



NAAT'ÁJÍ NAHAT'Á HANE' LEGISLATIVE BRANCH NEWS

23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
FALL COUNCIL SESSION - OCTOBER 2015

Message from Speaker LoRenzo Bates

(As delivered to Council on the opening day of the Fall Council Session)

Yá'át'ééh my colleagues of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, chapter officials, federal, state and county officials, legislative staff, and most importantly, to our Diné Citizens. Thank you for joining us and welcome to the opening of the 2015 Fall Council Session!

As we gather to deliberate and to consider the critical issues and legislations before us, my Council colleagues and I are mindful of the need to make decisions that empower our Diné Citizens and that allow them to resolve and improve the conditions of their families and communities.

In the past few weeks and months, my Council colleagues and I have had the wonderful opportunity to engage with many of our people during fair and parade activities. We had many conversations with people from various areas with a variety of backgrounds who conveyed their needs and concerns, as well as their will to help their communities.

Through these conversations, we have gained greater insight that continues to guides us when making decisions that impact our Nation. So I thank our Diné Citizens for engaging our Nation's leadership and sharing their wisdom and experiences.

See "SPEAKER'S MESSAGE", Page 2



Photo (above): Speaker Bates

Council approves supplemental funding for special education program

By Jolene Holgate

On Oct. 21, during the Fall Council Session, members voted unanimously to approve Legislation No. 0201-15, which would allocate approximately \$2.4 million to the St. Michaels Association for Special Education, Inc., if signed into law by President Russell Begaye.

For over 40 years, the SMASE, Inc. program has been a non-profit organization that provides educational, residential, medical, and therapeutic services to Navajo children and adults with mental and physi-

cal developmental disabilities.


Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) said that the supplemental funding would go towards restoration of their transportation services, educational programs, renovation of dilapidated buildings that do not meet code standards, reinstate staff back to full-time, continue the transitional program for adult disabled clients, and other services related to caring for special needs individuals.

"This entity has never been here [to ask for help], as long as I've been on Council. This opportunity came up and [SMASE, Inc.] approached me and asked for help," said Delegate Hale. "These individuals are precious and we need to meet their needs in the best way possible."


According to the legislation, the SMASE, Inc. receives funding from the Bureau of Indian Education, Arizona Public Schools, Arizona State DDD, Navajo Nation Division of Family Services, Navajo Nation

See "SPECIAL EDUCATION", Page 2

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Speaker's Message / cont. from Page 1

In recent months, our Nation has encountered challenges such as the Gold King Mine contamination spill that devastated several Navajo communities, particularly livestock owners and ranchers who are still facing uncertainty today. Challenges such as this can be overcome through the partnership and cooperation of our Nation's leaders.

In July, the "One Nation, One Voice" document was finalized and signed, which outlined the agreed upon priorities of the Navajo Nation. The pri-

orities and goals contained within the document may seem overwhelming and perhaps insurmountable; however, it is this Council's belief that they are a true reflection of the voice and will of Diné Citizens.

Acknowledging the ambitious goals of the Nation, it goes without saying that we must partner, communicate, and respect one another as leadership in order to move this Nation forward. My Council colleagues and I acknowledge the need for the Nation's three-branches of government to move forward with

the "One Nation, One Voice" agreement. I am confident that we will move forward in unison to achieve the goals to help our people and our communities.

Thank you,



LoRenzo Bates, *Speaker*
23rd Navajo Nation Council

Special Education / cont. from Page 1

Growing in Beauty, and public donations.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'í) said the legislation to aid the children and adults with disabilities should have been prioritized and put at the top of the list for supplemental funding.

"These are our children and our stories are imbedded with them. They are the special children of the Holy Ones and we have an obligation to take care of them," said Delegate Crotty.

The program also provides day treatment services for adults and an education program for children, as well as 14 group homes on and off campus. Caregivers are responsible for management of their clients' health care, education, development of independent and social skills, and community involvement.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) suggested that Council members prioritize additional funding for persons with disabilities in next year's

budget.

