

# NAAT'ÁJÍ NAHAT'Á HANE'

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH NEWS

23<sup>RD</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
WINTER COUNCIL SESSION - JANUARY 2016



## Winter Council Session Message from Speaker LoRenzo Bates

Yá'át'ééh shi ei LoRenzo Bates yinishyé. Tsé níjikiní nishlí dóó Naaneesht'ézhi Táchii'nii bá shíshchíín. Kinyaa'áanii 'éi dashicheii dóó Naakai dine'é 'éi dash-iná'í. On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, I am pleased to share with you this edition of Naat'áji Nahat'á Hane' – Legislative Branch News.

First and foremost, I extend my sincere appreciation to all of our Diné Citizens who attended the session and watched online, as well as our chapter, federal, state, and county officials. We also send a special thanks to the Navajo language and culture class from

Rocky View Elementary School, the Thoreau Veterans Organization, and Ms. Megan LaRose with the Navajo Nation Youth Council for taking part in the opening ceremony.

The Council was honored to have our Navajo youth from the Navajo Nation Youth Council also provide a report, and I extend my thanks to Ms. Megan LaRose and Mr. Tristan Black for delivering the report. We have many talented and outstanding Navajo youth who are working toward great initiatives and I also thank the Morning Star Youth Leadership Council

for their continued involvement and for engaging their leadership with respect and passion.

Over the course of this past year, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council has undertaken initiatives that reflect our leadership's willingness and efforts to empower our people individually and collectively. As with any profession or endeavor, there is a learning curve that must occur and that notion is true for our Nation's leaders as well – past and present. I have witnessed growth in each member of this Council within the last year, a growth in leadership, knowledge, and passion to help

See "SPEAKER'S MESSAGE", Page 2

## Navajo Nation Council unanimously approves Nation's largest spending package for water and sanitation system projects

By Jared Touchin

In September 2014, the Navajo Nation and the federal government signed off on a historic agreement that ended the Navajo Nation's lawsuit against the United States over the mismanagement of trust fund assets, which awarded the Navajo Nation \$554 million.

During the final day of the 2016 Winter Council Session, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved a legislation to use a portion of the settle-

ment award to fund a plan that would use approximately \$101 million for over 60 water projects and an additional \$79 million for nearly 50 sanitation system projects in communities across the Navajo Nation. Thursday's action marks the largest spending package ever approved by the Navajo Nation Council.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie, explained that the funds would be used over a



PHOTO (above): Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie looks on as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council unanimously approves Legislation No. 0015-16 on Jan. 28, 2015.

See "WATER PROJECTS", Page 2

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nlnb.communications@gmail.com



**Office of the Speaker**  
Post Office Box 3390  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515  
Phone (928) 871-7160  
Fax (928) 871-7255  
www.navajonationcouncil.org



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# Speaker's Message / cont. from Page 1

our people.

This growth in leadership is evident by this Council's willingness to take on challenging issues and to make decisions for our Nation's future as witnessed during the 2016 Winter Council Session. During the course of the session, Council members deliberated over many tough issues that required long hours of discussion and debate.

During the Winter Council Session, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council approved the Navajo Nation's largest spending package in history for water projects and waste water systems as well as a separate legislation that aims to provide \$25 million per year for chapters, water projects, and economic development projects.

On the second day of the session, following

several prior work sessions that included hours of debate and diligent consideration, the Council voted to support the Utah Navajo Water Rights Settlement agreement. While some may not agree with the terms of the agreement, it is important to remember that Congress must also approve the proposed agreement and also requires the Navajo Nation to sign off on the final agreement.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council also unanimously approved the Navajo Veterans Act, which has developed over the course of many years of contributions and input from our very own Navajo veterans. I thank Delegate Jonathan Hale and the many veterans who worked diligently on this piece of legislation.

These are just a few legislations to highlight the

Winter Council Session. As we move forward, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council will continue addressing issues that build our communities and that are outlined with the "One Nation, One Voice" agreement.

The following pages of this publication includes an overview of events and legislative actions that occurred during the 2016 Winter Council Session, including vote tallies that show how each member of the Council voted on each legislation that was considered during the session. As the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council moves forward, we will continue our efforts to inform the public and to provide transparency for our Diné Citizens.

## Water Projects / cont. from Page 1

five-year period and in accordance with the legislation, the Nation would be required to seek maximum leverage of the funds through funding from federal, state, or private entities through match funding, joint funding, contribution funding, cost-share funding, bond financing, or other agreements to subsidize the cost of the water and sanitation system projects.

The proposed plan was developed by the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee, which was established in April 2015 and tasked with recommending an expenditure plan for the settlement funds.

Delegate Tsosie chairs the subcommittee, whose membership also includes Council Delegates Seth Damon, Nathaniel Brown, Walter Phelps, Jonathan Perry, Otto Tso, Nelson S. BeGaye, Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Mel R. Begay, Lee Jack, Sr., Tom T. Chee, and Davis Filfred.

On Thursday, Council Delegate Walter Phelps explained that the funds would strengthen the Nation's position when lobbying and advocating for federal funding to subsidize the cost of the projects when Council members meet with Congressional members in the coming months.

Delegate Phelps said the funds would give the Nation a greater chance of obtaining additional fed-

eral funding by showing Congressional members that the Nation is prepared to share the cost of funding the projects.

On Monday, the Council received a report from Indian Health Service officials who shared a priority listing of sanitation facilities projects, in priority order, that are necessary to correct sanitation deficiencies in Navajo communities.

