



25th Navajo Nation Council

# 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 13, 2024**

## **Budget and Finance Committee Commences Public Hearings on Fiscal Year 2025 Comprehensive Budget**



**Left to Right: Council Delegate Lomardo Aseret, Norman M. Begay, Shaandiin Parrish, Carl Roessel Slater, Amber Kanazbah Crotty, and Lester Yazzie**

**CROWNPOINT, NM.** – The Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) held the first public hearing on the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2025 Comprehensive Budget at the Crownpoint Chapter, over 30 attendees participated in the public hearing in Crownpoint, NM.

The public hearings focus on gathering public input and concerns from Diné citizens regarding the upcoming fiscal year's comprehensive budget. The hearing was led by BFC Chair Shaandiin Parrish, with Vice Chair Carl Slater, and Council Delegates Lomardo Aseret, Norman M. Begay, Amber Kanazbah Crotty, and Lester Yazzie actively engaged with community members.

In her opening remarks, Chair Shaandiin Parrish emphasized the significance of these hearings in ensuring that the voices of the Diné people are reflected in the Nation's budgetary decisions.

"Our goal with these public hearings is to ensure that the priorities of our communities are heard and integrated into the Navajo Nation's plans," stated Parrish. "During this first public hearing, we received valuable recommendations, and I believe we aligned closely with the community's needs."

Attendees discussed the deteriorating infrastructure within the Eastern Agency, particularly

the condition of child daycare centers, preschool buildings, and senior centers. Community members expressed their frustration over the neglect of these critical facilities, underscoring the need for safe and well-maintained spaces for the Nation's youth and elderly.

Vice Chair Carl Slater addressed these concerns by reaffirming the BFC's commitment to infrastructure improvements. "We're committed to prioritizing and securing the necessary resources to address these concerns, focusing on sustainable solutions. To that end, we are working with our executive branch programs to fulfill their obligations in relation to the capital improvement plan under the Appropriations Act."

Navajo Nation Vice President Richelle Montoya also attended the hearing and provided an update on her initiatives regarding animal welfare across the Navajo Nation.

During the hearing, officials from the Crownpoint and Church Rock Chapter Houses raised critical issues regarding the challenges in securing approvals for infrastructure projects, the need for increased funding for higher education, and the necessity of full-time maintenance workers to ensure the proper upkeep of chapter facilities.

To'Hajiilee Navajo Chapter President Jimmy R. Secatero brought attention to issues within the Veterans Administration, particularly issues regarding Diné veterans housing. Secatero shared a story of a veteran's family who was promised a new home by the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration. The veteran's home was deconstructed, and the veteran has yet to receive a new home, leaving the family in despair.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Navajo Nation's chapter houses was addressed by chapter officials who spoke about the personal sacrifices made by community members during the pandemic, with some still awaiting compensation for their contributions.

Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty acknowledged the resilience and dedication of these individuals, praising their leadership during such challenging times.

The Budget and Finance Committee is focused on integrating the input gathered from these public hearings into the final budget proposal, which is anticipated to be presented to the Navajo Nation Council in September. The next public hearing is scheduled for August 13, 2024, at the Ganado Chapter House.

Upcoming BFC Public Hearings:

1. Western Agency  
Chilchinbeto Chapter House  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday, August 15, 2024

2. Central Agency  
Chinle Chapter House  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Friday, August 16, 2024

3. Northern Agency  
Shiprock Chapter House  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday, August 19, 2024

**All meetings will start at 10 a.m. Doors will open at 8 a.m.**

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