"We should have a clause in the budget to take care of our disabled people and elderly. We need to take care of their warmth and their homes. They should not have to wait to be given funding for their needs. They need sincere help," said Delegate Tsosie.

Council members voted 21-0 to pass Legislation No. 0201-15. President Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the bill once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.



Photo (above): Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (center) presents Legislation No. 0201-15 with SMASE, Inc. acting financial director Vee Spencer (left) and executive director Michelle Spencer (right).

Title II amendments call for more efficiency and transparency

By Jared Touchin

On the second day of the Fall Council Session, the Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved amendments to Title II of the Navajo Nation Code. Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd explained that the amendments provide more clarity and efficiency to the legislative process.

Delegate Shepherd, who previously served as the chair of the Title II Reform Sub-committee, said he had taken into consideration several recommendations issued by Council members during the Summer Session in July, when a similar legislation failed to garner two-thirds of Council's support.

Among the more notable amendments includes redefining the "Comment Period" in reference to when legislation is officially introduced. Currently, Title II allows for a 5-day comment period in which the public can submit comments concerning legislations that are introduced and posted on the Council's web-

site.

The recently approved amendments would allow the "Comment Period" to begin when legislation is posted on the Council website and end when the legislation is considered by the Council or the Standing Committee with final approval authority - essentially allowing the public more time to submit comments.

Additionally, the public would be afforded access to exhibits that are attached to legislations as well, except for those that determined to be confidential by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

Another proposed amendment states that if legislation does not receive at least one supporting vote by a Standing Committee - whether the committee is the final authority or not - it shall be eliminated from the legislative process.

During the discussion, Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie proposed an amendment addressing

the line-item veto authority of the president, to state that the veto of a budget line item shall only be to the appropriated dollar amount.

Several members of Council including Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, questioned the authority of Council to approve such an amendment that addresses the president's line-item veto authority which was granted through a public referendum. After lengthy discussion, the amendment was approved with a vote of 19-3.

Prior to voting on the legislation, Delegate Shepherd noted that the resolution would be subject to the approval of President Russell Begaye. At the conclusion of debate, Council members unanimously supported the legislation with a vote of 22-0. If signed into law, the amendments to Title II will take effect in January 2016, in accordance with the legislation.

Important issues discussed on the opening day of Fall Council Session

By Jolene Holgate

On the opening day of the 2015 Fall Council Session, Council members were provided the opportunity to recognize individuals from their communities, speak to important issues that are affecting the Navajo Nation, and stressed the importance of the welfare of youth, elders, and Veterans.

"I would like to thank everyone who is in attendance here at the 2015 Fall Council Session, and I would like to acknowledge the many important issues that we will be tackling in the next few days," said Speaker LoRenzo Bates. "With critical decisions that we must make, we make them in the best interest of the Navajo people."

Before the official start of the Fall Session, Council Delegate Mel Begay presented a recognition award to Ansley L. Curley, a former United States Army Captain and graduate of the West Point U.S. Military Academy.

"I would like for the Council to recognize and acknowledge Mr. Curley for his service in the military and to the Council," said Delegate Begay. "He is from my community and has helped me with many projects and we should be proud of his service to the Navajo Nation and our country."

Delegate Begay added that Curley is originally from Coyote Canyon, N.M., formerly served under the 22nd Navajo Nation Council administration from

Photo (below): Council Delegate Mel R. Begay presenting an award to his constituent Ansley L. Curley for his service in the military.



2013-2015, and is currently the director of Institutional Development at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint.

Following the recognition, Fall Council Session officially started with the posting of colors by the Tohatchi Veterans Organization, who have participated in prior Council sessions for the last few years.