During the IHS report, Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete approached the IHS officials and displayed a large bottle of dark murky brown water that he had collected from a faucet in his community.

"This is the type of water that our people and our communities are being exposed to and consuming," said Delegate Pete, emphasizing the need for water and sanitation projects.

Prior to voting on the legislation, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty expressed her support of the bill and said the projects would help many communities.

"This will improve the quality of life for our Navajo people," stated Delegate Crotty.

Delegate Tsosie said the projects will lay a foundation for community development and eventually economic opportunities, referencing the need for a

health clinic in the community of Dilkon, the need for water projects to address water contamination in the northern agency, and water projects that will contribute to the water rights efforts.

In 2014, the Council adopted the Navajo Nation Breach of Trust Settlement Act that created the Síhasin Fund and mandated that the funds from the settlement agreement be used for 1) the planning and development of regional infrastructure supporting economic and community development and 2) educational opportunities for members of the Navajo Nation.

Delegate Tsosie said the plan addresses the need for infrastructure development, which a large majority of the Navajo public recommended during seven public hearings held in 2014.

He added that the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee will produce additional expenditure plans to address economic and community development and education opportunities as mandated by the Navajo Nation Breach of Trust Settlement Act of 2014.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Council members voted 18-0 to approve Legislation No. 0015-16. President Russell Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the bill once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

## Council unanimously approves Navajo Veterans Act

By Jolene Holgate

On Jan. 26, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0006-16, which amends Navajo Nation Code Title II establishing the Navajo Nation Veterans Act and creating the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration and Advisory Council.

According to the legislation, the Veterans Ad-

ministration would provide enhanced outreach, services, and benefits to Navajo veterans. The Veterans Advisory Council would allow veteran participation in policy matters and data system development regarding Navajo veterans issues at the central government level.

Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd com-

mended the Navajo veterans and veteran organizations for their many years of dedicated involvement in the development of the legislation, which took decades to finalize among veteran organizations.

"This is not something that the [Office of the President and Vice President] administration took on

See "VETERANS ACT", Page 4

# Winter Council Session opens with recognition of Sr. Officer Hurley-Vandevere and the promotion of Navajo youth leadership

By Jolene Holgate

The Winter Council session kicked off with a variety of presentations that focused on the promotion and revitalization of the Navajo language and culture in Navajo youth, as well as recognition of Navajo Nation Police Sr. Officer Pamela Hurley-Vandever.

Sr. Officer Hurley-Vandever played a vital role in amending Navajo Nation Code Title 17 to implement and strengthen the Navajo Nation Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. She currently works in the Crownpoint Police District and has served the Navajo Nation Police Department for 10 years.

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie presented a recognition plaque to Sr. Officer Hurley on behalf of the Council's Law and Order Committee, and expressed his gratitude for her work on SORNA and her continued efforts with the Crownpoint Police District.

"She has done a tremendous amount of work

in the Navajo language by a second grade Navajo language and culture class from Rocky View Elementary School, located in Gallup, New Mexico.

Praising the second graders, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty voiced her appreciation of the student's excellent proficiency of the Navajo language and said she was thoroughly impressed.

"I was deeply honored to meet with them, to learn their clans, and see how we are related. I hope that they join us in 20 years as leadership here on the Council floor," said Delegate Crotty.

Delegate Crotty also recognized the youth from the Morning Star Youth Leadership Foundation and the Navajo Nation Youth Council, who were also in attendance at the opening day of Winter Council Session.

The Legislative Branch hosted a government tour for the second grade class, with the participation of the Navajo Nation Office of the President and the Judicial Branch. Each branch presented information to the students to provide them a basic familiarity of the Navajo Nation's governmental functions, and they were able to observe a portion of the Winter Council Session and engage with Council Delegates.

President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez gave a short tour of their office to the students and provided a question and answer session with the second graders. Acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan and Peacemaking Program traditional Diné researcher Joe Sandoval, presented information to the students and quizzed them on what they learned about the Judicial Branch.

On the second day of the Winter Council Session, a high school Diné Government and History class from the Rough Rock Community School got a chance to observe Council consider legislations. Rayshaun Gray, a student from the school, was invited to play her traditional



**PHOTO (above):** Second-grade students from Rocky View Elementary School recite the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance in the Navajo language to Council on the opening day of Winter Council Session on Jan. 25.

Native American flute for the Council.

Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye, who represents the community the school is located in, said he was very proud of the high school students taking the time to see their government at work and commended Ms. Grey for sharing her talent with the Council and audience.

"You can see the talent in our Navajo youth. We talked to them about themselves, that they are not just future leaders, but they are leaders today and they should be a part of their Navajo government," said Delegate BeGaye.

Delegate Begaye also encouraged all Navajo youth to participate and observe the Council sessions, to be educated on important Navajo issues, as well as learn the legislative process on how policy is drafted and implemented. He added that he hopes to see more youth at future Council sessions.



**PHOTO (above):** Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie presents a recognition plaque to Sr. Officer Pamela Hurley-Vandevere for her vital role in implementing the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act.

within the Navajo Nation as a law enforcement officer. It's our honor on behalf of the Law and Order Committee to present this award to Sr. Officer Hurley, in recognition of her work on SORNA and in combatting criminal activity to keep our Navajo communities safe," said Delegate Yazzie.

Delegate Yazzie also commended the Navajo Nation Police Department and its officers and administration for continuing to protect Navajo land and its people.

