

**Tse Alnaozti'i' Chapter**  
**March Chapter Meeting Minutes**  
by Teleconference & In Person  
March 19, 2023  
1 p.m.

**1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:09 p.m. by President Haskie

**2) ROLL CALL**

1. Chapter President, Jeanne Haskie: PRESENT
2. Chapter Vice-President, Gerald Henderson: PRESENT
3. Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Jourdan Washburn: PRESENT
4. Chapter Grazing Officer, Alonzo Cohoe: PRESENT
5. Honorable Council Delegate, Amber K Crotty: PRESENT
6. In person Audience- 6 in person, at roll call
7. Teleconference Audience- 7 people, at roll call

**3) INVOCATION**

Invocation given by Vice President Henderson

**4) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read agenda into record.

Motion by Larry Jumbo                      Second by Kori Tso

Nelson Begaye: Correction on Affairs and then the resolution for Veterans, should each item be separated. It might be appropriate to do that. Depending on the sponsor.

President Haskie: It is stated that in the Navajo Nation legislation.

Kori Tso: Is it the NN asking for supporting resolution?

President Haskie: Yes, it is.

Are we still revising or adding?

Vice President Henderson: We don't add, only at the planning meeting.

Ray Nahkai: Can we insert something for next month.

Vice President Henderson: That'll be April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ray Nahkai: My concern is, our road 5010 has been number 1. It's not on that list. What happened to that? I want to put that on the planning. Why was that pushed to the side and the others are put in front. Why was 5010 pushed aside.

Harrison Barber: I know 5010 has been going on for a long time. There was \$75,000 set aside for that and it was used. We didn't have a centerline and right of way. We pushed that one and Farmington finished that one. Instead of just 5010, they went on into the mountains. They surveyed all the way to Old Sawmill. You guys might have a decent road after all. That money was just used. Max Blackhorse was the one in charge of it, but he resigned with NDOT. Now it is Brian Tsinnijinnie. He is supposed to give us an update on the next step. If could come to the Roads Meeting, it's always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. It's good for you guys to get involved and hear your input. So, 5010 is still ongoing as well as the N34/491 intersection. Come to the Roads meeting to get updated information.

**Memberships vote 13 (9 in person and 4 online) in favor, 0 opposed and 1 (1 in person) to accept the agenda.**

**5) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES**

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read minutes into the record.

Motion by Alonzo Cohoe    Second by Larry Jumbo

**Memberships vote 12 (7 in person and 5 online) in favor, 0 opposed and 1 (1 in person) abstained to accept the minutes.**

## 6) GUEST SPEAKER

### a) Department of Energy, Chuck Denton

Mr. Melvin Yazzie reported. He is a principal mining engineer with the Navajo Abandoned Mines Program out of Shiprock, NM. We have an agreement with Department of Energy. We are sending notices to all the Chapters on an upcoming event. We have offices in Window Rock, Shiprock and Tuba City. We have don't reclamation on mines, across the Navajo Nation. In Sanostee, we had done our inventory in the early 90's. We did do some reclamation of some mines in the 90's. We have also done reclamation on some coal mines out to the East, near the Hogback area, in the 90's and just a couple of years ago. Uranium mines are under the authority of the US and Navajo EPA, as the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation And Liability Act. The lead agency is US and Navajo EPA. The Dept of Energy was mandated to take a look at uranium mines that were contributing to the defense of the US. In coordination, Dept of Energy has up to 119 abandoned mines that they have to do site assessments- Validation and Verification. So we are updating the Chapter on these sites. Dept of Energy has come to us and requested assistance in identifying the location and as a liaison between them and Navajo Nation. The Sanostee area, there are 12 towards the West that they will be doing site assessments. Some of these won't be occurring until after July but giving advanced notice to the Chapter. A group of 3 vehicles will be coming out. In the Fall of 2020, they started in Sweetwater. Now they are in Beclabito and move up to Cove, then out to Sanostee. The Dept of Energy has sent out a fact sheet on the DRUM and a map of the Sanostee Chapter area of the locations. Just a notice to be aware of the activity we will be doing out there.

Lindsey Benally: Will you be going up into the forest areas? West of Sanostee?

