

**Tse Alnaozti'i' Chapter**  
**January Chapter Meeting Minutes**

In Person Meeting  
January 15, 2024

**1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 12:43 p.m. by President Haskie

**2) ROLL CALL**

- a) Chapter President, Jeanne Haskie: PRESENT
- b) Chapter Vice-President, Gerald Henderson: PRESENT
- c) Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Jourdan Washburn: PRESENT
- d) Chapter Grazing Officer, Alonzo Cohoe: PRESENT
- e) Honorable Council Delegate, Amber K Crotty: ABSENT

**3) INVOCATION**

Invocation given by Darlene Smith

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

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read agenda into record.

Motion by Freddie Mark

Second by Nelson Begaye

No discussion.

**Memberships vote 25 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 to accept the agenda**

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

Motion by Amanda Sandoval

Second by Kori Tso

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read minutes to membership.

**Memberships vote 30 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained to accept the minutes.**

**6) GUEST SPEAKER.**

a) Laverne Nakai, Caseworker, Espanola Resource Center- NOT PRESENT DUE TO HOLIDAY.

b) Nelson Begay, Community Traditional Awareness

Introduced himself. Living in Shiprock thought we had snow there but coming home, we had a good amount here. It was good getting emails and text messages of the road conditions. It's a good blessing what we got here. Going into the new year, we've been blessed with snow. We came across a lot of accomplishments and had hardships but looking towards good things. A year ago, I brought this to the leadership to get together. We want to do winter storytelling for the community. Just asking for Chapter and community support to get these meetings going again, before March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**7) OLD BUSINESS:**

(a) **Resolution No. TAT-24-01-15. SUPPORTING ON AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. CO-85-23(AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 26 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS)**

*Sponsor: Delegate Amber K Crotty*

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read into record and explained to membership.

Motion by Kori Tso

Second by Zelma Bodie

Nelson Begay: The last meeting this was talked about. Delegate Crotty is the sponsor. Her assistant is here, are we on the right track?

Kristy Dempsey: Yes, what she explained is correct.

Kristy Dempsey: The President at the Navajo Nation State of Address, he said he was okay with the Chapters getting involved. That's what he wanted to see. He basically took your vote that there will be no virtual meetings. The council is asking for supporting resolution to say that it is okay for them to override his veto. Overriding doesn't mean they are taking your vote and that they are saying virtual is okay. It's going to come back to you, the Chapters if you want to have virtual meetings or not. They are just telling the President; NO, you cannot tell the people they do not have the right to vote themselves. It involves all 110 chapters. Naabikyati just wants YOU to be able to decide.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read President Nygren's response to Council explaining his veto. *Memorandum is attached to the minutes.*

Darlene Smith: When COVID was going on, we were all on virtual. When people are calling in, there were cheaters saying there were 5 people here, when actually there was only one or two. There were mistakes in the actual voting. I would say to go with Buu Nygren and vote no.

President Haskie: Let the Chapter decide how they want it, is what Naabikyati is saying. Whether we support the committee or not. President is making the decision for us but council wants us to decide. It's good to let us decide. We know what is good for our meetings and we should be able to decide.

Wilfred Moses: Maybe you can define Virtual to everyone.

President Haskie: Calling in through your phone to the meeting. Sitting at home or over the hill. We don't see the person. How do we know who it is? We support getting the chance to decide what we want.

**Memberships vote 30 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstained to approve the resolution.**

#### 8) NEW BUSINESS:

- (a) **Resolution No. TAT-24-01-16. ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023 WITH ATTACHMENT A & B. Sponsor: Chapter Staff & Officials**

Motion by Amanda Sandoval

Second by Suzette Haskie

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.

Amanda Sandoval: If we do a food sale or raise money for Veterans, do we give it to you or keep it for them.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: It's easier for you to handle, else it will go back into Veterans Travel item only.

**Memberships vote 34 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained to approve the resolution.**

- (b) **Resolution No. TAT-24-01-17. SUPPORTING THE REQUEST TO APPROVE A THREE-MONTH EXTENSION TO THE OFFICE ASSISTANT AND CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE POSITION FOR FY 2024- 1<sup>ST</sup> ROTATION.**

*Sponsor: Chapter Officials*

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read resolution into record.

Motion by Rannitta Henderson

Second by Kori Tso

No discussion.

