



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee recommends the Kayenta Township and Kayenta Chapter to resolve issues

KAYENTA, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee received reports from the Kayenta Township and Kayenta Chapter regarding community projects and initiatives. During the reports, the Kayenta Chapter also highlighted the challenges between the chapter and the township.

RDC chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) stated that the reports are essential to the progress of the two government entities .

Gabriel Yazzie, Kayenta Township manager, reported that the township has contributed in building a new wellness center, beautifying the community through the “Keep Kayenta Beautiful” campaign and grant opportunity, improving a 3.4-mile bus route south of the Kayenta Unified School District, establishing business site infrastructure, supporting the Kayenta Fire Department, renovating the rodeo grounds, supporting recreational programs and Tohdenasshai Shelter Home, and investing in community organizations such as solid waste, the animal shelter, and public works.

Kayenta Chapter president Stanley Clitso provided the farm board’s annual report and accomplishments, the delivery of direct services such as scholarship services, housing improvements, veteran services, the completion of power line and water line extensions, and the planning of the Kayenta multi-purpose center, which will include a wellness center, administrative offices, and vendor market.

RDC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tside To ii) questioned if the township and the chapter collaborate on projects.

“As I heard both presentations, it seems like there are duplication of services. The township said they are planning to construct a new wellness center and the chapter indicated that the multi-purpose center will have a wellness center. Is there any collaboration between the two governments?” asked Delegate Phelps.

“Having two heads in the community does not work because of the struggle for money and power. The Kayenta Chapter does not get a single dime from the tax revenues that the township collects. The whole community is entitled to the revenues,” stated Clitso.

Delegate Phelps recommended three options to resolve the issues between the township and the chapter. The first is to eliminate one government system through a referendum vote or a mutual agreement. Second option is to agree to work together and create a local policy to separate responsibilities and roles. Third option is to ignore the situation and continue to not work together.

“Its very unfortunate that the two governments can’t work together. The community of Kayenta is very lucky to have a township because all the other 109 chapters wish they had that opportunity to generate revenues for their communities. The possibilities are endless if the township and chapter decide to work together,” stated RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle).

RDC member Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa) stated that the growth of Kayenta is going towards the right direction but the issues between the government entities need to be resolved.

The Resources and Development approved the reports with a 4-0 vote with the recommendation for the Kayenta Township and Kayenta Chapter to provide solutions after the Navajo Nation general elections.

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