Naat'ájí Nahat'á Hane'

Legislative Branch News

23rd Navajo Nation Council

Fall Council Session - October 2016

Navajo Nation Council observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Crystalyne Curley

During the 2016 Fall Council Session, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council observed Domestic Violence Awareness Month by recognizing domestic violence awareness advocates of "Walking the Healing Path" and "Amá Dóó Áłchíní Bíghan, Inc." In observation, the Council members wore purple ribbons, the color of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, to raise awareness and to promote efforts to end violence.

On the opening day, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'l'í) recognized John L. Tsosie and Ernest Tsosie, founder and co-founder of "Walking the Healing Path," and Lorena Halwood, executive director of "Amá Dóó Áłchíní Bíghan, Inc."

Applause filled the Council Chambers when the three individuals were recognized for their courage, dedication, and service to provide awareness, prevention, and intervention for domestic violence victims and survivors.

"October is an important month to remem-

See "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE", Page 4

Navajo Nation Council recognizes Grandma Thora Yazzie

By Jolene Holgate

On the second day of the Fall Council Session, Council Delegate Nathanial Brown invited Grandma Thora Yazzie of Denehotso, to be recognized on behalf of Navajo Nation grandmothers for her service to the Navajo people, by the 23rd Navajo Nation Council.

Delegate Brown said that every Navajo community is "lucky" to have grandmothers like Yazzie, who hold vast amounts of knowledge that is passed down from generation to generation.

"She probably has multiple Ph.D.'s. She knows how to butcher, is an herbalist, and many multiple disciplines of Navajo subjects are in this young lady. Some of us only attain bachelors, masters, or a PH.D., but our elders, they're full of knowledge – they are astrologists, medicine women, and medicine men," said Delegate Brown.

He added that Navajo grandparents are the "silent protectors" that pray for the Navajo people, the land, and over sacred places that give strength to Diné Citizens. It is important to recognize all Navajo grandmothers, not just Thora Yazzie, however, she represents them and the precious knowledge they hold, and the love they have for the Navajo Nation, said Delegate Brown.

Yazzie, who is originally from Denne-

See "GRANDMA THORA", Page 2

PHOTO: (above) Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown recognizes Grandma Thora Yazzie from Denehotso for her life-time service and dedication to help the children and people of the Navajo Nation.

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hotso, thanked students from the Naschitti Elementary School who performed songs and a puppet show earlier that morning in the Navajo language, saying that as an elder she felt it is important for grandparents to advocate to younger generations to learn Navajo cultural ways and language.

"I am very thankful for our youth. They are our future and it makes me happy hearing them speak and living our culture. I am glad they are speaking the language, because it tells us how we should be living our Navajo traditions. Many young people do not speak Navajo, but it is good to hear them talking in the Navajo language," said Yazzie.

Yazzie stressed the importance of Navajo veterans, who she said protects the Nation and in history, utilized the Navajo language to win World War II. She added that Navajo people should be proud of their heritage and language, and that she would continue to pass on her traditional knowledge to younger generations.

Delegate Brown presented a plaque from the Council, explaining that her service to the Navajo people will be remembered, and that she represents grandmothers of the Navajo Nation who work to educate Diné Citizens on the Navajo way of life.

"On behalf of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, we extend our gratitude and appreciation to Shimásání, Thora Yazzie, in recognition of your lifetime service as a community advocate, an outstanding educator for our Navajo children, and a loving grandmother for the community of Denehotso and the Navajo Nation. We appreciate your endeavors that benefit the people of the Navajo Nation through the countless years of your teachings, compassion, and love. We thank you for your service," said Delegate Brown.

PHOTO: (above) Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, Grandma Thora Yazzie, and family members during the second day of the 2016 Fall Council Session.

Council recognizes Arizona State University's American Indian Council for advocating for Indigenous Peoples Day

By Crystalyne Curley

During the opening day of the 2016 Fall Council Session, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council recognized the American Indian Council, a student coalition at Arizona State University, for their strong advocacy to promote the acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples Day throughout Arizona State University and the City of Phoenix.

