



## The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Contact: Alastair L. Bitsoi, Public Information Officer

Phone: (928) 871-7228

Cell: (928) 255-2943

Fax: (928) 871-7255

[abitsoi@navajo.org](mailto:abitsoi@navajo.org)

[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

June 14, 2010

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### Public Safety Committee hears update on public safety, judicial facilities

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – At a regular scheduled meeting, the Public Safety Committee of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council accepted a report regarding updates on two public safety, judicial facilities at Crownpoint, NM and Tuba City, Ariz.

Delores Greyeyes, director for Navajo Department of Corrections, reported to the committee that drawdown for the \$60 million Key Bank loan, which will finance construction of the facilities, is expected to be closed out by the end of the month.

"In the meeting I had with the Office of the Controller, we are going to spend the \$60 million loan up front for construction," Greyeyes said. "The Controller is going to turn around to ask the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for a drawdown for the amount we will spend for construction."

Greyeyes also said drawdown of the loan money upfront would allow the tribe to be reimbursed. The DOJ has provided American Recovery Reinvestment Act funds for the projects and requires a ten day turn around time on how money is spent.

"The reason why we do not want to go directly to the U.S. DOJ for funds without using any loan money upfront is because then we have to deal with the ten day window in which DOJ requires any amount we drawdown we have to have spent and report back within ten days from the point we get the funds," Greyeyes explained. "Because of the length of time that it takes in the tribal process to get a payment, more often about three weeks to get a payment done, we would be cited every time we do not make that timeline."

Council Delegate Hope McDonald Lone Tree (Coalmine Canyon/Toh Nanees Dizi) agreed.

"The process Delores is talking about is okay as long as the Nation is ready and willing to put the money up front and we have not," Lone Tree said. "If we do not have money it could be a set back. This is the whole reason why we asked the finance departments to amend their processes so that we can be able to do this ten day turnaround DOJ is asking for."

"Instead we are going to try to identify funding upfront for Navajo to be reimbursed by DOJ," Lone Tree added. "We are hoping Navajo coughs up that money for reimbursement."

Council Delegate Rex Lee Jim (Rock Point) said focus needs to be on the reporting of the project for a quick drawdown to occur.

"We need to make sure as a committee and division directors that reports are done effectively and efficiently," said Jim.

A special committee meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss in further detail the two facilities.

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