As the Veterans posted the colors, students

from the Naat'aanii Youth Leadership Council from Navajo Preparatory School recited the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance in the Navajo language. The students who participated were Kelly Charley, Tristan Joe, Jourdan Watson, and Blossom Yellowhair, who travelled from Farmington, NM to participate and witness the beginning of Fall Session.

After the students delivered the pledge, newly 2015-2016 crowned Miss Navajo Nation Alyson Jeri Shirley provided the invocation.

At the conclusion of the invocation, Council recognized and praised the students and Veterans for their roll in the opening ceremony for the Fall Council Session.

Council Delegate Walter Phelps expressed his appreciation to Miss Navajo Nation for the opening prayer, and said the community of Tolani Lake was proud of her for winning the crown and representing the Navajo Nation.

Delegate Phelps also touched on the issue of the Former Bennett Freeze Area, stating that he was pleased that the Office of the President and Vice President, along with several division directors took part in a tour that surveyed the area.

"Last week on Thursday and Friday, President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez along with their staff took the time to tour the Former Bennett Freeze Area and visited with constituents who were able to express their concerns regarding their homes, ranches, and proposed infrastructure," said Delegate Phelps. "The people in that area are very thankful for that."

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie raised another important issue concerning recent suicides that have occurred in Thoreau, N.M. and said that there have been approximately 32 victims of suicide since April of this year.

"I encourage my colleagues to spread the



Photo (above): Members of the Tohatchi Veterans Organization posting colors at the 2015 Fall Council Session.

message of suicide prevention on the radio and in their communities, we can't turn away from this," said Delegate Yazzie. "32 is too many and it is happening all throughout Navajo land, so we have to do something about this."

Delegate Yazzie added that it is also important to think about the families who are suffering from losing loved ones and that it is beginning to affect communities as a whole. He said he would continue to advocate for further funding for suicide prevention programs.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. also acknowledged Navajo Veterans and urged his Council colleagues to also keep Veterans issues at the forefront of their priorities within their communities.

"We need to keep working towards solutions to Veterans issues - we cannot forget them," said Delegate Begay.



Photo (above): Students from the Naat'aanii Youth Leadership Council reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council confirms division directors for Social Services and Natural Resources

By Jolene Holgate

During the third day of Council, two division directors were confirmed to head the Navajo Nation Navajo Nation Division of Social Services and the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources. Each of the candidates was appointed by President Russell Be-

gaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez, which were subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council.

Legislation No. 0228-15, sponsored by Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels), sought to confirm Terrelene G. Massey as the execu-

tive director for the Division of Social Services.

"It was a privilege to have her as a candidate. She was raised on the reservation, acquired a [Juris Doctorate], and returned to help her people. That in of itself is an accomplishment to the bigger task which

See "CONFIRMATIONS," Page 5

Report emphasizes the rehabilitation of the Former Bennett Freeze Area

By Jared Touchin

In a written report provided to Council on the opening day of the Fall Council Session, Speaker LoRenzo Bates touched on several issues including the rehabilitation of the Former Bennett Freeze Area. Speaker Bates explained that after a compelling and heartfelt report to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on July 16, 2015 from the Forgotten People Community Development Corporation, Council entered into further discussion regarding the many needs of the Former Bennett Freeze communities.

With overwhelming support from Council members, a directive was issued to have the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Office of the President and Vice President hold a Naabik'iyáti' Committee meeting in Tuba City, which occurred on September 24 at Greyhills Academy Auditorium to address the Former Bennett Freeze Area.

The intent of the meeting was to share with the people impacted by the Bennett Freeze that the Three Branches of government made the Rehabilitation a priority within the "One Nation, One Voice" agreement, and to develop direction based on community plans and recommendations from the people.

With 300-plus community members in attendance, the Council heard testimony from several elderly people who have endured the harsh living conditions for decades.

