



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Law and Order Committee supports plan to purchase a new building for Dził Yijiin Judicial District Court

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee received a report from the Dził Yijiin Judicial Court staff regarding the condition and renovation of the court building currently located in Whippoorwill—approximately 11-miles east of Pinon, Ariz.

In July 2016, the Navajo Nation Council approved supplemental funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$340,725 to remodel the current Dził Yijiin court building.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) recommended that the funds should be used to purchase new modular court buildings due to the ownership of the existing court building.

“I recommend the Judicial Branch to purchase new court buildings and place them in Pinon. The current court building is under the ownership of Whippoorwill Chapter and renovating the old building would cost more,” stated Delegate Begay.

According to Navajo Nation Judicial Branch consultant Ed Martin the Dził Yijiin District Court has been renting a building that belongs to Whippoorwill Chapter, which is currently closed due to additional water damages.

“The lease agreement between the chapter and the court has expired. Then we wondered if we should purchase a modular building that would belong to the branch, instead of renovating a building that doesn’t belong to us and it would cost more to repair an older building. Pinon Chapter has also withdrawn land to locate the new modular building within the community,” added Martin.

LOC member Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa’tsis’Áán, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) supported the plan to reallocate the funds to purchase new court modular buildings.

“I support this plan because Pinon Chapter has presented a supporting chapter resolution to withdraw land for the new building. Placing the new building in middle of the community would serve its purpose to deliver services from a central location,” stated Delegate Daniels.

LOC recommended sponsoring a legislation that would reallocate the UUFB in the amount of \$340,725 to purchase a new modular building for the Dził Yijiin District Court.

LOC accepted the report from Dził Yijiin District Court with a 2-0 vote.

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