Melvin Yazzie: Most of the access is, not in the high areas of the forest. The large mine is called Eric Johnson mine, a lot of them are at that elevation, along those ridges.

Ray Nahkai: How about Oak springs, Arizona? Is that on the list?

Melvin Yazzie: Oak springs, Red Valley, Cove and Beclabito are on the list. Keep in mind, there are two federal agencies looking at them right now. US EPA has a consultant out there in Oak Springs and Red Valley. Then Dept of Energy will be coming.

Nelson Begaye: Can one of our Chapter Officials explain, are they focused on the Uranium Mines on the west side. Need more details to better understand.

Alonzo Cohoe: It's the coal mines that they are looking at. They'll be getting consent on those, but I don't think anyone grazes in those areas. We need to also look at the access road too.

Nelson Begaye: How long is it going to take to clean those up?

Melvin Yazzie: These are the uranium mines. What we are doing is the site assessment. Department of Energy, if any are open, they will look at the physical danger and close them up. The ultimate authority with remediation falls under US EPA and Navajo EPA. I don't know their timelines on their work.

Harrison Barber: They are talking about the Uranium Mines at "Heart Rock" area. The coal mines are east of Littlewater area. They are looking if they are open or not, if they are possibly dangerous to the species in the area. That's what they are talking about, those two areas.

Melvin Yazzie: Just a comment on the coal mines in the Hogback area, we have done closures with the Abandoned Mines Program. You can also contact our office in Shiprock, if you have any questions. Phone Number is 505-368-1228.

## 7) OLD BUSINESS: None.

**8) NEW BUSINESS:**

- (a) **Resolution No. TAT-23-03-36. ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023 WITH ATTACHMENT A & B.**  
*Sponsor: Chapter Staff & Officials*

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read resolution into record. Secretary/ Treasurer Washburn read financial reports with attachment A & B.: Budget to Actual, Revenue and Expenditures and Balance Sheet to membership. Reports were provided to membership by paper document, Zoom and Facebook live.

Nelson Begaye: Looking at the report, from last month, during our Chapter meeting, we went over January's report. I made a comment about the building, the temperature because on the report it indicated we are spending too much on propane. More like exceeded. I asked about what I had seen about the temperature control, it was 90 degrees. Also, the door stays open when they come in, it doesn't get closed. That's one of the main things bringing in the cold air. With that door, if it doesn't get fixed, it could make a huge difference. Fix that door and put money towards it and a sign to keep the door closed. I think that should be followed up and what's the status of these comments that are brought to your attention?

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: We did take that comment into consideration. We've been working with Larry and what was happening, they were turning on the heater just to keep the building warm. That has completely stopped and the breaker switch is also turned off. It will only be on during events. We have also moved as many events as possible, to this building. We are trying to get the door fixed, the last wind we had, it broke. We are working on fixing that. We do have situations, like a funeral reception. The doors were wide open and the kitchen door was open because they were cooking. Some of these things we can't really control but we are doing our best and should get under control. Thank you, Nelson.

Motion by Kori Tso

Second by Glenn Duncan

**Memberships vote 17 (11 in person and 6 online) in favor, 0 opposed and 1 (1 in person) abstained to accept the financial report and the resolution.**

- (b) **Resolution No. TAT-23-03-37. SUPPORTING NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL LEGISLATION 0029-23 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERAN'S HOSPITAL AND CREATE PERSONNEL POSTIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND BENEFITS ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS.** *Sponsor: Rannitta Henderson*  
Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read resolution into record.

Motion by Larry Jumbo

Second by Elouise Brown

Nelson Begaye: I understand this is a supporting resolution. It's calling for a hospital for NN. Are there any plans we can look at about it? Location? Then to the hospital, I heard in 2000 from the Government. They made approval to the reservation; they are supposed to have a clinic inside the hospital. There was an office inside to get answers but you don't see that on our reservation. I think maybe in Kayenta might have one. Where is this hospital going to be? It's good to add these questions.

Delegate Crotty: This legislation is re-affirming. It is continuing advocacy for a veteran's hospital. It does not identify a location. There has been discussion of one in Chinle Agency. According to IHS, they do provide VA service at their facilities but they do not have a physical location that separates the clinical care. This is asking for that. If you want to make a recommendation that a VA hospital in Northern Agency, you can do that to your Chapter resolution.