The result of the meeting was a listing of 30 recommendations issued by Council members and members of the Forgotten People. Additionally, it should be noted that the meeting at Greyhills Academy was the beginning of future meetings to develop a long-term "Regional" action plan that incorporates Chapter Plans and other proposed plans. Below is the 30 recommendations issued on Sept. 24. Here is the listing as follows:

1. Technical amendments to the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund and other trust fund accounts to address the recovery
2. Designation of Empowerment/ Promise Zone
3. Re-establish the Interagency Coordination and Collaboration agreement
4. Provide informational updates for federal officials
 - a. Community & Economic Development
 - i. New Market Tax Credit
 - ii. Private Sector Investments
 - iii. Other Incentives
5. Fund Critical Needs:
 - a. Housing
 - i. Recommendation: Cluster Housing
 - ii. Fund 50% of the 1,434 identified houses using TDHE Funds
 - b. Infrastructure
 - i. Powerlines
 - ii. Renewal energy
 - iii. Solar, etc.
6. Address Water Contamination
7. Development of Community/ Chapter Master Plans
8. Collect and Compile all existing project plans and other data
9. Tour FBFA
10. Reinstate BIA budget line-item for Bennett Freeze Area
11. Consider giving TDHE back to the Navajo Nation
12. Creation of Advisory Committee
13. Use ESCROW Fund to connect powerlines to nearby homes (within 6 months)
14. Develop on-going list of progress and homes served (Inventory)
15. Redevelopment plan map - showing community and economic development
16. OPVP to Declare State of Emergency for the FBFA
17. Three Branch Chiefs to give directives to make FBFA a Priority
18. \$17.5M Emergency Funds to be used for FBFA
19. Involve former Leaders
20. Establish FBFA Development Office
21. Matching Fund to CDBG
22. Need Inventory of land
23. Involvement of all programs within the Navajo Nation
24. Involve community in development of plan
25. Water, powerline assessments (initial phases of approval by chapters)
 - a. Right-of-ways, archaeological clearances, etc.
26. Identify strengths and weaknesses from previous plans
27. Develop impacted Community-based coalition level Taskforce Committee
28. Develop a Research and Analysis Committee
29. Develop a Fiscal and Project Oversight Committee/Taskforce
30. Restructure Navajo-Hopi Land Commissions

It is the goal of the Council to coordinate and collaborate amongst involved entities and oversight committees to identify all plans and resources, as well as to identify and address all obstacles and barriers to ensure a successful Regional Long Range Plan of Action for the Former Bennett Freeze Area.

Council approves Juris Doctorate requirement for Chief Justice

By Jolene Holgate

Council approved Legislation No. 0031-15, which would amend Navajo Nation Code Title 7, to require the Supreme Court Justice of the Navajo Nation to hold a Juris Doctorate degree.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Piñon, Whippoorwill) said he participated in a work session with the Law and Order Committee, in which they agreed on a proposed amendment to the legislation—to only require the Supreme Court Chief Justice to have a Juris Doctorate degree.

Initially, Delegate Witherspoon said the legislation would have required all three Navajo Nation Supreme Court Justices to hold a Juris Doctorate degree.

Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) proposed an amendment to change language in the legislation that would read: " The Chief Justice of the

Supreme Court shall have earned a Juris Doctorate degree," and strike language that required all three justices to have a J.D. degree.

Council members voted 18-2 to pass the amendment.

The legislation drew concern from Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'l'i) regarding the impact it may have on hiring additional Supreme Court justices.

"We should know how many justices have a [J.D.] degree and how many are currently applying for this position. I take it serious when we're having policy changes within our personnel guidelines. It may fix an immediate issue, but it may also create a possible negative impact that we have not yet discussed," said Delegate Crotty.

Delegate Crotty compared the degree requirement to the Nation still seeking a Controller, who

will now be required to be a Certified Public Accountant, which she said now limits the pool for hiring. She added that it may cause the positions to be vacant for a lengthy period of time.

Council voted 19-1 to pass Legislation No. 0031-15. On Nov. 2, President Begaye signed the legislation into law.

