



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

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## Health and Social Services Committee hear update report on Thoreau IHS Clinic

*Preconstruction conference scheduled on April 5*

**THOREAU, NM.** – The Health and Social Services Committee of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council met March 23 during a regular meeting at Thoreau Chapter to get an update on the Thoreau Clinic.

According to Candace Tsingine, acting director for Division of Facilities Management and Engineering, Navajo Area Indian Health Services (NAIHS) met all the requirements for construction to occur. A preconstruction conference for the proposed clinic is scheduled for April 5 at the NAIHS office in Fort Defiance, Ariz.

“The preconstruction conference introduces the contractor to the federal contracting office,” Tsingine explained. “The contracting office informs the contractor of the rules and regulations on the construction of the facility.”

Native American Services Corporation is designated as the contractor for this project.

At the conference, an official declaration will be given to the contractor to proceed with construction. Although a notice to proceed with construction will be sent to the chapter on April 19, Tsingine said, “It does not necessarily mean dirt will be turning over to the side that day.”

In an effort for the constituents of Thoreau to fully understand what is going on with their proposed health facility, Council Delegate Alice W. Benally (Crownpoint/Nahodishgish) made a directive to have NAIHS write a letter updating Thoreau Chapter on the construction process.

Tsingine explained, “To date, the letter is still in draft form, but it will be sent to chapters very soon informing the chapter that the project has been covered for construction.”

Council Delegate Thomas Walker Jr. (Birdsprings/Leupp/Tolani Lake) expressed appreciation.

“I think it’s interesting here asking our trustee to keep to their promises even at the local level,” Walker said. “Today, at the local level that conveyance is happening. As tribal leaders, we need to keep standing up for our people.”

The committee accepted NAIHS’ report on a 6-0 vote.

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