Posting the colors for Winter Council Session was the Thoreau Veterans Organization, followed by the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance recited



**PHOTO (above):** Megan LaRose from the Navajo Nation Youth Council provided the opening prayer for the Winter Council Session.

# Navajo Nation Council approves use of funds for chapters, water line projects, and economic development projects

By Jared Touchin

During the second day of the 2016 Winter Council Session on Jan 26, the Navajo Nation Council by a vote of 21-1 approved Legislation No. 0314-15, a five-year expenditure plan for the earnings generated from the principal balance of the Navajo Nation's Permanent Trust Fund.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Seth Damon said Council's approval marks the first time in history that an expenditure plan had been approved that would benefit Navajo communities directly.

In 1985, the Navajo Nation created the Permanent Trust Fund and invested \$26 million, which has grown to over \$1.6 billion as of Dec. 31, 2015, according to a report provided by the Office of the Controller. The creation of the PTF also mandated that no income from the fund could be used for a period of 20 years from the time of its creation.

The income generated from the PTF has been available for use since 2005 but has been reinvested into the PTF instead of being used for projects that benefit Navajo communities, stated Delegate Damon.

"Each year, the Nation sends this money back to Wall Street without seeing tangible benefits for our communities," said Delegate Damon. "With this five-year plan, we can begin putting the funds to use and see the real benefits for our people."

Delegate Damon also emphasized that the plan does not propose to take money from the principle balance of the PTF – only the annual generated income.

According to a presentation provided by Del-

egate Damon, the average income gained from stock dividends and bond interest from the PTF from 2007 to 2015 was approximately \$26.7 million on an annual basis.

The plan proposes to utilize \$125 million over the course of five-years – \$25 million per year – for various water line projects, economic development projects, and to provide funds to certified chapters across the Navajo Nation.

The first year of the plan would provide \$6.25 million for all certified chapters, \$8.25 million for water line projects, \$6 million for a c-store and a police sub-station near the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort.

The second year would provide \$6.25 million for all certified chapters, \$16.75 million for water line projects, and \$2 million for a shopping center in the community of Nahata Dziil. Year three of the plan provides \$6.25 million for all certified chapters, \$9.55 million for water line projects, and \$9.2 million for a shopping center in the community of Ganado.

The fourth year would provide \$6.25 million for all certified chapters, \$15.25 million for water line projects, and \$3.5 million for a c-store in Crownpoint. The final year calls for \$6.25 million for all certified chapters, \$15.95 million for waterline projects, and \$2.8 million for a retail store in the community of Dennehotso.

Overall, Delegate Damon explained that the

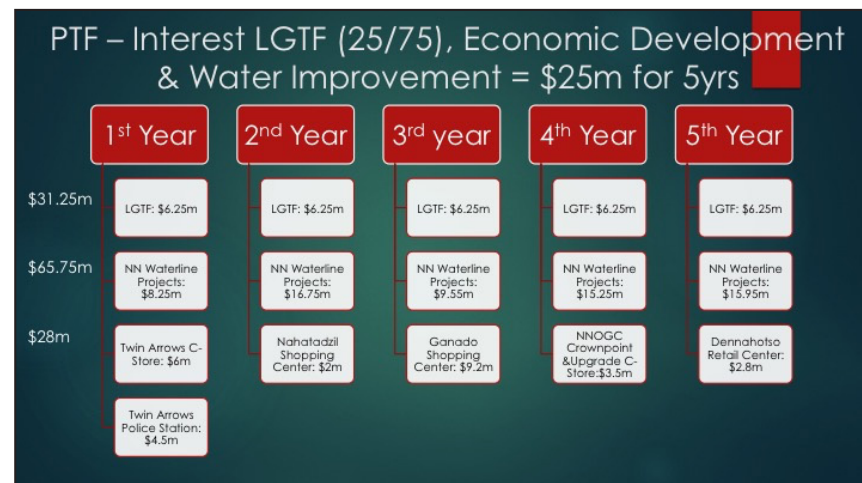


PHOTO (above): Displays a breakdown of the five-year plan for the Permanent Trust Fund income.

plan would provide an average of \$125,000 annually to each certified chapter over the five-year period and create 338 new jobs for the construction of the various shopping centers and c-stores.

After the session, Delegate Damon thanked former Navajo Nation Chairman and President Peterson Zah for his role in establishing the PTF and his longstanding leadership.

"I appreciate Mr. Zah's vision for our Nation in regards to the Permanent Trust Fund and for helping us reach this point," stated Delegate Damon.

Following Council's action, several members of Council said they hope Navajo chapters will support the legislation and urge President Russell Begaye to sign the bill into law. President Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the bill once the resolution is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

## Veterans Act / cont. from Page 2

right away, I want to make that record known. This has been something that's gone on for years and years. Finally, we have come to a compromise and the veterans came together for this and brought something on their behalf. I want to put Navajo veterans on the forefront to say that 'it's yours and you done your job.' I want to make that known for the record," said Delegate Shepherd.

The Veterans Administration would be placed under the Office of the President and Vice President, and Council's Health, Education, and Human Services Committee serving as oversight. The Veterans Advisory Council would consist of eleven members – ten male and one female veteran – from each Navajo Agency and will be identified as Agency Veteran Commanders.

The Veterans Administration will develop its

own plan of operation, with the goal of becoming officially recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the purposes of advocating for funding and further benefits for Navajo veterans.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale said the passing of the legislation acknowledges the hard work of the veterans and will aid in providing much needed services.