"I am pleased to raise the standard for one of the highest positions within our Navajo Nation. This new standard ensures that our Chief Justice will have been exposed to various fields of law in law school. This new higher standard will help move our Nation forward to obtain more self-determination over our own justice system," stated Delegate Witherspoon. "At some point, the Navajo Nation needs to have authority over all judicial matters, including the seven major crimes that are prosecuted federally on Indian lands."

Council approves purchase of land in the City of Gallup

By Jared Touchin

On Nov. 2 President Russell Begaye signed into law Resolution CO-49-15, approving approximately \$163,000 from the Navajo Nation's Land Acquisition Fund to purchase 81-acres of prime land within the City of Gallup.

The legislation sponsored by Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) received unanimous approval by the Council on Oct. 21. Delegate Yazzie represents several communities located near the City of Gallup.

The signing of the resolution authorizes the Nation to finalize the purchase of the land, which is currently classified as an Individual Indian Trust Allotment, located east of downtown Gallup.

According to the legislation, the Navajo Land Department surveyed the land earlier this year and recommended the purchase of the land. The bill further states that all clearances and evaluations had been completed and finalized.

Delegate Yazzie thanked the individual allotment owner for offering the prime land to the Navajo Nation, which he hopes to be used for the construction of a new Indian Health Service hospital.

For years, Delegate Yazzie has advocated for funding from the federal government and other entities to construct a new hospital facility to replace the aging Gallup Indian Medical Center.

"Our people are in great need of a new hospital in the area and this legislation moves us a

step closer in that direction," stated Delegate Yazzie. "I thank my Council colleagues and President Begaye for their support of this land purchase."

The land owner signed documents earlier

this year agreeing to the sale price. Delegate Yazzie said he expects the sale to be finalized soon, adding that he believes the land will benefit the Nation in the long-term.



Photo (above): The map shows the location of the allotted land located east of downtown Gallup.

Confirmations / cont. from Page 3

is to address Navajo Nation social services," said Delegate Hale. "The issues that face the Nation are tremendous, but through her experience and education, she can initiate major changes for the benefit of Diné people."

Massey is Ta'neezahnii (Tangle People) and born for Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House People). Her maternal grandfather is Tsé Deeshgizhnii (Rock Gap Clan) and paternal grandfather is Tódích'íí'nii (Bitter Water). She is originally from the community of Pinon, Arizona.

Prior to her appointment, she was employed as an attorney at Johnson Barnhouse & Keegan, LLP in Albuquerque. She also served as a staff attorney at New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc., where she provided legal services to low income clients regarding federal Indian law, family law, and tribal legal issues.

Ms. Massey is licensed to practice law in the State of New Mexico and on the Navajo Nation. She attained a Juris Doctorate and Certificate in Indian Law from the University of New Mexico's School of Law, a Masters of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and a Political Science degree from Arizona State University.

Massey was unanimously confirmed by the

Council with a vote of 21-0.

Following Massey's confirmation, the Council considered Legislation No. 0246-15, which sought the confirmation of Bidtah Becker to serve as the executive director for the Division of Natural Resources.

Becker is Kin'ichíí'nii (Red House People) and born for Bilagáana Dine'é (Caucasian People). Her maternal grandfather is Tódích'íí'nii (Bitter Water) and her paternal grandfather is Bilagáana Dine'é (Caucasian People). She is originally from Ojo Encino, New Mexico and currently resides in Fort Defiance, Arizona.

Resources and Development Committee chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat), who sponsored the legislation said that Becker has collaborated with his committee and has been consistent in working with them to begin tackling important natural resource issues.

"Ms. Becker has the character to lead and also get things done, whereas in previous instances, there was procrastination and things weren't pushed forward," said Delegate Shepherd.

Delegate Shepherd also noted Becker's previous position as an attorney for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice for the last 13 years and her considerable experience with natural resources issues.

During the discussion, Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) raised concerns regarding natural resource issues on the Navajo Nation.