**Memberships vote 37 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained to approve the resolution.**

- (c) **Resolution No. TAT-24-01-18. AN ACT REQUESTING NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT AN ACCESS BRIDGE AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SOUTH OF TSE ALNAOZTI'I CHAPTER HOUSE ON INDIAN SERVICE ROUTE 5010 TO ENSURE A SAFE CROSSING FOR RESIDENTS, EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL SERVICES AND SCHOOL BUSES. Sponsor: Community Road Committee**

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn read resolution into record.

JAN 16 PM 3:43

Harrison Barber: This resolution is talking about the south road (bikiizh to'i). We aren't talking about the bridge. We are talking about getting some improvement to that road right away. The road near the cornfields, when it rains, all the water gets into the road. It pools and forms into a muddy road. It becomes impassable. We are talking about getting that corrected, asking BIA or NDOT for a quick fix. We are asking them to help us out. The culverts passed there are okay. However, on the south end, it does need to be addressed. Its really hard to get funding, NDOT only allocated money every 5 years to road projects across the tribe. It affects those who travel it everyday and then eventually those who use it during the summer.

President Haskie: The resolution read, will reflect the corrections. It'll include what Harrison explained to us. We can correct and send it off.

Motion by Amanda Sandoval

Second by Betty Smith

**Memberships vote 37 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained to approve the resolution.**

**(d) Resolution No. TAT-24-01-19. SUPPORTING AND APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, NAVAJO WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM AND THE SANOSTEE CHAPTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF USE OF SPACE IN THE SANOSTEE CHAPTER FACILITIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES OF THE NAVAJO WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN. Sponsor: Navajo WIC Program**

Motion by Rannitta Henderson

Second by Suzette Haskie

Harrison Barber: Do we have the facilities? What's the plan?

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: Do they want a room or they going to use the meeting area? I wasn't sure about that either.

Harrison Barber: If we have another room, it would be better to designate them there.

President Haskie: We can work that out with them. I think they will only need it for a few hours. I feel that's good enough because they won't be here longer than that.

**Memberships vote 33 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstained to approve the resolution.**

## 9) REPORT(S):

### a) Council Delegate, Amber K. Crotty

Kristy Dempsey: Delegate Crotty is in Santa Fe for the NM Capital Projects. They are meeting with the NM Legislature. Winter session starts next week, all week.

Harrison Barber: She sent in her report to the Chapter, might want to post that, so we can put down that she did provide a report.

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: It is attached to your packet, the last three pages. On her report, it talks about ARPA Projects. The community irrigation system project was removed and focused on home improvement. Home assessments are being worked on and then those will be supporting our project.

### b) Chapter Business Update, Secretary/Treasurer reported.

- Snow Removal Update: We had the equipment operator on the motor grader, three backhoes and farm tractor running from Monday to Saturday. We had an issue with one of the backhoes. The DEF pump went out because of the temperature. That's waiting for repair, the part has been ordered. Our backhoe is down. NTEC Helium had their two backhoes running. Even our custodian stepped up and ran the farm tractor. There was a total of 81 requests; main and residential roads. They did get yesterday and today off. Equipment Operator worked over 60 hours. We had a really good team of operators. They were not familiar with the locations, so we had to get on our phone and give GPS coordinates to every home, all 81 locations. It was crucial in how it was handled. Unfortunately, we had a lot of people dissatisfied with what we did and voiced it.

We had a good amount of people saying thank you. Only local chapter who focused on snow removal in the community. We were told it was a very helpful effort. There were 9 to 10 vehicles that were pulled out because they didn't realize the snowdrift and got stuck. Don't foresee the operator working this week because they went over their hours. When the main roads begin to dry up, we will send the grader out to grade.

- Emergency declaration: Still in declaration for the past year. Our emergency assessment; we are on stand-by. We are not doing anything besides removing snow at this time. Building on stand by for shelter. Water area in front of the gym for potable water. Emergency response team on standby, as well as sister team from Red Valley. Firewood is available, but have to sign up with senior center. They have someone there, sawing up the logs. You might have to do it yourself. Frank did get those logs donated and planning to get more.
- Housing Discretionary and Scholarship Deadline at the end of the month- January.
- Zumba Fitness- Every Wednesday evening @ 6 pm. Possibility of canceling- no participation for past couple of weeks.
- This Saturday: ECHO Food Bank @ 8:30 AM; 350 food boxes to hand out- drive up giveaway. Available to all local communities.
- This Saturday: Shoe Game @ 6 pm; Dinner provided.

President Haskie: Thank you to everyone who helped during these operations. Even though we don't have a coordinator, we all worked together. Even NTEC operators, who are certified to utilize our equipment. Say thank you to them. They need to hear it. Its hard what they handle and say thank you to them all.