On Sept. 6, ASU approved an ASU senate bill to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day on all four ASU campuses. Oct. 5, the Phoenix City Council unanimously approved a resolution to officially declare the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

The Council Chamber filled with applause when Council Delegate Jonathan Perry (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse'ii'ahi, Whiterock) recognized American Indian Council president/facilitator, Megan Tom, and vice-president/co-facilitator, Thomasina Denetdale, on the council floor and awarded the students with recognition plaques.

PHOTO: (above) Council Delegate Jonathan Perry and ASU American Indian Council president Megan Tom and vice president Thomasina Denetdale during the opening day of the 2016 Fall Council Session.

In 2015, the American Indian Council and the American Indian student community took the initiative to lead a petition drive and hosted cultural events to raise awareness. The petition was used to create the ASU Undergraduate Student Government bill, which was passed on Sept. 6.

Furthermore, the American Indian Council testified on behalf of the American Indian community to the City of Phoenix Council to support the declaration of Indigenous Peoples Day. On Oct. 5, the city of Phoenix became the largest U.S. city to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day when the city council voted 9-0 to recognize the day as an annual city commemoration event.

"The passage of Indigenous Peoples Day is a stepping stone that will promote community awareness and it will continue to build a Native network to address issues related to culture preservation, land, water, and environmental concerns throughout Native communities. Indigenous Peoples' Day also provides the opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of Indigenous peoples'," stated Delegate Perry.

The American Indian Council is one of the seven minority student coalitions that serves as an umbrella group for the American Indian student organizations and strives to unify American Indian students with the vision and mission of developing confident leadership skills and abilities.

"Declaring Indigenous Peoples' Day gave ASU Native students a platform to address their passion and concerns. The declaration would give us the opportunity to educate non-Natives about our way-of-life, culture, traditions, and philosophies. The declaration would also promote efficient tribal consultation with non-Native leaders. The effort to recognize this declaration will also allow us to help and support each other as Native students," stated Tom.

"American Indian Council has worked hard to recognize the declaration. This effort was completed by determined students and we will continue to work on future opportunities," added Denetdale.

Delegate Perry congratulated the American Indian Council on their outstanding achievement.

"This is a great day to celebrate our youths' dreams and goals. Many of our young educated Navajo students are doing great initiatives at universities. On behalf of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, I want to thank our brilliant students," stated Delegate Perry.

Navajo Nation Council Speaker's Report

Yá'át'ééh and welcome to this edition of "Naat'ájí Nahat'á Hane' - Legislative Branch News," which provides an overview of events and legislative actions that occurred during the 2016 Fall Council Session that began on October 17th and concluded on October 19th.

As I stated in my report to the Council during the session, as the traditional Navajo New Year has begun we must remind ourselves that with the renewal of the seasons, the presence of change remains constant, and no year is identical to any that have come before. In fact, as change occurs, new challenges arise and we must meet them with clear understanding and fortitude.

With those integral concepts in mind, the Navajo Nation will need to conform and begin shaping our planning based on developing issues that may impact our Nation and the services we provide to our Navajo people. In recognizing the challenges, the Council will need to begin planning for the Navajo Nation's financial future before it potentially becomes a reality. The notion of "Nahat'á," or planning and perseverance, is important during this critical time.

The future is never certain, and as leaders of the Navajo Nation, we need to remain mindful of impend¬ing issues and continue to work toward completing the nine priorities that Council was tasked to achieve.

I commend my Council colleagues for their hard work in bringing forth legislations that contribute to the accomplishment of the nine priorities, such as increasing economic development, completing capital projects, improving water and sanitation services for Navajo communities, agricultural development, and many more.

With the start of the Navajo New Year, I am confident that the 23rd Navajo Nation Council will face the chal¬lenges head-on and we will complete the priorities we have set out to do.

In my report provided on the opening day of the Fall Council Session, I provided our Diné Citizens and Navajo Nation leaders an overview of the progress and accomplishments of this Council. The following is an overview of a few of the issues covered in the report. To view the report in its entirety, please visit navajonationcouncil.org or contact the Office of the Speaker to request a copy.

Little Colorado River Water Rights

Since the 23rd Navajo Nation Council has taken office, Council members have stressed the need to secure a water rights settlement for the Little Colorado River (LCR) as a top priority for each of the Nation's three branches of government.

On September 20th, members of the Navajo Nation Council and Vice President Jonathan Nez, met with Hopi Tribal Chairman Herman G. Honanie and members of the Hopi Tribal Council to further discuss a proposed LCR settlement agreement.

