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## PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT NEZ MEET WITH DILKON STEERING COMMITTEE ON CONSTRUCTION OF DILKON IHS



President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez stand alongside the Dilkon Steering Committee and Delegate Lee Jack, Sr., in the State Room.

WINDOW ROCK-President Russell Begaye has been working to remove roadblocks in the construction of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service (IHS) facility and told the Dilkon Steering Committee yesterday that the Winslow Indian Healthcare Corporation (WIHCC) will be brought on to participate in the planning and design of the facility.

The WIHCC will work in direct collaboration with the Dilkon Steering Committee and Navajo Area IHS to ensure the facility is designed with input from the community.

The project is slated to cost \$187 million dollars and will include living quarters for staff. The facility will be constructed by Navajo Area IHS through federal acquisition.

"This is a big project and it will necessitate that a power transmission line is brought in from Winslow and also that a water line is brought in from Leupp. The associated infrastructure alone will be costly but this facility is greatly needed to serve Dilkon and the surrounding communities," President Begaye said.

Vice President Jonathan Nez said the construction of the Dilkon

IHS facility is an investment that will improve the quality of life for Navajo families.

"We are working with the Dilkon Steering Committee to ensure this project is constructed within the budget and scheduled time frame. The health of Navajo families are at stake and we will not disappoint our people. This new facility will change lives for the better," Vice President Nez said.

Delegate Lee Jack, Sr., (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone) said he was glad to know that the Dilkon community would be part of the design and planning process for this facility.

"The Dilkon facility has long been in the making and finally the vision of the community is coming together. We have to be mindful and advocate for the facility," Delegate Jack said. "Thank you President Begaye for keeping your promise to the community to empower them to have ownership to plan and design the future health facility. History is in the making with your support."

President Begaye stated that he would like to see the money asso-

ciated with this project secured and encumbered.

Dilkon Chapter President Lorenzo Lee, Sr., thanked President Begaye, Vice President Nez and the Dilkon Steering Committee for their efforts in making this project a reality.

“This is history in the making. I feel like clapping,” Lee said. “It’s good to hear that the facility will be built the way we want it and not just built for us.”

In addressing the construction on the facility, President Begaye said he wants Navajos to be employed to work on the construction and Navajo contractors to build the majority of the facility.

“We have other health facilities on the list to be built in places like Bodaway Gap and Pueblo Pintado,” he said. “Our area IHS facilities are critical in serving the health needs of our communities.”

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