Nelson Begay: The ARPA Housing Discretionary; what is the update? Approval percentage?

Secretary/Treasurer Washburn: ARPA Housing is different from Chapter Housing Discretionary. ARPA housing still needs assessments to support and a need that need improvement. Still working with DOJ on the paperwork. The Chapter Housing Discretionary; we have received about 40-45 applications and approval is about 80%. Those approval letters have gone out and the ones who didn't qualify will be going out tomorrow. Everyone should be getting a response this week from the one with the Chapter.

President Haskie: You all know how much housing discretionary money we have, according to the report earlier. Due to the weather, we held off on completing those. They are reviewed now. You have options, you can hire your own workers and we get the materials. You can also wait for the Chapter to hire carpenters. If you hire your own, it'll be faster.

Gladys Lewis: Talking about snow removal, I just wanted to speak on that. My son is the operator for the Chapter. He's been working non-stop for several days. Leaving early and coming back late. At times, I was worried about him. The first day he worked, he worked with the tractor with no cab. It was cold. I told him, don't let them make you sit on that tractor again. It's really cold and I don't want you getting sick. As a parent, you worry about your children. There are times he would come home really late and I would have a hot meal for him. Then when got done, he said, "man some of those people. I can't believe it." He's already wanting to look for another job. I told him, let them say what they want, it'll make you stronger. That's how you were raised, to be strong. I have to encourage him. Please be kind. He is trying. He worked those hours at NAPI- 12 to 16 and even 24 hours. I just wanted to say that and make me feel better as a parent. Thank you for choosing him and believing in him as well. Thank you also, we had huge snow drifts and needed that snow removal.

JAN 16 PM 3:44

I got stuck in the snow at our turn off and had to have my son pull me out. The snow removal helped us a lot. We live 3 to 4 miles north of the main roads. Thank you for the operations that you do for the community. Yeah, we hear that Sanostee community is doing this and our chapter can't do that for us. Thank you for letting me speak.

President Haskie: It's important to say thank you to those workers. They are trying to help you, don't say bad things. It was difficult, even 4-wheel drive, I got stuck.

Caroline Billie: I really want to say thank you. I am very thankful that they cleared N34. We even heard on the radio that communities aren't getting anything. People who say bad things, they aren't here. We, appreciate it all. Don't feel bad. If we didn't have the wind, it wouldn't have been so bad. I even saw Jeanne get stuck and Suzette. I even sent a message to radio to announce and say thank you for what you did for the community.

Vice-President Henderson: We are here for your safety in the community. We all worked together. I want to thank Jourdan and the operators; they did a great job. Jeanne and I played by phone. We all have work at home, I have sheep lambing and had to keep in contact by phone. The communication was good. Good thing there was no human life emergencies. There are priorities to an emergency. There is not a major emergency in the community. On the 8<sup>th</sup> Burnham had one; they called out our ALERT Team. They found the missing elderly safe. These chapters request our team's assistance. Red Valley is also a back up team. We advise; be prepared. Thank you to all during the snow operation. I don't know why people would say bad things. Just let them and keep focusing on helping. Thank you to the officials and office staff for making this happen.

Harrison Barber: Thank you to my sister for bringing up your concern. I know what it's like to feel a way about those who throw mudballs. We have to treat them as if they are your own child. I always address them as my child, my brother or my sister. We the people put them in those chairs. We get criticized for little things. We all should be treating each other right. We are not here forever. We have to unite and treat each other like it's our last day. That's a teaching from our elders. I am glad you brought up the concern about your son, my sister. I've been on the road committee for two terms and I try to avoid things like that. I try to go out with them and not let those get into jeopardy. Sometime people will approach the operator. Our number one priority is to make things work out and come to a solution. Yes, there are time you get upset about things but you can always forgive. Reminder; we had a good snow fall. It's been a while since we had a snow fall like that. When my dad was around, we used our horse and made trails to our sheep. That's how we used to live. Now adays, all we have become is do this for me, do that for me kind of people. I was sent a message, how is it up there towards the mountain? I told them, no problem. We know how to survive this weather. Let's keep an eye on one another. Now we are going to be dealing with mud. I told the Chapter Officials, don't give in. Utilizing the equipment; it's too expensive to fix our equipment. If we put the equipment on water, from the melting snow, it's going to get worse. Then we will complain saying we ruined it. We've got that to take into consideration and I don't want my nephew to be the blame. Let the areas dry up first.