"This legislation honors Navajo veterans and will provide services and funding from agencies to the Navajo Nation on behalf of veterans," said Delegate Hale. "Inclusive is the accountability measures that will be developed in the plan of operation to further clarify those measures."

Council members passed Legislation No. 0006-16 with a vote of 20-0. President Russell Begaye

will have ten calendar days to consider the legislation once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.



PHOTO (above): Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale and Delegate Davis Filfred with Navajo veterans involved with enabling the Veterans Act.

# Council continues to take significant steps to protect Navajo people by strengthening the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act

By Jolene Holgate

Legislation No. 0016-16 seeks to strengthen the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2012, through amendments that implement a stronger sex offense tiering classification and banning non-Navajo offenders in the Tier III sex offender category. Sex offenders are categorized into Tier I, Tier II, Tier III, according to the severity of their crimes.

For example, Tier I sex offenders, the least serious offenses, are required to register for 15 years, renewing their registration once a year. Tier II sex offenders are required to register for 25 years, renewing their registration every six months. Lastly, Tier III sex offenders that are convicted of the most serious offenses are required to register for life and are required to renew their registration every three months.

According to the legislation, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Program reviewed the Navajo Nation's implementation of SORNA and found that the language in Navajo Nation Code Title 17 did not properly tier with SORNA standards and could undermine its true purposes.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie said amending SORNA to interface with federal standards is another step in the direction to protect the Navajo Nation.

"I am happy to say that since the implementation of SORNA on the Navajo Nation, it has stepped up our game in further protecting our Navajo citizens," said Delegate Yazzie. "This enables our law enforcement and justice system to keep sex offenders on Navajo land accountable to our system and laws."

During the opening day of Winter Council Session, Delegate Yazzie presented a recognition plaque to Sr. Officer Pamela Hurley-Vandevere for her work on SORNA and implementing it on the Navajo Nation.

Sr. Officer Hurley said she is pleased with the outcome of the amendments and said that although the Navajo Nation is a new entity to implementing SORNA, the Nation is a model for other tribes who may want to develop their own SORNA program.

"The Navajo Nation is a model program of SORNA and it was successfully executed despite the lack of resources, funding, and manpower," said Sr. Officer Hurley. "This has allowed us to create partnerships at the state and federal level, as well as working with other tribes to continue to update data programs and information sharing."

She added that she hopes that the Navajo Nation Police Department will have the opportunity to create its own official SORNA unit to focus solely on registering, tracking, and monitoring sex offenders to keep Navajo communities safe.

SORNA is part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, enacted in 2006 to establish an efficient system for state-level sex offender registration which made federal requirements much stricter following numerous cases in which sex offenders failed to register throughout the United States.

The goal of SORNA is to improve timely apprehension of sex offenders who fail to register and updates their residency – failure to do so is considered a felony.

During a Naabik'yáti' Committee meeting on Jan. 21, committee members passed an amendment to SORNA that would ban non-Navajo Tier III offenders from residing on the Navajo Nation. The amendment passed with a vote of 14-3.

"I appreciate the support of Council members on this legislation. Our united voice sends a message to our people that we are looking out for them and that we are doing everything we can to keep them safe," said Delegate Yazzie. "It is one of several laws that is being updated and it sets a tone for future changes in our criminal code to further protect our Diné citizens."

With a vote of 15-0, the Council unanimously passed Legislation No. 0016-16. President Russell Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the legislation once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

# Navajo Nation Council approves the Utah Navajo Water Rights Agreement

By Jared Touchin

Following several lengthy discussions that included two work sessions, members of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council voted 13-7 to approve the proposed Utah Navajo Water Rights Settlement agreement on Jan. 26.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Davis Filfred, who represents several Utah chapters, stated that each of the Navajo Nation's seven Utah chapters approved resolutions supporting the proposed agreement and that the agreement would lead to funding for much needed water infrastructure development.

Delegate Filfred also noted that the Navajo Nation's three-branches of government identified water rights as a top priority in the "One Nation, One Voice" agreement in July of 2015.

The proposed agreement developed after years of negotiations resulting from a Memorandum of Agreement between the Navajo Nation and the state

of Utah in 2003 that allowed the two sides to formally enter into discussions to determine the water rights of the Nation.

In December of 2015, representatives from the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources and Department of Justice, along with the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission, and the State of Utah reached an agreement as to the quantification and settlement of water rights claims.

During a Jan. 14 Naabik'yáti' Committee meeting, Council members called on President Russell Begaye to address the proposed settlement. On Jan. 20, a letter was sent to President Begaye requesting him to provide his input on the proposed settlement. The Council did not receive a response from President Begaye.

During consideration of the legislation by the Naabik'yáti' Committee, several Council members in-

cluding Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon, raised concerns over language in the proposed agreement that outlines the quantifications of the Nation's water rights.