Nelson Begaye: You are giving us a what we can do, we can make it through this resolution. This one or a different resolution?





Deswood Begay: The tower is going to be 200 feet tall, so it will be above that. We already looked at it and did a propagation with the engineers. It will cover back up this way.

Nelson Begaye: Different companies, is that going to change their signal? Or if they buy in?

Deswood Begay: Verizon works with Choice NTUA, they have their ability to put their equipment on our tower. It's call sublocation, they have to go through the Land Department to get those approval for sub leases. Yes, they have the ability. Just like the radio, different channels and it's the same as all the networks.

Elouise Brown: Will this cover east of Littlewater?

Deswood Begay: I don't believe it will. We are looking at it and we do have another set of awards we are asking for so we can get that coverage. It will be between Table Mesa and Littlewater. Hopefully that will be another site we will be working on.

Elouise Brown: How are far east will that cover in Littlewater?

Deswood Begay: It's going to be the Table Mesa area, once we get the propagation, we should know. The normal coverage is 6-8-mile radius.

Elouise Brown: I guess that won't help me. The question was, how far east of Littlewater will that cover.

Deswood Begay: 6-8-mile radius, from the tower. We do have tower about a mile from the store. I can have the engineers re look at that. How far east do you live off the highway?

Elouise Brown: 5 miles East of the highway.

Deswood Begay: Are you in a Valley or on top of a hill?

Elouise Brown: I am in a Valley.

Deswood Begay: That's probably one of the reasons you are not picking up service.

Elouise Brown: I also go to the top of the hill and I still don't have service.

Deswood Begay: When cell phones first came out, they were put on the mountain to reach 26-30 miles. Then the cell phones radio waves were up and down. It used to travel far. Now with digital tech it has shortened it, even with the 5G. It only covers a straight line. If you live in a deep valley or behind a mountain, you will not get coverage. Only if you see the tower, you should have coverage. I can have them re-look at the existing tower and see what we can do to improve to the East.

Elouise Brown: and how soon will that be?

Deswood Begay: I can talk with them tomorrow and wait for them to get me an answer.

Elouise Brown: I would appreciate a response back. My phone number is 505-592-1453.

Tommy Nakai: How far north are you proposing the tower?

Deswood Begay: It will be less than 2 miles.

Tommy Nakai: Is it close to Eddie Mikes?

President Haskie: On the west side near the gravel pit.

Tommy Nakai: Did you get the okay for the people living in the area? There are some residents living there.

Deswood Begay: We did travel to a couple residents and they did give us a verbal okay but we have not received the consent yet.

Nelson Begaye: The closest would-be Tim Bedah.

Tommy Nakai: Is this going to cover the canyon area?

President Haskie: Yes, it is.

Tommy Nakai: Because I was thinking, east, there is an area on the ridge. That'll be a perfect area so it can reach the south, canyon and north. It would catch a lot more. The proposed area, there is a ridge that will block it. You need to visit all the people that have all the grazing permits in the area, remember that.

Deswood Begay: Yes, I am working with the Grazing official on that.

Nelson Begaye: The map shows, Fernando and Gabriel Duncan to the North of their homestead. Just so you guys know. It'll be closer to these guys house.

Tommy Nakai: Well Glenn Duncan is not the only permit in the area. Did you talk to Tim Bedah? Because, are you going to put microwaves on it?

Deswood Begay: Yes, there will be microwaves. Our transmission is microwave.

Tommy Nakai: What does that involve? Does it cause any health problems?

Deswood Begay: It does not cause health problems, if you don't climb the tower because then you'll be next to the antennas. If you are discussing the health issues, the microwave in your house is 3,500 watts, lights/electricity is 3-5 watts, cell phones are minus 1 to 2 watts. When phones first came out those were 3 watts phones. The wattage is getting smaller with the digital service for a better, quicker service. The only microwave you will encounter is if you are climbing the 200 feet tower.

Tommy Nakai: What type of power?

Deswood Begay: It will be a powerline.

Tommy Nakai: Is it going to be a power grid or powerline?

Deswood Begay: Most run on 60 watts, one phase powerline.

