



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council celebrates groundbreaking for Oak Springs Chapter House Kitchen Addition and Renovation Project



Left to right: Flavian Tabaha, former Council Delegate Edison Wauneka, Linda Onesalt, RDC Chair Delegate Brenda Jesus, and Jeffery Etschitty.

OAK SPRINGS, Ariz. – 25th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Brenda Jesus joined officials from the Oak Springs Chapter during a groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 23, to celebrate the groundbreaking for construction of the Oak Springs Chapter House Kitchen Addition and Renovation Project.

“This project is a long time coming and will provide much needed renovations and additions to the Oak Springs Chapter House,” said Resources and Development Committee Chair Brenda Jesus (Oaksprings, St. Michaels), who represents the community. “I commend the Navajo Nation Capital Projects Management department and the efforts of Andy Thomas and Leo Barber.”

Chair Jesus acknowledged the efforts of the Oak Springs veterans who worked with the chapter officials to plan for the project.

“This exemplifies the interest and vision that you have for your community in Pine Springs and Oak Springs,” Chair Jesus said during the groundbreaking.

The project was funded using \$4 million from the Navajo Nation’s Síhasin Fund that was allocated by former Council Delegate Jonathan Hale and was dispersed between the Oak Springs Chapter House and St. Michaels Chapter House. Additionally, former Council Delegate Edison Wauneka allocated \$2.8 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Funds request form and expenditures plan, prepared by Community Service Coordinator Favian Tabaha, outlines the project details. Dyron Murphy Architects is designated to initiate construction in spring 2024 with a targeted completion in 2025.

The Oak Springs Chapter House, constructed in 1974, is set for a transformative overhaul, encompassing a 6,260 square foot expansion featuring a commercial kitchen, shower, assembly area, restrooms, storage spaces, a mechanical room, and a main entrance. This project addresses essential needs and Covid-19 related concerns.

The funds were approved under the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJN-29-22, designating infrastructure improvements as an ARPA/NNFRF eligible project. Despite the challenges of the facility’s age and past financial constraints, the Oak Springs Chapter will be conducting meetings during construction.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council anticipates the positive impact that this project will have on the Oak Springs Chapter, neighboring communities, and the Navajo Nation.

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