During the meeting, members of both councils stated that they would remain committed to engaging in fur¬ther discussions in order to reach an agreement that benefits both tribes, and allows the tribes to present a unified voice when negotiating with non-Indian stakeholders at the state level.

Officials from both tribes have met on several occasions to begin developing the framework to guide the ne¬gotiations, however, the September 20th meeting marked the first time that members of the current Navajo Nation Council met directly with leadership from the Hopi Tribe on the matter.

In previous meetings, officials determined that the tribes would proceed with the "Two Nations, One Voice" concept, meaning that the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Nation would develop terms of an agreement prior to beginning negotiations at the state level.

I informed President Russell Begaye that legislation would be introduced to establish an official negotiating team for the Navajo Nation that will include members of the Navajo Nation Council. I also requested Pres¬ident Begaye to issue recommendations regarding the membership and establishment of the negotiating team.

We have conveyed the need for a settlement to members of Congress, and they support the ongoing efforts and have expressed support for such a settlement.

Officials from both tribes are expected to meet soon to discuss specific terms of a proposed agreement that would require approvals from both tribal councils and Congress. Moving forward, we will continue meeting with the Hopi Tribe to reach an agreement that is fair and beneficial for the Navajo Nation.

Síhasin Fund Subcommittee

As you may recall, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council in January approved approximately $180 million for bulk water projects and water sanitation projects in many communities throughout the Navajo Nation. $100 million of the overall total is to be leveraged using matching funds, or state funds, or other sources. The remaining $80 million will be provided to NTUA in the form of a loan agreement.

On August 5th, the Budget and Finance Committee unanimously passed the Water Projects Expenditure Plan. The Síhasin Subcommittee successfully completed the first phase of the Navajo Nation Water, Wastewater, and SDS Projects/Water Project Expenditure plan. Under the facilitation from the Office of the Speaker and Síhasin Subcommittee chair Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), Indian Health Services (IHS), Water Management Branch (WMB), Office of the Controller (OOC), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Navajo Department of Justice (NDOJ), collectively completed preliminary steps to implement the Water Projects Expenditure Plan.

PHOTO: (above) Speaker LoRenzo Bates delivering the Navajo Nation Council Speaker's Report on the opening day of the 2016 Fall Council Session.

The Bulk Water and Wastewater Development Expenditure Plan legislation includes funds designated for NTUA, pursuant to a loan agreement consistent with terms set forth in the legislation. A Fund Management Plan ("FMP") is required to administer and account for the funds received by NTUA. The FMP can be at¬tached or incorporated into the loan agreement.

As of October 7th, the NTUA loan agreement is awaiting review by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. The NTUA Loan Agreement has been submitted to the OOC by NTUA, and when an agreement has been reached between OOC and NTUA, the loan agreement will be introduced through legislation and considered for review by the Budget and Finance Committee, who serves as the final authority for the loan agreement.

Permanent Trust Fund Five-Year Plan

On July 27th, Council Delegate Seth Damon, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and sponsor of Resolution CAP-19-16, invited the Navajo Divi-

See "SPEAKERS REPORT", Page 6

Council unanimously supports grazing committee members

By Crystalyne Curley

On October 19, during the Fall Council Session the 23rd Navajo Nation Council voted 15-0 to approve Legislation No. 0242-16, which would amend Title 3 section 878 (c) of the Navajo Nation Code if the resolution is signed into law. This portion of the Code refers to compensation for Navajo grazing committee members.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) stated that the purpose of the amendment would be to provide funds for district grazing committee members in the Navajo Nation's Comprehensive Budget each year.

"The change means the district grazing committee members' compensation budget should be included in the annual budget of the Nation and not subject to availability of funds. This would guarantee compensation to grazing committee members for their work and services every year," stated Delegate Witherspoon.

The new language reads:

District grazing committee members attending their respective chapter, district and/or agency meetings may be compensated for each meeting wherein official business is conducted, from funds provided annually in the Navajo Nation budget.

The current law states that their compensation is contingent on the availability of funds, which has often led to a lack of compensation for members for long periods of time.

Several grazing committee members came before the Council's Naabik'iyátí' Committee to share their concerns and to ask for the Council's assistance to resolve the issue.