Under the proposed agreement, the quantifications of the Navajo Nation's water rights include:

- The right to deplete a total of 81,500 acre-feet from all water sources within the Upper Colorado River Basin in Utah on the Navajo Nation
- The right to divert and store up to 435 cubic feet per second from the San Juan River, so long as the annual depletion limit of 81,500 acre-feet is not exceeded
- The right to unlimited diversions from groundwater and from Lake Powell, so long as the annual total depletion limit of 81,500 acre-feet is not exceeded

See "UTAH WATER RIGHTS", Page 6

# Utah Water Rights / cont. from Page 5

- The right to market or lease these water rights to the same extent as other water rights holders in Utah
- When there is not enough water in the San Juan River to satisfy Navajo water uses developed after the effective date of the settlement, the Navajo Nation agrees it will not assert a priority call against non-Navajo water uses in existence as of the date of the settlement. However, new non-Navajo uses developed after the date of the settlement receive no protection, and the Nation can assert priority calls against such new uses.
- When there is not enough water in the tributaries north of the San Juan River, primarily Montezuma Creek, to satisfy Navajo water uses developed after the effective date of the settlement, the Navajo Nation agrees it will not assert a priority call against non-Navajo water uses in existence as of the date the new Nava-

jo uses are developed, but may assert priority calls against uses developed after the new Navajo uses. Most of the historic Navajo irrigation in Utah was developed on Montezuma Creek. All historically developed Navajo irrigation can be rehabilitated and can assert calls against all upstream non-Navajo water uses with a priority junior to the Navajo uses, which most have a priority of 1884

Council Delegate Jonathan Perry, who voted against the legislation on Tuesday, said the Council needed clarification on the proposed water quantifications and urged his colleagues to hold the work sessions that occurred on Jan. 22 and again on Jan. 25.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie asked his colleagues to support the settlement to provide the capacity to build communities and provide economic opportunities.

"We can dream all we want but if there is no

water, there is no development," said Delegate Tsosie, who also pointed out the benefits of the 2010 San Juan Navajo Water Rights Settlement for Navajo communities and cautioned that timing as well as the political landscape on the federal level will impact the outcome of the proposed Utah water settlement agreement.

The proposal also describes the obligation of the federal government to create the Utah Navajo Water Development Fund to provide approximately \$198 million to create a trust fund for the construction of water projects for Navajo communities in Utah.

According to the proposed agreement, obligations of the United States under the agreement are contingent on the availability of funds; however, if Congress does not appropriate funds the agreement is not enforceable. The legislation further states that in the event that the proposed agreement changes substantially due to actions taken by Congress, the Nation will have the authority to approve the revised agreement.

## Jim R. Parris confirmed as Navajo Nation Controller

By Jolene Holgate

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council confirmed Jim R. Parris as the Controller of the Navajo Nation through Legislation No. 0011-16. Parris was appointed as acting controller in Nov. 2015 by the Office of the President and Vice President.

Parris is a member of the Osage Nation and the Cherokee Nation, and is originally from Ponca City, Oklahoma.

According to legislation sponsor Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Piñon, Whippoorwill), Parris has over 35 years of accounting experience working with federal and tribal governments, and has practiced public accounting for several years as a Certified Public Accountant.

"He's served in many capacities and has vast experience and brings much knowledge to the Nation," said Delegate

protect the Nation's assets and improve investments.

Parris said he was deeply honored to be appointed to the position and thanked the Council for the opportunity, although he stated that his term as Controller would be temporary.

"I am not here for a long-term position. I am coming in with the understanding that I am going to help mentor and help bring along Navajo candidates, qualified Navajo men and women, that may come to this body asking to be confirmed as the Controller. I want to prepare and share my background and insight in trying to deal with accounting and investing issues and resolve them for the Nation," said Parris.

Parris added that he has begun to work closely with the Budget and Finance Committee, and has looked into the Nation's current financial processes and will begin to make improvements to them.

In opposition of the confirmation, Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd said he was concerned with the hiring process of the OPVP because it did not result in the hiring of a Navajo person as the Controller.

"I know it's not going to sit well with me mainly because I know that I have constituents that qualified for this position and they are being overlooked. They met the minimum qualifications of a CPA, which this administration overlooked, so they did not adhere to the Navajo Preference in Employment Act – it should've gone to a Navajo," said Delegate Shepherd.

Delegate Shepherd added that since the Controller serves at the pleasure of the Council, interviews



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon and Navajo Nation Controller Jim R. Parris present before Council.

with candidates should have included Council members in the hiring process.

Council Delegate Leonard Pete commended Parris for taking on the position as Controller for the Navajo Nation, and said he has a lot of work ahead of him and praised his willingness to do what is in the best interest of the Navajo people.

"Welcome to the very heart of the Navajo Nation – the Council Chamber. Many, many actions have taken place in here, and to us it's like a sacred home, like a heartbeat. So welcome, and I'll be looking for wise advice, wise counsel, and wise direction from your office," said Delegate Pete.

Also in attendance at the confirmation was Vice President Jonathan Nez, who said he is still open to accepting applications from Navajo citizens that would like to apply for the Controller position.

Council members voted 18-0 to confirm Jim R. Parris as the Navajo Nation Controller. Council is the final authority on the legislation.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon, Navajo Nation Controller Jim R. Parris, and Vice President Jonathan Nez (left to right).

Witherspoon. "As a CPA, they have a license, and if they break those requirements, it provides a level of protection for the Navajo Nation."

Delegate Witherspoon added that a CPA would also have the ability and experience to make Navajo Nation money work for the people, as well as to

# Emergency preparation funding approved for Navajo chapters

By Jolene Holgate

On Jan. 27, Council approved Legislation No. 0003-16, supplemental funding from the Navajo Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$2 million for the Nation's 110 chapters to utilize for emergency preparation and planning.

Speaker LoRenzo Bates, sponsor of the legislation, explained that the need for the funds was brought to the attention of Council members by their chapter officials and constituents to allow chapters the resources to finalize and implement emergency response plans for their communities.