"There are 13 departments under the [Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources]. This is one of the divisions that [generates] a lot of money and I'd like to see that continue. We have renewable and non-renewable resources, and I am hoping we can begin to tap into those to create more revenue," said Delegate Smith.

In response to Delegate Smith's concerns, Becker said she looks forward to undertaking the many challenges within the division and will provide updates to the Council.

"We have to be bold. We absolutely have to be bold in our decision making, especially for the best use of our land. I am very excited and honored to be considered by Council to work with a tremendous team at the Division of Natural Resources, who are just as dedicated as I am to natural resource issues on the Navajo Nation," said Becker.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Council members voted 13-4 to confirm Becker as the executive director for the Division of Natural Resources.

2015 Fall Council Session

Legislation Results

* Chaired the discussion - only votes in the event of a tie

Legislation 0155-15

Referring a Referendum Measure on Expenditure of Fund Principal Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §904, Permanent Trust Fund

Primary Sponsor:
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

FAILED

Yea (8)
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Nathaniel Brown
Davis Filfred
Jonathan Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard Pete
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

Nay (14):
Mel Begay
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin Bennett
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie

Not Voting (2):
* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Edmund Yazzie

Legislation 0238-15

Authorizing A Senior Unsecured General Obligation Tax-Exempt Term Loan To Acquire New Aircraft And To Purchase Equipment Necessary To Maintain The Navajo Nation's New Aircraft And To Pay Related Financing And Legal Costs; Approving Term Sheet; Delegating Authority To Negotiate, Execute And Deliver Final Loan Documents; And Related Matters

Primary Sponsor:
Davis Filfred

PASSED

Yea (13)
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard Pete
Walter Phelps
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

Nay (5):
Nathaniel Brown
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Jonathan Perry
Alton Joe Shepherd
Leonard Tsosie

Not Voting (6):
* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Mel Begay
Benjamin Bennett
Jonathan Hale
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Edmund Yazzie

Legislation 0031-15

Amending Navajo Nation Code Title 7 By Requiring Navajo Nation Supreme Court Justices To Hold A Juris Doctor Degree

Primary Sponsor:
Dwight Witherspoon

PASSED

(Required two-thirds or 16 supporting votes from Council)

Yea (19)
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Mel Begay
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Jonathan Perry
Leonard Pete
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon

Nay (1):
Amber Kanazbah Crotty

Not Voting (4):
* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Benjamin Bennett
Jonathan Hale
Edmund Yazzie

Legislation 0247-15

Approving Supplemental Funding From The Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance In The Amount Of \$500,000.00 For Teecnospos Chapter Facility Renovation; Waiving 12 N.N.C. § 820(I) And 860(C) Relating To The Capital Improvement Process

Primary Sponsor:
Davis Filfred

PASSED

(Required two-thirds or 16 supporting votes from Council)

Yea (16)
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Mel Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard Pete
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Leonard Tsosie

Nay (0):

Not Voting (8):
* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin Bennett
Jonathan Hale
Jonathan Perry
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

2015 Fall Council Session

Legislation Results

* Chaired the discussion - only votes in the event of a tie

Legislation 0281-15

Amending 2 N.N.C. s 852(A) and (B)(1) of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Act to Increase the Number of Voting Members From Eight to Nine

Primary Sponsor:
Walter Phelps

PASSED

(Required two-thirds or 16 supporting votes from Council)

Yea (17)

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Mel Begay
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin Bennett
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

Nay (1):

Leonard Pete

Not Voting (6):

* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Nelson S. BeGaye
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Jonathan Hale
Leonard Tsosie
Edmund Yazzie

Legislation 0335-15

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of \$2,922,425.00 for Teesto Chapter Construction Project; Waiving 12 N.N.C. §820(I) and 860(C) Relating to the Capital Improvement Process

Primary Sponsor:
Lee Jack, Sr.

