



**CONTACT:** Charmaine Jackson  
Communications Director  
Office: (928) 871-7884  
Cell: (928) 637-5507  
charmainejackson@navajo-nsn.gov

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## **President Shelly Joins Branch Chiefs To Discuss FY 2012 Tribal Budget with Navajo Council Budget and Finance Committee**

**Albuquerque, NM**—Navajo Nation President Shelly announced his administration intends to deliver a more efficient and transparent budget for Navajo government operations at a tribal budget work session yesterday. He met with legislative and judicial branch chiefs at the Navajo Nation Council's Budget and Finance Committee to review the FY 2012 tribal budget.

"Our Navajo Nation's finances are important and when we budget for government operations, we must be wise about how we spend our dollars," said President Shelly. "We must use sound judgment and think outside the box to provide a more streamlined system to get basic services out to our people, especially those who live in remote chapters."

At the work session, Navajo Council Speaker Johnny Naize and Navajo Chief Justice Herb Yazzie also discussed preliminary fiscal year 2012 plans and priorities with Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Lorenzo Bates and committee members Lorenzo Curley and Danny Simpson.

Office of Management and Budget Director Dominic Beyal explained his plans for fiscal year 2012, focusing on a budget exercise that directs programs and offices of the three divisions to determine their own budget priorities.

President Shelly also stated that all executive branch divisions and offices participated in a new budget planning process.

"This upcoming fiscal year all our division directors were proactive in their efforts," President Shelly said. "Through this new budget exercise, divisions defined both their base budget and determined their unmet needs for government operations, especially in areas of law enforcement, road improvements, and social services. Even with limited dollars, we will continue to push for efficiency and transparency in our executive branch."

According to Controller Mark Grant, the estimated budget for fiscal year 2012 was \$170,543,000, which was based on anticipated tribal revenues from the oil and gas, coal, and taxes.

As work continues with the Budget and Finance Committee, the three branch chiefs will decide on a budget base amount for the Navajo Nation Government.

“On our part, the executive branch has specified its needs for each of its divisions and departments,” concluded President Shelly. We need to take a good look at all three branch budgets. We will sit down, discuss, and look at important details of the budget. It is only fair to discuss base budget needs and additional priority requests.”

On Thursday, President Shelly, Speaker Naize, and Chief Justice Yazzie will meet at the AML Conference Room in Window Rock at 10 a.m. to further discuss next year’s tribal budget.

According to OMB, the last year’s base tribal budget was \$148,933,000, including \$102,071,003 for the executive branch, \$12,803,429 for the legislative branch, \$12,806,229 for the judicial branch, \$17,252,339 for fixed costs, and \$4,000,000 for capital costs.

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