Tommy Nakai: Is it going to be on the southside edge of the hill?

Deswood Begay: It'll be within that area. Once we determine the exact location, there will be a legal survey.

Tommy Nakai: How far away from Tim Bedah will be the tower?

Deswood Begay: We call it BlackRock Hill.

Tommy Nakai: He lives right there on top of the hill by the gravel pit. I don't know if you talk to him or anyone else. Whoever gave you the okay, no one came by our house. My mom is a permit holder and also Tim Bedah. He lives less than 100 ft from the pit. Does he even know about this?

Deswood Begay: I am not familiar with the names. We only talked to two residents in that area. The others were not home. We mentioned we are thinking of building a tower there, they said, that's good and go ahead. That's how we determined that. Like I said, I will be working with the Grazing Official to get consent. If the consent is not approved, we do move forward and lose the funding from that site.

Tommy Nakai: We haven't had anyone come by, that's my concern. There are other people who live there. They use that area a lot. You need to talk to everyone, just not the one person that said okay. I don't know if this is acceptable.

Deswood Begay: I am going to work with the Grazing Official to get the legal permit holders in the area. Then we can get the consents. It'll be up to the Chapter to decide what to do.

President Haskie: They will be out there to visit the people in the area.

Lindsey Benally: Mr. Deswood Begay, I am from that area. Tommy and Timothy are my uncles. I am also an archeologist with the NN. I am well aware of the are you are asking about, there was a {grade/grave} road that was recorded in the 70's right outside of the gravel pit. I would be cognitive of that. Then the resolution says 50 by 50 acres, the 200 feet by 200 feet, that's less than an acre. I would go against this resolution until the acres are changed or revised, unless you are planning to do other things around that tower. Also, there is a visual effect to the tower, the height of the tower also needs to be considered in cognizance of culture resources like a visual hinderance to those who live there. I don't know if you are aware of that. The Grazing Official wouldn't know that because the information is confidential, since it's being impacted of where we live, I am just stating that now. If you could give me your contact information. I would like to see where you are proposing your cell tower.

Deswood Begay: As I stated earlier, I will be working with the Grazing Official with getting the legal permit consent. If there is a question about archeology, yes we do go through archeologists, through HPDP, cultural, property and go through all that for approval. If the site and location has a TCP or Historic Preservation property, we have to move to a different site, we will do that. We do work with the Navajo Nation, all the Departments, Fish and Wildlife, EPA and HPDP. That is how we get our approval. We do have to go through the 164 reviews in order for us to get a land withdrawal with Navajo Nation Land Department.



So, I do understand your question, your concerns and I will work with the Grazing Officials for the legal permit holder's consent.

Kori Tso: Someone said 50 acres, that's a big acreage. Correction, it's actually 50 feet by 50 feet, not acres.

Ursula Bedah: I am also from the area with the proposed area. Were there other areas looked into?

Deswood Begay: When the engineers start looking...

Ursula Bedah: Was there other areas looked into for this proposed tower? Was it just a decision that was made?

President Haskie: Hold on, he's ready to answer you.

Deswood Begay: When the engineers determine a location to improve a tower site, they give me a search ring. It's a one-mile radius of the location. We travel in the area, with the engineers to look in the area for the best coverage in the area for the community and improve the services. That's how we determine that.

Ursula Bedah: I am sorry, I can't hear you, I don't know how far you are from the microphone. You're not responding in a clear manner. My other question was, what was the determination of the proposed area?

Deswood Begay: The way we determine, the engineers look at the best location of where to put a tower. Looking at the area, we have a one-mile radius to look at. The reason for one mile is that our transmission is by microwave, we have to have microwave back to our towers to improve the services to the community. The determination to build on the North side of the Chapter was with our engineers.

Ursula Bedah: I believe you said, you are going to use microwaves? I believe you said that can cause health effects.

Deswood Begay: Yes, if you climb on the towers.

Ursula Bedah: Do you know what health effects are caused by microwaves?

Deswood Begay: Cancer.

Ursula Bedah: The proposed area is a place; my brother lives in the area. I also have relatives in that area.

President Haskie: Only if they climb.

Ursula Bedah: When you were talking to the two people, did you give them all the information about the health effects of the microwave?

