RBDO. The building is ruined now and people are taking the building materials now. The building does not belong to the chapter but they are asking what we plan to do with it. They have recommended demolition but this is something we are talking about.
- vi. Trash Dumping: We've been getting continuous complaints about the amount of people dumping trash. We will be having a forum about this issue and want people to come talk about this.
- vii. Weight loss/Wellness Challenge: 90-day challenge starting tomorrow. If you want to join, we will have a weight scale that you can come in and sign up. Month by month activities. Awards will be done month by month and then one large reward at the end. We have all joined the challenge and encourage others to join too. If you do not have a computer, we will have paper copy available.
- viii. Road 5012 Sanostee Wash Bridge: The north bridge has been approved for construction. Starting in late Feb to early March. There will be a pre-construction meeting in early February. That will be announced to the community and you can join us to hear the final details. There will be more activity from the construction crew. By the summer, we will have the bridge completed.
- ix. Road Grading of Main Roads: Grader is down. BIA and NDOT cannot come out at this time. Once the chapter grader is up and running, our operator will grade the main roads.
- x. Agriculture Infrastructure Funds: The chapter is receiving \$43,000 for hay money. Thank you to council and OPVP for approving it. You do have to apply to get assistance. There are three priorities, priority one is permit holders, second is permit holders not in compliance, third is people with livestock but have no permit. If you do not apply, you do not get assistance. Applications are with Alonzo and the Chapter Office. They are due by the 31<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm. Next Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will have an application drive from 10 am to 12 pm.

**Motion by Direne Curley**

**Second by Kori Tso**

**Memberships vote 26 (15 in person and 11 online) in favor, 0 opposed and 1 (1 in person) abstained to accept the reports.**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Resolution No. TAT-22-01-15. ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE TSE ALNAOZTI'I CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2021 WITH ATTACHMENT A & B.** *Sponsor: Chapter Officials and Staff*

Motion by Direne Curley

Second by Darlene Smith



I was told that there were people wanting to extract oil, so I went and looked myself. Sure enough, I saw the markers they were talking about. I then asked the chapter officials about it. I asked for a meeting with Tacitus. They explained to us, it wasn't them and it was Navajo Nation Oil and Gas. I was afraid they were going to attack the mountain. Again, I asked for a meeting with them. Then they explained they were not going to be doing anything to the mountain but they are looking for helium in the flat areas. They also explained that there was a resolution that approved their work from years back and now they are acting on it. I thought, how come no one said anything then? I am only worried about the mountains. We move up there, we move our animals up there. There are ceremonies that were done and sacred offerings made. That's what I am protecting. That is why I questioned the use of the name Beautiful Mountain and that's why we recommended it be changed to Big Gap Dam. After finding out it wasn't going to be on the mountain, I want the documents to reflect that. In case someone tries to attack the mountain, it will be in writing that we do not want the mountains to be affected and bothered. This is why I made this resolution, to ensure that the mountains are to be left alone. In the future, who will protect the mountains and that's why I want these resolutions to be included.

Frank Smith: The resolution was approved back then. If you want to place an opposing resolution for a vote, you first need to take the previous resolution out. There are rules to doing that. You remove the prior one and then put the opposing resolution on. It doesn't work that way. That is why I requested to table it. I think you guys need to redo that and rescind the old one first before putting on an opposing resolution.

President Haskie: There is no opposing resolution. There were 2 that come to the chapter meeting, but there is no resolution right now.

Frank Smith: The one Melvin is talking about. He has two items he is talking about. The name change, I am not opposing it. The second part, opposing any drilling. That's the one I am talking about.

Alonzo Cohoe: Frank, I think you are on two different things. This resolution is on the name change. Then the other part is to not have mineral exploration on the two mountains. This resolution is not opposing the project. I think you might be confusing it. The opposition resolution is not coming in. If that's what you were thinking.

President Haskie: I think that's the misunderstanding there. This resolution about the name change.

Sarah White: Question and comment. The way I understand it, the one right now. When it was read and explained. The resolution asks to change the name. They said the work isn't going to be there. Then to prevent it from happening. The second part should be deleted it out. They are talking about the name area.

Harrison Barber: I think there is a confusion about this resolution. Frank, I think what you are saying about the standing resolution, that was pertaining the surveying and exploration. That was already approved and done. That has nothing to do with this name change. This one, now, they want to move on. They are asking for a name correction. We don't need to rescind the resolution you are talking about. That's what I am thinking. Then, what other resolution you are talking about, let's take a look about it. The opposing resolution. I don't think they have it here with them.

Frank Smith: I think I am being misunderstood. I am not against the name change. I am talking about, will not authorize production activities. The second part of the resolution. It's the second part, it's opposing.

President Haskie: The way I understand it, he doesn't want the mountains to be disturbed. That's why he wants the name changed.

Melvin Smith: Let's just separate the resolution for each item, to avoid confusion. Please separate the two issues.

LaVerda Washburn: Yeah, I think that's the best solution. I would also ask, can we have for administrative clarity, do the name change this month. Then next month do the dooda to the mountains.

Rannitta Henderson: My reason for asking Melvin and officials to elaborate more was because of those two items. I wanted more in-depth explanation. Melvin, you as the sponsor, take out the resolution and fix the resolution into two of them. That way, it won't be confusing or questions about it. Since this is a current topic, let's get clarification on it.

President Haskie: The sponsor wants to go ahead and separate the two items on the resolution. We have to have the name change before the tribal council introduces the legislation next week. We will amend the resolution to only include the name change. We won't put the other item. He would like to motion that.