**President Haskie: Welcome the New Officers who were selected yesterday. Nelson Begay is the Commander; Amanda Sandoval is the Vice-Commander and Secretary is Suzette Haskie-Oberly.**

**c) Veterans Organization, Commander Begay reported.**

Nelson Begay: Back in the day, we had a lot of snow. We had no access to our hay barn, for the sheep. We all worked together to get the sheep down from the mountains, with just shovels. We were newly elected in yesterday.

It was a long time coming, the elections were pushed back for a while. We are servants and speaking for those who voted us in. We are to represent the Veterans Organization. We look forward to a positive transition. It will be a lot of work but said we can do the work and carry on our duties. Make the best and that's all we can do. The minutes from December; the Northern Organization met. I want to know, how come we don't talk about Code Talkers, besides the one day of celebration they have or when they pass on. We need to have them apart of our reports. The museum in Tse Bonito, a year ago that was established. We need to hold up their legacy. They also talked about Veteran assistance. Some of their requests are being put on hold. Some were approved and so were not approved. That should be made official when Chapter Commander signs it. During the announcements; March 23<sup>rd</sup> is going to be an event to recognize the Woman Veterans across the nation at Twin Arrows. That is still in the planning stage. We want to recognize our Woman Veterans; they don't get the recognition they deserve. We have a few here and even had a WWII Woman Veteran from our community. We have a showcase in the other building, we can do that for our Woman Veterans as well. On March 29; National Vietnam War Remembrance Day. We also have a gold star mother; their children never made it home. We need to recognize those as well. Then we have blue star mother; their children are still over there. A lot of our Veterans deal with PTSD. One of our young Veterans, Tim Bedah. I know it had something to do PTSD on how we lost him. We need to sit down when they come home and talk with them on how we can help them. That is apart of our plan. We are going to do the best we can as the new officials for Tse Alnaozti'i Veterans Organization.

**d) Grazing Official, Alonzo Cohoe.**

- 2023 Tally Counts are done- Violation updates and follow up with those who haven't done them.
- 2023- AIF Funding: Livestock Management Incentive Program- Valid Grazing Permit with Tally count and other documentation. This is a lot of money that you can get. If you are in transfer or probate; all you have to do is present agreement transfers from grazing official committee that they approved. Also, the final court decree will be needed to add into the application. If you sold because you were overgrazing; those bills of sales will be needed. We had our own outreach on the 6<sup>th</sup>. We had about 12 people show up. Those with Land Use Permits or Home Gardens can apply as well. Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Shiprock Chapter will be having an outreach too. Then here on Jan 27<sup>th</sup> we will be helping apply. from 10 am to 2 pm that day. You have up to March 15<sup>th</sup> to apply. If you applied, approved and haven't been paid out; In November the Council appropriated funding and approved to pay out those who were approved and waiting. It takes four to five months until you get approved and paid out.
- Starting 2024 Tally Count this weekend to before September. Get those done now and before you go up the mountains. Some forget to do that. It's difficult to do round up in the mountains, because of the conditions of the corrals. There used to be opportunities of hiring workers from the chapter for a branding crew, that's not an option any more. We are going to have to do some volunteer work. Possibly in June to start branding.
- Working on 2 Homesite Leases and was able to finalize those.
- Working with Community Land Use Planning Committee; Community Cemetery and Cell Phone Tower.
- Next Meeting for Agency is in Cove; District 12 is in Newcomb on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. If you need information or transfer papers, make sure to go.

James Tso: The one you are talking about, how it pertains to permit holders. I am wondering if it could be available to those who have animals, who take them to the mountains but don't hold a permit. How could that be an option?

JAN 16 PM 3:44

Alonzo Cohoe: You probably have to go to Dept of Agriculture. It's still the same as Farm Service Agency for drought relief. NN is concerned; only people impacted are the grazing permittees. This is drought funds. They are giving \$1,500 for 1 -49. For 50 to 100 you'll be getting \$2,500. Anything beyond if \$3,000.00. For Land Use permits: \$1,000. For gardens; \$500.00. You would need to change their minds on how to do it.

James Tso: My question was a request.

Emil Benally: For only grazing permittees and crop funding for Land use. Do you qualify if all your documents have your name on it? What if they didn't give you all those documents, like the court decree. Or documents have other names on it. I keep asking for a court decree. I went to Aztec office and was told to go to Ft. Defiance office because Sanostee wasn't in their area.

Alonzo Cohoe: Just what I mentioned earlier, permit transfer, Northern Agency in 2014 that was the last time permits were issued. It's a re-adjustment, range management. BIA will write a letter with that information to support that you are in the transfer. If you have all those documents, that's all they will need.