Deswood Begay: No, I did not.

Ursula Bedah: And they still gave their consent?

President Haskie: The only time they would get affected is if they climb the tower. If they are going to climb, yes, you can be affected.

Ursula Bedah: Yes. I am asking Mr. Deswood, the presenter. I would like him to respond.

Deswood Begay: If you only climb on the towers, you will be affected but if you do not, you will not be affected. I think the Chapter wants to move on this, but it is your decision.

Elouise Brown: It's really not up to the Chapter, when you say the Chapter, you are talking about the Officials. It's really up to the voters, they are the ones with the say. Maybe you need to bring in a professional that these people that live there can ask questions. Just guessing and approving, that's not the way to do it.

President Haskie: Chapter, that involves all the people. It concerns everyone. It's not just the officials. It's going to go before you, the people here in person and listening in.

Glenn Duncan: It would be good if those who don't want this, would be here. There are a lot of us who live there who need this. That's what you need to understand. Other carriers can get on this tower, so we can all use our phones.

Tommy Nakai: Are you going to allow other companies to put their microwaves on your tower? Then if Glenn Duncan is very open to that tower, put it right next to his house.

Deswood Begay: We do allow other carriers to put their equipment on the towers. Each tower allows 4 other carriers and it's up to them if they want to put their equipment on there. We do have AT&T for first responders working with us.

Tommy Nakai: Will those carriers use microwaves too?

Deswood Begay: Yes, they will because they have to transmit back to their main switch.

**Memberships vote 13 (10 in person and 3 online) in favor, 8 (8 online) opposed and 2 (1 in person and 1 online) abstained to accept the resolution.**

- (d) **Resolution No. TAT-23-03-39.** REQUESTING TO NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION AND BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS ROAD DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PHASE OF IMPROVEMENT ON N34 WEST ROAD BRIDGES AND N5012 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. *Sponsor: Community Road Committee*  
Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read resolution and memo into record.

Motion by Larry Jumbo

Second by Kori Tso

No Discussion.

**Memberships vote 16 (11 in person and 5 online) in favor, 0 opposed and 1 (1 in person) abstained to accept the resolution.**

- (e) **Resolution No. TAT-23-03-40.** REQUESTING AND ADDITION TO THE PROJECT APPLICATION THE CURRENT PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM EMPLOYEES TO ASSIST WITH THE VIETNAM VETERANS EVENT ON MARCH 28 and 29, 2023 IN SHIPROCK, NEW MEXICO. *Sponsor: Tse Alnaozti'i ALERT/CERT Team*

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read resolution into record.

Motion by Elouise Brown

Second by Glenn Duncan

Nelson Begaye: Just a comment, for two days for the workers. What will they be doing and who?

President Haskie: PEP workers

Vice President Henderson: 5 workers

Nelson Begaye: So, it will be putting up the tent and taking it down.

Vice President Henderson: We were told by Rosie Foster, because we have been working with her with ALERT. In her meeting, she said the 28<sup>th</sup> in the evening it will be put up and then the next day to bring it down after the event. ALERT and other volunteers will be going there to help. They won't be out there all day. Just for the tent. The ALERT Team will be there all day for traffic and medical assist.

Nelson Begaye: You got to use a sledge hammer to put in the stakes.

Vice-President Henderson: The equipment is going to be provided. The guys are just going there to help.

Elouise Brown: Are these guys going to get paid?

President Haskie: Yes, they are going to be paid for the work hours.

Elouise Brown: I would still encourage them to bring their tools because last year we had a hard time. It takes a long time to put it up and take it down.

**Memberships vote 16 (11 in person and 5 online) in favor, 0 opposed and 1 (1 in person) abstained to accept the resolution.**

- (f) **Resolution No. TAT-23-03-41.** AN ACT ACCEPTING THE BUDGET REVISION IN FUND 17 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 300.00 FROM PURCHASES- FIREWOOD GL CODE 6353 TO NATURAL GAS TO COMPLETE THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OF 366 HOUSEHOLDS.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read resolution and budget revision form into record.

Motion by Elouise Brown

Second by Harrison Barber

Kori Tso: So, this is for two households?

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: Yes, it is.