According to the legislation, approximately 23,500 Navajo people over the age of 60 and about 12,400 Navajo veterans reside on the Navajo Nation. During the winter season, Navajo elderly and veterans require special attention for medical and emergency services.

"As leaders for the Navajo people, we need to ensure that we are properly prepared for the winter weather conditions, and it has been reported that this current winter season will be present inclement weather more so than usual," said Speaker Bates.

He added that the legislation would prioritize services to Navajo elderly and veteran populations, such as emergency preparation, response, and supplies

for the winter months including firewood, food, and water.

The emergency preparation funding will be allocated as follows: fifty-percent of the appropriation will be divided equally among all chapters, and the remaining fifty-percent shall be divided proportionally to each chapter based on the percentage equal to the number of registered voters.

On Jan. 12, during a Resources and Development Committee meeting members added amendments to the legislation, which included adding "disabled citizens and single parents of minor children," and directing the Navajo Nation Emergency Commission and the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development to prepare and finalize emergency plans to address annual winter emergencies, which will be reported to the committee in April 2016.

Speaker Bates thanked his Council colleagues



**PHOTO (above): Speaker LoRenzo Bates presents Legislation No. 0003-16 to Council regarding funding for emergency preparation for Navajo chapters. If signed into law, it would allow emergency preparedness planning and aid to all 110 Navajo chapters during weather emergencies**

for bringing the concerns of their constituents to the forefront and for their support and approval of the legislation.

Council members voted 17-1 to approve funding for emergency preparation plans for Navajo chapters. President Russell Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the legislation once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

# Navajo Nation Council approves funds to address dilapidated Judicial facilities

By Jolene Holgate

With a unanimous vote, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0401-15 on Tuesday, seeking funds from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$300,000 to assist in the completion of modular buildings that will house the Navajo Nation Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts in Window Rock.

If signed into law, the funds would be used to design the electrical system, installation of a new waterline, add concrete for site access and curbing, asphalt for an access road, and a parking lot for the facility that was purchased by the Judicial Branch.

According to the legislation, the funding costs are as follows: \$31,113.90 for mobilization of modular building and storage; \$19,757.00 for site prep and interior finishes; \$73,828.00 for asphalt and signage for a parking lot; \$108,519.10 for utility connection (i.e. electrical, water, and sewage); and \$66,782.00 for ribbon foundations, curbing, and gutters.

The modular project began in August 2014, after judicial staff and administrative workers were forced to relocate to at least four scattered offices throughout

Window Rock due to unsafe working conditions, dilapidated buildings, and the risk of mold contamination. Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Otto Tso expressed that there is a critical need to complete the Supreme Court and administrative offices because it is a vital function of the Navajo Nation that needs to be addressed immediately.

"What we are doing is addressing the current Supreme Court's unmet needs due to the lack of funding. We as a Nation need to look at upgrading our buildings and give our employees a safe place to work," said Delegate Tso. "We also need to keep in mind that it must also be a safe environment for our Navajo people who utilize the courts and its offices."

Delegate Tso said the Council's approval of the funding is a major step toward addressing one of the Judicial Branch's top priorities, as well as the Law and Order Committee.

During a Council summit held in early Dec. 2015, Acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan met with Council members to discuss the Nation's priorities outlined in the "One Nation, One Voice" agreement. During the

meeting, he emphasized the need to replace or improve judicial facilities that continue to deteriorate and displace judicial employees.

In Nov. 2015, it was reported that the Nation's Peacemaking Program and the Window Rock Office of Probation and Parole Services would be relocated due to mold found in their facilities.

Delegate Tso thanked his Council colleagues for supporting his legislation and urged President Begaye to sign the bill into law.

"If we are to stand as 'One Nation, One Voice,' we have to ensure that all three branches have safe and proper building space for our leaders, and most especially, our staff," said Delegate Tso. "It is disheartening that our Navajo Nation judicial branch is displaced and this is an opportunity to fix that issue."

Council members voted 18-0 to pass Legislation No. 0401-15. President Russell Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the legislation once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

# Navajo Nation Council continues to support homeless initiative in Gallup

In January 2015, the Office of the Speaker began working with the "Red Nation" organization and community members to combat violence, discrimination, and exploitation of Native American people in the community of Gallup through an initiative known as "No Dead Natives." This season alone, six Native Americans have died of exposure in the Gallup area.

The group collaborates with the Immediate Action Group in Gallup to provide necessities to homeless individuals such as winter clothing and non-perishable food items.

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission has worked with the "Red Nation" organization to bring awareness of homelessness to the Navajo Nation. NNHRC commissioner Dr. Jennifer Denetdale provided information from her research regarding violence, discrimination, and homelessness of Navajo people in Gallup.

According to the report, the city of Gallup has 39 active liquor licenses that generate approximately

\$35-40 million in liquor sales each year. Sales derive primarily from customers that are Native American. The report also states that pawnshops regularly participate in unfair payout and financing practices, and operate high-interest predatory lending schemes that specifically target Native Americans.

The Office of the Speaker continues to aid the organization with the winter clothing drive, and have set up drop-off locations at the Legislative Branch. Meetings between the group and Council members have been scheduled to begin developing solutions to end homelessness and prevent future exposure deaths.

The Red Nation and Immediate Action Group provided a report on the "No Dead Natives" initiative to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on Jan. 21 to further educate Council members and the public regarding homeless issues affecting Navajo people in Gallup.