Emil Benally: He didn't answer the question about boundary limit. NM Boundary line to Aztec. They told me from Nenahnezad this way, is in Ft. Defiance.

Alonzo Cohoe: Big Navajo is what we are under and work with Arizona but I am not sure what they are telling you. Need to ask more about that. People are still using Drought Impact. We helped out some people from here, they didn't say that to them.

Emil Benally: Answer isn't sitting well with me. I sent a letter to BIA. I haven't gotten anything back. They told me to get a court decree. I haven't gotten that either. That's a hold up. It seems simple. The policies are from a long time ago. We are trying to work on this issue. We've gone to different agencies. Took these to Natural Resources to Mike Halona. Even down to Fish and Wildlife. Conservation plans are not in the policies. We are working on getting this all cleared up and get these transfer/probates completed. I also wanted to say thank you to the Officials for supporting and helping these efforts. Thank you for working on the roads. Some of us take matter into our own hands and don't run to the Chapter and ask for help. I still want the road paved. Also, thank you for allowing our kids to practice at the gym during their winter break.

James Tso: It would be nice to find a good sheep shearer for the community. A lot of us have sheep and need that kind of person to help. Some can complete one sheep within minutes. Mr. Cohoe, please find some like that. Even when we try it, it's almost like we are butchering. Some of us have issues with sheering and this would help. The issues that we had with the snow on the roads, I want to say thank you to the road committee for their work. I watch my wife; the secretary goes through her paperwork and her minutes from the meeting. I see what they go through with the committee. Seeing that other chapters do not have road committee and they are working hard to do what's best for their people. Including getting documents ready to ask for funding. Thank you for working for the people and trying to make these roads better. Also thank you to the leaders here. Even our own secretary runs the equipment when needed.

**e) Community Health Representative, Berlinda Dickson- NOT PRESENT**

Motion by Amanda Sandoval

Second by Rannitta Henderson

**Memberships vote 31 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained to accept the reports.**

**10) NEXT MEETING:**

- 1. February 2024 Planning Meeting: 02/04/2024 @ 12 pm**
- 2. February 2024 Chapter Meeting: 02/19/2024 @ 12 pm**

**JAN 16 PM 3:44**

**11) CONCLUSION OF MEETING; ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- President Haskie: Announcement from School Board on BIA and Grant schools. Meeting on Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, tomorrow at Navajo Prep School in Farmington. They are going to talk about the school board and one rep from all schools. There used to be five board members and one rep for each school. They are bringing that back up and wanting a rep for each school.
- San Juan County Elections Office; Marianne Benally – *Provided information Candidate Filing for New Mexico Primary Election. Presentation attached to minutes is information given.*  
Zelma Bodie: When people want to put their name in to run, can they do it online for their petition?  
Marianne Benally: You probably need to call County Clerk office. They just give me the presentation to give. Anything else, you call them. I am just the Bilingual Coordinator.  
Harrison Barber: You're being a liaison for election, you are the messenger between the Chapter and the Election Office. I see here, that...  
Marianne Benally: Excuse me, I am not a Liaison, you have a Chapter Liaison. You have another person directly from the Secretary of State, don't remember her name. I represent San Juan County and I am the Bilingual Coordinator, not a Liaison. There is a difference.  
Harrison Barber: I guess there is no sense in asking. For the people, these people come around for the elections and say the county, city and federal. When it comes to Federal, why is it not that clear to not be convicted of Felony? We have the worst candidates running again. If it's down here at the grassroot, how come they can't take care of that.
- Leo Billey: I finished my term as Commander as of yesterday. I want to say thank you to everyone who helped, including the Officials. Happy New year and Merry Christmas. We had a meeting at San Juan Chapter and Delegate Rickie Nez stated. grazing permits are going to re-do the permits. Just for your information that Emil was talking about. Delegate Crotty mentioned on the 16<sup>th</sup>, they are going to meet in Window Rock and discuss increasing assistance to the Veterans. Also, we had snow drifts at our home. I asked the waterline people to help us clear those. They told me, they couldn't do that. Then NTEC was the only one, working with the Chapter, came and cleared the road for us. Thank you for that.

**12) ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Amanda Sandoval

Second by Harrison Barber

**Memberships vote 26 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained to adjourn the meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Submitted by: Secretary/ Treasurer Jourdan Washburn:

 on 01/16/2024

Chapter Administration Rec'vd: 

JAN 16 PM 3:44