**Memberships vote 17 (11 in person and 6 online) in favor, 0 opposed and 1 (1 in person) abstained to accept the resolution.**



- (g) **Resolution No. TAT-23-03-42.** AN ACT AMENDENDING THE PROJECT APPLICATION FOR THE CARPENTER SUPERVISOR AND CARPENTER LABORER POSITIONS BY ADDING FOUR MORE WEEKS TO SCOPE OF WORK.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read resolution into record.

Motion by Kori Tso

Second by Larry Jumbo

Elouise Brown: can you employ other people instead of those who have been working there forever? Then you give others a chance to work.

President Haskie: Good question. I thought the same way at first, however, there is still monies left over from other PEP hours unused. Also, there are still some projects that are not finished. If we go to a new crew, you have to train them and orientate how and what projects. We are only asking for four weeks to finish up the projects, which will make it faster. After that, we can do for new people.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: Yes, we could advertise for a different crew, however, we would have to do a advertising resolution, then advertise for 10 days and go through the hiring process for a new crew. That would just be for the additional four weeks, since this crew will be done April 10<sup>th</sup>. We could go that direction, however, we though this would be a simpler process and allow us to complete the projects on hand. Once this money is complete, we will not be hiring any carpenters until the new fiscal year.

Elouise Brown: You should do that, even though it takes time. It gives others a chance. Do we make another motion for that?

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: Yes, you would do a substitute motion.

**Substitution Motion to table by Elouise Brown Second by Lindsey Benally**

**Memberships vote to table the resolution is 8 (0 in person and 8 online) in favor, 15 (8 in person and 7 online) opposed and 2 (2 in person) abstained.**

*Substitute motion fails. Back to original motion and discussion re-opens.*

Elouise Brown: We said we all need to work together. You need to give other people a chance instead of the same people working. I strongly suggest you think about it. It's not about favoritism, not working against somebody, we need to think about all those in the community that needs a few dollars. I don't think it would hurt to go through that process unless the project is in need to be completed ASAP. It's the same people working, give others a chance. You need to do teamwork and share among our community.

*Main motion vote:*

**Memberships vote 13 (9 in person and 4 online) in favor, 9 (0 in person and 0 online) opposed and 2 (2 in person) abstained to accept the resolution.**

- (h) **Resolution No. TAT-23-03-43.** AN ACT ACCEPTING THE BUDGET REVISION IN FUND 15 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 7,057.49 FROM HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR CODE 6101-74 TO SUPERVISOR CODE 6101-72 AND LABORERS 6101-71 TO MATCH THE AMENDED PROJECT APPLICATION.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read resolution into record.

Motion by Larry Jumbo

Second by Kori Tso

No discussion.

**Memberships vote 15 (10 in person and 5 online) in favor, 3 (3 online) opposed and 1 (1 in person) abstained to accept the resolution.**

## 9) REPORT(S):

- a) **Council Delegate, Amber K. Crotty**

Delegate Crotty reported. We do have written report attached and via email. The NN fiscal recovery is looking at the housing assessment and working with housing improvement and how many applications they received. We are also working with the Chapter that have

applied for housing discretionary and the need that may have exceeded the funding. Then the homesite lease application. We have a number of members living in home without a homesite lease. That would disqualify them for funding. With the Land Department, seeing if there is a way to expedite those structures pending. So, they can qualify for the NN Fiscal Funds, Water or Solar. Then they can benefit from the Chapter housing as well. Second part, legislation to extend Sihasin funds. Those projects were the regional chapter projects funded in 2018. The chapter does have an opportunity that all your heavy equipment was purchased and what was submitted. Looks like a regional broadband project but since we have had CARES and ARPA for those. Second legislation is about the purchase of Monument Valley Lodge and Tours, it is a large purchase by the Navajo Nation. They are looking at enhancing tourism and we want to pull the same to 491. We will be working with each chapter to digitize your land use plan and see your potential. The third legislation is the appointment of Garrett Silversmith as Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Transportation. The chapter can comment on this. The next legislation is talking about the US Postal Service. They want to start decreasing funding to our post office and move them to the larger towns. The last part of the report has anything from the Budget and Finance. There is a link that allows you to view all documents presented. Navajo Nation is receiving 90 million dollars with Small Business, so Economic Development will be helping our small business owners. The Missing and murdered dine relatives, we did have Governor pass the taskforce. The link on the report will provide any reports too. Captain Redhorse did state, with Navajo PD, we will continue collaborating. They are looking at housing for officers. Lastly, want to congratulate the Chapter on the Capital Outlay. Secure funding for your helipad and waterline construction.