"Grazing committee members serve our communities and provide valuable services year after year," stated Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland). "I thank my Council colleagues for supporting Delegate Witherspoon's legislation."

President Russell Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution once it is delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / cont. from Page 1

ber and to advocate for families and children who are vulnerable to domestic violence. This epidemic is an increasing problem within the Nation. As leaders, we must continue to work on policies to protect our Navajo families and children," stated Delegate Crotty.

PHOTO (above): "Amá Dóó Áłchíní Bíghan, Inc.," executive director Lorena Halwood accepts her recognition for providing advocacy, prevention, intervention, and direct services for domestic violence victims and survivors during the 2016 Fall Council Session on October 17, 2016.

PHOTO (above): "Walking the Healing Path" founder Ernest L. Tsosie thanked the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for his recognition of service and dedication to raise domestic violence awareness during the opening day of the 2016 Fall Council Session on October 17, 2016.

Founded in 2003, the "Walking the Healing Path" seeks to create solutions and interventions to end domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and violence against women. The organization has completed five awareness walks, a total of over 2,000 miles, to raise awareness throughout Indian country.

"Domestic violence is a personal issue for me. I see the damage it does to families. As a founder of Walking the Healing Path and as a member to the Arizona's Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women, I seek to develop legislative and policy recommendations to prevent violence and expand services for victims," stated John L. Tsosie.

Ernest Tsosie added that domestic violence is a serious issue on the Nation and Navajo fathers need to protect their families and children.

"Amá Dóó Áłchíní Bíghan, Inc." is a non-profit organization and community-based domestic violence and sexual assault crisis intervention program that provides advocacy, prevention, intervention, and direct care services in Chinle, Arizona.

"Taking the role to protect families and children from domestic violence is a tough job. Domestic violence is a never ending cycle and it hurts emotionally to see this problem within our Nation. Continue to pray for families and the children that see this at home. I want to thank the Council for recognizing this important month," stated Halwood.

Delegate Crotty stated, "On behalf of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, I will continue to stand strong for our families and children. We need to protect our children from this problem because they are crucial to our future. As parents and leaders, we must continue to show love and respect to our partners and children. We must restore Hózhó."

PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty welcomed members from W.I.C., John Hopkins Center of American Indian Health, Amá Dóó Áłchíní Bíghan, Inc., NN Division of Behavioral Health, Office of Miss Navajo Nation, and concerned Navajo citizens, who are advocating on behalf of Domestic Violence Awareness Month to the Navajo Council Chamber.

Navajo Nation Council approves funding for the 2016 Navajo Nation Chapter General Elections

By Jared Touchin

On Oct. 19 during the final day of the Fall Council Session, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council approved approximately $510,000 from the Navajo Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance for the Navajo Election Administration to hold chapter elections on Nov. 8.

Council Delegate Lee Jack, Sr. (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone) was the primary sponsor of the legislation, however co-sponsor Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa'tsis'Áán, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin) presented the legislation to Council along with NEA director Edison Wauneka.

Wauneka stated that the funds would be used primarily for the cost of printing ballots and the cost of paying for poll officials. He added that there remain approximately 70 chapter positions that no one has applied for, which will likely result in the need for a special election after the Nov. 8 general election to fill the vacancies.

In September, the Council approved the FY2017 Comprehensive Budget, which included funding for the election from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance. However, President Russell Begaye used his line-item veto authority to deny the funding for the election based on the incorrect notion that the funds would come from the budget of the Office of the President and Vice President.

"This is amendment No. 16 by the Navajo Nation Council that moves funding from OPVP to the Election Office," wrote President Begaye in his veto message in reference to his reasoning for denying the funds for the upcoming election.

On Wednesday, Wauneka confirmed that he had spoken with OPVP and they had been under the notion that the funding was being taken from OPVP for the election and therefore line item vetoed the funds in the Comprehensive Budget.

"That tells me that the president did not read the budget," stated Budget and Finance Committee chair Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh). "This shouldn't have been line item vetoed."

At the conclusion of Wednesday's discussion, Council members voted 13-2 to approve Legislation No. 0362-16. The resolution was delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President on Thursday. President Begaye will have until 5:00 p.m. on Oct. 30 to consider the resolution.