PASSED

(Required two-thirds or 16 supporting votes from Council)

Yea (20)

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

Nay (0):

Not Voting (4):

* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Benjamin Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Jonathan Hale

Legislation 0354-15

Amending the Navajo Nation Council and Committee Legislative Process, 2 N.N.C. §164, Creating a New §165, and Amending Corresponding Definitions at 2 N.N.C. §110

Primary Sponsor:
Alton Joe Shephard

PASSED

(Required two-thirds or 16 supporting votes from Council)

Yea (22)

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

Nay (0):

Not Voting (2):

* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay

Legislation 0201-15

Approving A Navajo Nation Grant And Supplemental Funding From The Undesignated, Unreserved Fund Balance In The Amount Of \$2,418,660.21 For St. Michaels Association For Special Education, Inc.

Primary Sponsor:
Jonathan Hale

PASSED

(Required two-thirds or 16 supporting votes from Council)

Yea (21)

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

Nay (0):

Not Voting (3):

* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Mel Begay
Norman M. Begay

2015 Fall Council Session

Legislation Results

* Chaired the discussion - only votes in the event of a tie

Legislation 0228-15

Confirming Terrelene G. Massey As Navajo Nation Division Of Social Services Executive Director

Primary Sponsor:
Jonathan Hale

PASSED

Yea (21)

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

Nay (0):

Not Voting (3):

* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Mel Begay
Norman M. Begay

Legislation 0242-15

Approving The Purchase Of An Individual Indian Trust Allotment No. SF-060195 Offered For Sale To The Navajo Nation By The Owner, E. Becenti, 81.52 Acres, Located Within The City Of Gallup, McKinley County, New Mexico For \$163,040 Plus Closing Costs; Approving The Expenditure Of Funds From The Land Acquisition Trust Fund Consistent With The Land Acquisition Trust Fund Act, 16 N.N.C. §§201-208, In The Amount Approved For The Purchase Of The E. Becenti Property; And, Authorizing The President Of The Navajo Nation To Execute Any Documents Related To The Purchase Of The E. Becenti Property After The Navajo Nation Land Department And The Navajo Nation Department Of Justice Comply With The Implementing The Navajo Tribal Policy On Acquisition Of Lands, RGAC-28-84

Primary Sponsor:
Edmund Yazzie

PASSED

Yea (21)

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

Nay (0):

Not Voting (3):

* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Mel Begay
Norman M. Begay

Legislation 0244-15

Confirming Dr. Donald D. Benn As Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Director

Primary Sponsor:
Alton Joe Shephard

TABLED

(Will be considered at the next Council Session)

Yea (13)

Benjamin Bennett
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard Pete
Walter Phelps
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

Nay (7):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Davis Filfred
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.

Not Voting (4):

* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Mel Begay
Norman M. Begay
Jonathan Perry

Legislation 0246-15

Confirming Bidtah N. Becker As Navajo Nation Division Of Natural Resources Executive Director

Primary Sponsor:
Alton Joe Shephard

PASSED

Yea (13)

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Nelson S. BeGaye
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard Pete
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Leonard Tsosie
Edmund Yazzie

Nay (4):

Davis Filfred
Jonathan Hale
Dwight Witherspoon
Benjamin Bennett

Not Voting (7):

* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Mel Begay
Norman M. Begay
Nathaniel Brown
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Perry

Legislation 0301-15

Approving Supplemental Funding From The Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance In The Amount Of \$132,412.87, For A Powerline Extension To Four Relocation Households In The Navajo Partition Land Area Of Forest Lake Chapter Community

Primary Sponsor:
Dwight Witherspoon

TABLED

Yea (9)

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Benjamin Bennett
Tom Chee
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

Nay (5):

Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Walter Phelps
Leonard Tsosie

Not Voting (10):

* Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Mel Begay
Norman M. Begay
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Hale
Jonathan Perry
Leonard Pete
Alton Joe Shepherd
Edmund Yazzie