Elouise Brown: The waterline and utilities to Littlewater, is there anybody that is on the list? East of Littlewater?

Delegate Crotty: NUTA will give us a listing of power, water, solar and cistern systems. I'll ask them to identify in the Littlewater area and can report at the next meeting.

Leo Billey: Is the chapter houses open? I know masks are rescinded.

Delegate Crotty: All Navajo Nation Government buildings are open and masks are optional.

Lindsey Benally: Pertaining to the Helipad, what is the necessity? I know there is one in Beclabito and Newcomb. I know the roads can be unattainable, how do we use the helipad? For emergencies? Can you elaborate? It's just going to be idle and just be there.

Delegate Crotty: Increase the emergency response when there is a medical emergency. Some of the delays with rural addressing, access to the road, there was a push to locate helipads in Northern Agency. It's my understanding there was a push and it is used in emergency situations and cuts down the response time during critical need.

Vice-President Henderson: It is going to be used for air care one, when the EMS declares and cannot transport on the ground, they call out Air Care, Gallup or Cortez for air support. If the ambulance cannot handle the patient and severity of the patient. Such as a vehicle rollover, they call out Air Care. We were anticipating this from the emergency team. There is a need for this and we asked for the funding from the Santa Fe offices to make this happen.

## **b) Chapter Business Update**

President Haskie: Agency Meeting announced, the King Coal Mine spill, those Chapter affected, money will be paid out the farmers there. The water rights are being talked about. How the water in California and Arizona uses the water. They are saying Navajos don't need it. This is going in front of the Supreme Court. We use water here for our livestock and others just use it for washing their vehicles.

Vice President Henderson: They mentioned that President Nygren wasn't in attendance. They felt it was important that he attend these meetings for the Northern Agency. They also want an in-person meeting with the Chapter to discuss the actual needs. Vice President was in attendance and did her report but they voiced their concern about President not making

this meeting an importance. It was also noticed that the majority of the Division Directors were not on the call either. When President Nez was president, he made sure they attended.  
Secretary/Treasurer Washburn:

- Housing Discretionary due by 5 pm on March 31, 2023. Announcements were made on the radio, posted in all areas.
- Announcement closed boards will be posted soon, to ensure flyer announcements stay posted.
- Stop the Bleed- Public training on March 23, 2023 @ 9 am to 12 noon, hosted by Shiprock Navajo Emergency Medical Services. Non certification training. Lunch will be provided.
- Equipment Operator has been hired and he will start Monday with training.
- We will have 2 interested applicants for the Community Service Coordinator, interviews will be this week and hopefully will have a coordinator soon.

President Haskie: Just so the people know, the Farming Committee has a large list of needs. We are asking NTEC in Littlewater, for their assistance in purchasing these items. Including operator help when working on the irrigation.

NTUA is providing a one-time past due utility bill assistance. Go to a local district office to apply and bring in your documents.

Elouise Brown: Who is the new Equipment Operator.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: He is accepted the position but he hasn't started yet, it's Herbert Charles.

Amanda Sandoval: Do you have plans for CPR Training?

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: It will be coming, during the summer is when that training happens.

President Haskie: CLUPC will be doing home assessments but will have a meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> to find out their assignments.

#### c) **Veterans Organization**

Commander Billey reported. On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, our late comrades were on the news, Cecelia Barber Finona. They brought the boyfriend back and he got sentenced. They charged him with 32 or 33 years for what he did. We lost one of our comrades, Nelson Charles from Aneth. Northern Navajo Agency meeting happened in Farmington. There were a lot of resolutions but they got moved forward to another month. The Shiprock Veterans Service Office is still unsure about that position. No one has put their interest in. We also do not know about the carryover budget. We are told there is no money for the Veterans.