Chinle Nursing Home voted down, citing need for comprehensive planning

By Jolene Holgate

The 23rd Navajo Nation Council debated Legislation No. 0324-16 on the third day of the Fall Council Session, which sought to approve matching funds in the amount of $8 million from the Síhasin Fund to aid in completing the proposed Chinle Nursing Home.

According to the legislation, in Dec. 2015 the Navajo Housing Authority awarded the Navajoland Nursing Home, Inc. approximately $21.5 million to plan, design, and construct a new nursing home, which funds nearly 75-percent of the entire project's planning and construction costs. The proposed allocation of $8 million from the Síhasin Fund would fund the remaining 25-percent to complete the care center.

It states that the existing nursing home was constructed in 1968 and holds 79 beds, but does not meet the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services federal requirements and is fined annually for the lack of compliance. The proposed new nursing center would hold up to 120 beds and would be a three-story building with updated technological capabilities.

Council Delegate Leonard Pete, legislation co-sponsor, said the nursing home facility would allow Navajo elders and families throughout the Navajo Nation to be cared for near their home areas on Navajo land.

"The intention is to build a better facility so we can get our elders to come back to the Navajo Nation. If this were being built in Tuba City, I would support it. If it were being built in Shiprock, I would support it. I support the Chinle facility. Why? Because the land is there, the design is in place, the $21 million is in place, and all it needs is the $8 million," said Delegate Pete.

Delegate Pete added that the nursing home would not just serve Navajo elderly, but it also would provide care services for individuals with severe physical disabilities who need 24-hour assistance.

In opposition of the legislation, Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie said the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee, who oversees funding proposals that seek to utilize the fund, did not vet the proposal for the nursing home.

"We are setting a dangerous precedent of ignoring the subcommittee, whose direction we gave to set up a process. So we have a couple of delegates telling us, 'the heck with the process, we'll just push this through because nobody is going to vote no, because this is for our elders.' I intend to vote against this. You might label me as being anti-elder, well then so be it, but I would put my record up of helping elders against any of you," said Delegate Tsosie.

In addition to the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee not vetting the proposal, Delegate Tsosie stated that the allocation by NHA was not NAHASDA funds, rather it came from the rent and house payments made to NHA by its Navajo customers, and stressed that those payments are not meant for projects like the proposed nursing home.

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie expressed concern regarding the Central Navajo Agency being the only area that would receive a nursing home, and suggested to Council members to include funding to develop plans to construct nursing homes in each Navajo agency.

"My thoughts, since we are going into the Síhasin Fund, is that it's for everyone's use – for the Nation's use. We can open the centers in each agency," said Delegate Yazzie.

In support of the legislation, Council Delegate Jonathan Hale said the proposed Chinle nursing home does not only benefit the area, but it is open to all Navajo citizens throughout the Navajo Nation that prefer their family members are provided treatment and care

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Emergency legislation to address public safety response systems referred back to Council's standing committees

By Jolene Holgate

During the third day of the Fall Council Session, Council members considered Legislation No. 0370-16, an emergency legislation to appropriate approximately $3.8 million from the Síhasin Fund to the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety's Department of Emergency Management, to fund Emergency 911, Amber Alert, and Rural Addressing systems throughout the Navajo Nation.

According to the legislation, nearly $2 million would be allocated to the E-911 system, $850,000 to implement the Amber Alert system, and $1 million to go toward the Rural Addressing system.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr., sponsor of the emergency legislation, said it was imperative to implement the emergency response systems as soon as possible to ensure the safety of Navajo citizens and improve emergency response times.

"What we are requesting is just the tip of the iceberg of a situation that we have at the NNDPS. This is to protect the Navajo people and children who are vulnerable. This is to fully implement the entire plan on the Navajo Nation," said Delegate Begay. "It will notify citizens with Amber Alerts and any other emergency information that is important to disseminate publicly."

Delegate Begay added that the funding would also be utilized to purchase hardware equipment and computer software to send notifications out to the Navajo Nation, as well as to other governmental agencies that aid in the Nation's emergency response efforts, such as surrounding counties and states.

Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon made a recommendation to Council members to refer the emergency legislation back to the Council's standing committees to ensure fiscal responsibility has been satisfied.