For more information on participating in the "No Dead Natives" campaign, you may contact The Red Nation organization at [contact@therednation.org](mailto:contact@therednation.org)



Photo (above): Red Nation co-founder Melanie Yazzie presenting the "No Dead Natives" report to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on Jan. 21, 2016.

or you can visit the website at [www.therednation.org](http://www.therednation.org).

The Council encourages the public to donate winter clothing and non-perishable food items, which can be dropped off at the Office of the Speaker or the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Arizona. For more information on dropping off donations, you may contact Jolene Holgate at (928) 380-4174.

## Picture Highlights of the 2016 Winter Council Session



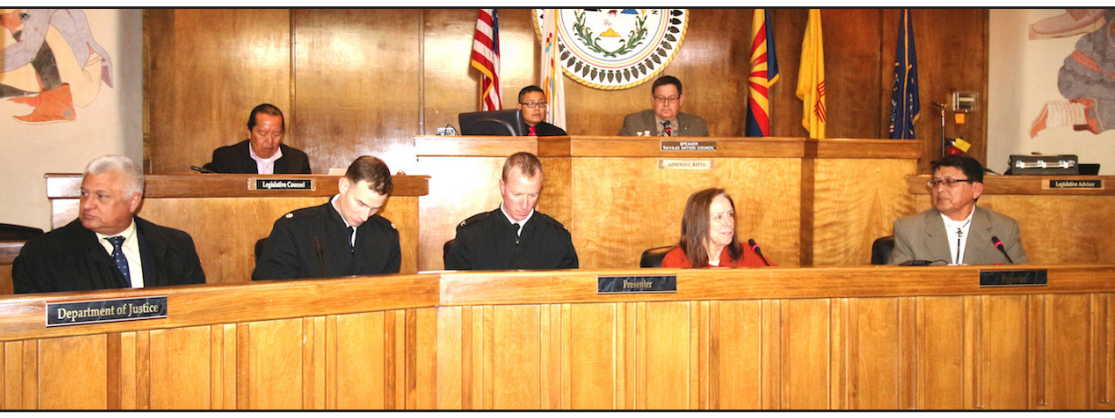
Photo (above): Acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan (far left) and Peacemaking Program traditional Diné researcher Joe Sandoval (far right) pose with the Rocky View Elementary School second-grade Navajo culture and language class after providing a question and answer session with the students.

Photo (below): National Indian Gaming Association chairman Ernie Stevens provided a report to Council regarding Indian gaming throughout the U.S. and how issues can impact the Navajo Nation's gaming.



Photo (above): The Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise presented a check in the amount of \$1.5 million that will be distributed to all 110 Navajo chapters. The funds are a part of the Gaming Revenue Distribution Plan. The chairs of Council's standing committees accepted the check on behalf of the chapters.

Photo (below): Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy, accepted an invitation by Council Delegate Walter Phelps to visit the Navajo Nation and speak to the 2016 Winter Council Session on Jan. 27.





# 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council Standing Committees, Subcommittees, Task Forces, and Commissions

## Council Standing Committees

Budget and Finance Committee	Health, Education, and Human Services Committee	Law and Order Committee	Resources and Development Committee
Seth Damon (Chair) Dwight Witherspoon (Vice Chair) Mel R. Begay Tom T. Chee Lee Jack, Sr. Tuchoney Slim, Jr.	Jonathan Hale (Chair) Norman M. Begay (Vice Chair) Nathaniel Brown Nelson S. BeGaye Amber Kanazbah Crotty Herman Daniels, Jr.	Edmund Yazzie (Chair) Raymond Smith, Jr. (Vice Chair) Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Jonathan Perry Otto Tso	Alton Joe Shepherd (Chair) Benjamin L. Bennett (Vice Chair) Davis Filfred Walter Phelps Leonard H. Pete Leonard Tsosie

## Subcommittees and Task Forces

Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Sacred Sites Task Force	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Arizona Gaming Subcommittee	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Síhasin Fund Subcommittee	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Title II Reform Subcommittee	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's State Task Force
LoRenzo Bates Davis Filfred Jonathan Hale Jonathan Perry Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Alton Joe Shepherd Jonathan Hale Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Leonard Tsosie Nelson S. BeGay3 Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Mel R. Begay Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Seth Damon Davis Filfred Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Otto Tso	Alton Joe Shepherd Norman M. Begay Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Seth Damon Davis Filfred Jonathan Perry Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso	Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Mel R. Begay Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Seth Damon Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Jonathan Hale Walter Phelps

## Commissions

Eastern Navajo Land Commission	Navajo-Hopi Land Commission	Utah Navajo Commission
Leonard Tsosie Norman M. Begay Seth Damon Jonathan Perry Edmund Yazzie	Walter Phelps Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Lee Jack, Sr. Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Nathaniel Brown Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred

For more information on meeting dates, times, and locations, as well as legislations and news, please visit: [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

# 2016 Winter Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

### LEGISLATION 0297-15

Amending 12 N.N.C. § 905 the Navajo Nation Permanent Fund, Expenditure of Fund Income

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Dwight Witherspoon

**ACTION: TABLED, THEN WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR**

(Required 90% or 22 votes from Council)

**(TABLING VOTE)**

**YEA (20):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (1):**

Raymond Smith, Jr.