Nelson Begaye: To add to this report. The Vietnam Veteran Event on March 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be a large event to honor and show respect for our Vietnam Veterans. As a community, we have Vietnam Veterans who are involved in our TVO meetings. I would like to encourage our leadership, our community to take the time to honor those. There are some who didn't make it home either. We have one of our comrades who is running the trail ride. There will also be a motorcycle ride with a parade. It's going to be a good event. Last month, when I brought about the flags, we placed in the Veterans Building. This person presented her ideas and about the Ladies Auxiliary. Maybe it was just talk about those ideas she mentioned. Come to our Veterans meeting to talk about this and present it.

Commander Billey: Our biggest problem is we have no money. The Veterans Director James Zwerllin really messed with the set up. That hasn't been cleared up yet.

Vice President Henderson: We've been meeting with Rosie Foster, the 5013C organization. They got our ALERT Team involved. We arranged where they will be using our help. It will be a bigger event than last year. Including a trail ride, song and dance and bands. From the ALERT we were going to spearhead this but the Chapter Officials have a mandatory training for non-certified chapters. Red Valley will be taking charge of the whole operation, watching with our ALERT team and PEP workers. They will be representing our Chapter during this event. Johanna Barber will be running this with their rescue team. Thank you to



the Veterans. We really do need to get the Ladies Auxiliary back up and running again. It was a difficult time when all that did happen with Cecelia Finona and it sits heavy on us. Elouise Brown: The Vietnam Veterans Event, we will ride from Red Valley Junction to Shiprock every year. Including motorcycles. We need some help with breakfast, orange juice or fruit. You can bring it or as soon as possible. Between the two points, we need another station set up. Need snacks for the riders. You say you support the Veterans and this will be where the support is needed. You can also make monetary donations as well.

**d) Grazing Official, Alonzo Cohoe**

- Four tally counts completed.
- Homesite leases have been difficult because of the muddy conditions. I will continue to work with those when conditions get better. I've done 2 field clearances and have 4 more.
- Wednesday through Friday was a horse round up in TGH/ Toadlena area, they got 170 horses. 90% did not have any brands. In Blackhouse valley, they got 60 horses and only 6 were branded. There are still some out there to collect. So, they'll be back out in April in our area to do that. This is a notice to everyone this will be happening in April here in Sanostee. We will put up some signs too.
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund- Applications for Farm & Garden is up to the end of March.

**e) Navajo Traditional Awareness, Nelson Begaye**

Since December have been focusing on this awareness in our community. It was brought up about Modern Medicine at a Veterans meeting regarding those who are dealing with PTSD. I started to ask about our own Navajo traditional medicine and why that wasn't being considered for our people. That should be a focus for them. I wanted to bring this back to our people and get together to discuss these teachings with our people. Additionally, these water rights are important. Everyone needs that water and have use of it. Lastly, the last meeting was not held because of the late Ben Shelley's passing. We will have another meeting soon. Thank you for everyone who is putting their input, teachings and information into our meetings. I've been meeting with Dine Haataali and Medicine Man Association as much as I can and I share with them what we are doing out here. We are ready for our next meeting. One of the ideas that came up was having a committee for this. I was also thinking, at the intersection, put up a big billboard our community's name and a mission statement. Glenn Duncan: Each family has their own different belief. Their prayer and so on. It might be hard for some to talk about this because of their own beliefs. But we are all related as well. Also, I did find out that you do have to update your homesite lease, from 2016 on. The tribe is taking over. You do have to pay and make an appointment for it. I asked, how come out officials and council delegate aren't sharing this. They said, they will be going to the Chapters to inform the people about this.

President Haskie: The first time we did hear was when Leo was talking about it. I don't think we have received any information on it yet.

**10) NEXT MEETING:**

- 1. April 2023 Planning Meeting: 4/2/2023 @ 1 pm**
- 2. April 2023 Regular Chapter Meeting: 4/16/2023 @ 1 pm**

**11) CONCLUSION OF MEETING; ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**12) ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Larry Jumbo

Second by Glenn Duncan

**Memberships vote 12 (11 in person and 1 online) in favor, 0 opposed and 1 (1 in person) abstained to accept the reports.**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.**

Submitted by: Secretary/ Treasurer Jourdan Washburn:  on 03/22/2023.

Chapter Administration Rec'vd: \_\_\_\_\_