"If we are ready to vote without an expenditure plan, to me, it's like we just throw money at the issue to solve the problem. There certainly is a need for money, but for these particular amounts, there are questions that need to be discussed. There could be grants that can cover these amounts," said Delegate Witherspoon.

He added that allowing the standing committees to consider the legislation would garner support for the initiative and committees would be afforded the opportunity to provide input on the emergency systems and funding.

In support of the referral recommendation, Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie said it was important for the standing committees to discuss the legislation in order to identify other alternative forms of funding.

"The way I look at this is that this is not an emergency. Not acting on it—the sky will not fall. I think there is dishonesty with this legislation. There has been money in the form of grants that was given to the NNDPS," said Delegate Tsosie. "In fact, take the emergency clause off and refer it back to the committees and let them go vet it to get the answers to those important questions."

Delegate Tsosie said it was important for the Navajo Nation to also reach out to county, state, and federal agencies, who may provide funding and resource assistance for the systems.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty disagreed with the referral amendment and argued that the purpose of the emergency legislation is to debate it on the Council floor, in which all members have the opportunity to ask critical questions regarding the funding for the emergency systems.

"I would say this issue should be debated here on the floor and give Council the opportunity to hear the data, and give yourself time to really sink in the dire nature that our people have out there, whether they are on the roads, at home, at the schools, or in their communities," said Delegate Crotty. "As we allow days and hours to pass by, we are doing a disservice to our community members."

Delegate Crotty added that the standing committees are authorized by the Navajo Nation Council and are able to discuss the emergency legislation without having it referred back, which would cause delay to the process of implementing the emergency response systems.

Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. reminded Council members that the emergency legislation was added onto the agenda by a vote of the Council on the opening day of the Fall Council Session.

"I think it's imperative that we keep this on the agenda, debate it, and vote upon it. The money is there," said Delegate Smith. "It is time to talk about it now and that's our job as council delegates, to consider these emergencies. We really need this Amber Alert system, and our public safety personnel have been advocating for this initiative for quite some time now."

At the closing of the discussion, Delegate Crotty questioned the status of the legislation if it were to be referred back to the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel advised Delegate Crotty that the legislation would still be deemed as an emergency. Council members voted 10-9 to refer Legislation No. 0370-16 back to the Council's standing committees for further consideration.

SPEAKER'S REPORT / cont. from Page 3

sion of Economic Development, Water Management Branch, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Shonto Economic Development, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, Office of Management and Budget, and Office of the Controller to discuss the implementation of the Five-Year Per¬manent Trust Fund ("Five-Year Plan") disbursement.

Many of the Projects funded through the Five-Year Plan contribute to economic development, water devel¬opment, community development, and agriculture. The projects include: Ganado Shopping Center, Naha¬tadzil Shopping Center, Shonto C-Store, Shiprock Hotel and Restaurant, Dennehotso Retail Center, Shonto Retail and Hotel, Eastern Agency Economic Development Projects, Indian Wells Economic Development Projects, Central Agency Economic Development projects, Newcomb Shopping Center, Navajo adminis¬tration office buildings, Many Farms Agricultural Project, Northern Agency Agricultural Project, and Tsaile/ Wheatfields Agricultural Project.

Council Delegates Tom Chee and Dwight Witherspoon, both members of the Budget and Finance Com¬mittee, assisted BFC chair Delegate Damon in providing feedback to each of the funded entities during a meeting on August 14th regarding the Five-Year Plan. A Fund Management Plan ("FMP") was requested for each of the projects. The WMB previously established a FMP for similar projects funded by the Síhasin Fund.

With the assistance of OMB and OOC, the projects will be set up through the Financial Management In¬formation System (FMIS) database. A meeting to follow-up on the status of the development of the FMP is scheduled for November 6th.

Council honors Navajo police officer and criminal investigator

By Crystalyne Curley

On the second day of the Fall Council Session, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council recognized Navajo Nation police lieutenant Dempsey Harvey of the Chinle Police District and Navajo Nation criminal investigator Alvernon Tsosie for their dedication, courage, and service in providing for the safety and protection of the Navajo Nation.

Law and Order Committee chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) said Navajo police officers should be appreciated for the services they provide to keep families, children, and communities safe.