**NOT VOTING (3):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Davis Filfred

### LEGISLATION 0350-15

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of \$270,000 for the Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Fencing Project; Waiving 12 N.N.C. § 820(I) and 860(C) Relating to the Capital Improvement Process

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Speaker LoRenzo Bates

**ACTION: TABLED**

(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

**YEA (15):**

Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (6):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie

**NOT VOTING (3):**

Benjamin L. Bennett  
\*Seth Damon  
Walter Phelps

### LEGISLATION 0356-15

Amending Navajo Nation Code, Title 2 at 2 N.N.C. 403 to Change the Regular Meeting Day of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee from Wednesday to Tuesday

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Jonathan Hale

**ACTION: PASSED**

(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

**YEA (21):**

Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (0):**

**NOT VOTING (3):**

Benjamin L. Bennett  
\*Seth Damon  
Walter Phelps

### LEGISLATION 0002-16

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of \$1,786,340.00 for Stipends for District Grazing Committees, Eastern Navajo Land Board, Major Irrigation Farm

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Otto Tso

**ACTION: PASSED**

(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

**YEA (22):**

Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (1):**

Dwight Witherspoon

**NOT VOTING (1):**

\*Seth Damon

### LEGISLATION 0015-16

Adopting the Sihasin Fund Bulk Water and Waste Water Development Expenditure Plan Pursuant to CD-68-14 and 12 N.N.C. § 2501- 2508

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Leonard Tsosie

**ACTION: PASSED**

(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

**YEA (18):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NAY (0):**

**NOT VOTING (6):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Mel R. Begay  
Nathaniel Brown  
Jonathan Perry  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Edmund Yazzie

### LEGISLATION 0006-16

Establishing the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration and Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council and Amending 2 N.N.C. § 1703 and 1704

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Jonathan Hale

**ACTION: PASSED**

(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

**YEA (20):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NAY (0):**

**NOT VOTING (4):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Edmund Yazzie

# 2016 Winter Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

### LEGISLATION 0314-15

Approving the Navajo Nation – Permanent Fund Income 5-Year Plan

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Seth Damon

**ACTION: PASSED**  
(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

**YEA (21):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (1):**  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**NOT VOTING (2):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Jonathan Perry

### LEGISLATION 0328-15

Amending 12 N.N.C. 820 (O), providing a Provision for Waiver of Distribution Requirement

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Seth Damon

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (22):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (1):**  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**NOT VOTING (1):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates

### LEGISLATION 0401-15

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the Navajo Nation Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Courts Modular Building Construction

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Otto Tso

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (18):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (0):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Leonard Tsosie

**NOT VOTING (6):**

### LEGISLATION 0404-15

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of Three Hundred Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$340,725) for Dzil Yijiin Remodel

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Otto Tso

**ACTION: TABLED**

**YEA (17):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NAY (3):**  
Seth Damon  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.

**NOT VOTING (4):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Edmund Yazzie

### LEGISLATION 0412-15

Approving the Proposed Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Agreement

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Davis Filfred

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (13):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie

**NAY (7):**  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Tom Chee  
Jonathan Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NOT VOTING (4):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Edmund Yazzie

### LEGISLATION 0414-15

Approving the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Enterprise Fund Balance for Account Number 915001 in the Amount of \$3,298,144.00

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Walter Phelps

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (17):**  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Seth Damon  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (4):**  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Jonathan Perry

**NOT VOTING (3):**  
\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Walter Phelps  
Leonard Tsosie

# 2016 Winter Council Session

## Legislation Results

\*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

### LEGISLATION 0419-15

Amending the Navajo Preference in Employment Act at 15 N.N.C. §§ 604, 611 and 614

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Dwight Witherspoon

**ACTION: TABLED**

**YEA (13):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Norman M. Begay  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (6):**

Mel R. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Seth Damon  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Dwight Witherspoon

**NOT VOTING (5):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Walter Phelps  
Leonard Tsosie

### LEGISLATION 0422-15

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$4,999,999 for a Grant to the Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Seth Damon

**ACTION: TABLED**

**YEA (8):**

Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Seth Damon  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.

**NAY (7):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Edmund Yazzie

**NOT VOTING (9):**

\*Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Dwight Witherspoon

### LEGISLATION 0003-16

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for Navajo Nation Chapters for Emergency Preparation

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Speaker LoRenzo Bates

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (17):**

Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso

**NAY (1):**

Dwight Witherspoon

**NOT VOTING (6):**

\*Edmund Yazzie  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Leonard H. Pete  
Walter Phelps  
Leonard Tsosie

### LEGISLATION 0011-16

Appointing Jim R. Parris as Navajo Nation Controller

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Dwight Witherspoon

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (18):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Tom Chee  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Jonathan Perry  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Dwight Witherspoon  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (1):**

Alton Joe Shepherd

**NOT VOTING (5):**

\* Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Norman M. Begay  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Nathaniel Brown  
Leonard H. Pete

### LEGISLATION 0016-16

Amending Navajo Nation Code, Title 17: Amending the Navajo Nation Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2012

**PRIMARY SPONSOR**  
Edmund Yazzie

**ACTION: PASSED**

**YEA (15):**

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.  
Mel R. Begay  
Norman M. Begay  
Nelson S. BeGaye  
Nathaniel Brown  
Tom Chee  
Seth Damon  
Herman Daniels, Jr.  
Lee Jack, Sr.  
Walter Phelps  
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.  
Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Otto Tso  
Leonard Tsosie  
Edmund Yazzie

**NAY (0):**

**NOT VOTING (9):**

\* Speaker LoRenzo Bates  
Benjamin L. Bennett  
Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Davis Filfred  
Jonathan Hale  
Jonathan Perry  
Leonard H. Pete  
Alton Joe Shepherd  
Dwight Witherspoon