"Our Navajo police officers are not recognized everyday for their hard work and long hours they work. I appreciate Lt. Harvey and Mr. Tsosie's sacrifice and courage for keeping our families and communities safe. They have been working for NNDPS for many years and they continue to improve our public safety within the Nation. Their expertise and abilities have made NNDPS a successful division," stated Delegate Yazzie.

Lt. Dempsey Harvey has served as a police officer for 23 years and currently serves with the Chinle Police District.

"I am truly grateful for Council's recognition. I volunteer many hours to keep our communities safe and I am happy that the Council Delegates recognize my dedication and hard work. I took an oath to provide accountability, innovation, prevention, and protection for the Nation. This recognition from Council means a lot to me and my family and I will continue to help my people," added Lt. Harvey.

Criminal Investigator Alvernon Tsosie accepted the recognition award on behalf of his staff that works vigorously to manage and conduct criminal investigations on the Nation.

"I am grateful to accept this recognition for myself and my team. Public safety can't be achieved with one person. It's a team effort to get the job done everyday. We work hard together as a team to keep our communities safe," stated Tsosie.

"On behalf of the Law and Order Committee, we will continue to work with NNDPS and support Navajo officers. Recently, the LOC approved pay raises for the police officers and that is a start to honor our police officers because they work long hours to keep everyone safe. Thank you to all of our Navajo police men and women," said Delegate Yazzie.

PHOTO (above): Navajo Nation Lt. Dempsey Harvey expresses his appreciation for his recognition as a Navajo Nation police officer during the secong day of the 2016 Fall Council Session.

PHOTO (above): Navajo Nation Criminal Investigator Alvernon Tsosie accepts recognition plaque from the Law and Order Committee during the second day of the 2016 Fall Council Session.

PHOTO (above): Navajo Nation Lt. Dempsey Harvey accepts recognition from the Law and Order Committee during the secong day of the 2016 Fall Council Session.

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on Navajo land.

"If you want this opportunity in your agency, then it is the community's responsibility to plan for development, land withdrawals, clearances, etc.," said Delegate Hale. "The current facility is dilapidated and has asbestos, and they need to get the building in order and up to code," said Delegate Hale.

He added that the facility would contribute to community and economic development in providing increased employment opportunities, and would encourage Navajo medical student graduates to come home and work at the nursing home facility.

A directive was recommended by Council Delegate Seth Damon, who suggested that the Division of Economic Development work with the Navajo Area Agency on Aging to develop nursing home proposals in each agency to be proposed to the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee.

Council members voted 15-4 to pass the directive.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Council members voted 14-6 on Legislation No. 0324-16, which failed to pass because the bill required two-thirds or 16 votes.

Council Delegate Nelson S. BeGaye explained that the Chinle Nursing Home would still be constructed with 90 beds. Had the $8 million been approved, the facility would have accommodated 120 beds.

Picture Highlights of the 2016 Fall Council Session

PHOTO (above): On the opening day of the 2016 Fall Council Session, Tse Dzil Color Guard and Thoreau Color Guard conducted the Posting of the Colors.

PHOTO (above): During the opening day of the 2016 Fall Council Session, 2016 - 2017 Miss Navajo Nation Ronda Joe sang the National Anthem in the Navajo language.

PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Jonathan Hale welcomed the Navajo government class from Miyamura High School to the Navajo Nation Council Chamber

PHOTO (above): On the second day of the 2016 Fall Session, students from Naschitti Elementary School sung Navajo songs for the 23rd Navajo Nation Council.

PHOTO (above): On the second day of the 2016 Fall Council Session, Naschitti Elementary School students performed a puppet show in the Navajo language for the 23rd Navajo Nation Council.

PHOTO (above): On the second day of the 2016 Fall Council Session, New Mexico State Legislator Sharon Clah-chischilliage delivered a report to the 23rd Navajo Nation Council.

23rd Navajo Nation Council Standing Committees, Subcommittees, Task Forces, and Commissions

Council Standing Committees

Budget and Finance Committee

Seth Damon (Chair)
Dwight Witherspoon (Vice Chair)
Tom T. Chee
Lee Jack, Sr.
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee

Jonathan L. Hale (Chair)
Norman M. Begay (Vice Chair)
Nathaniel Brown
Nelson S. BeGaye
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Peterson Yazzie

Law and Order Committee

Edmund Yazzie (Chair)
Raymond Smith, Jr. (Vice Chair)
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Otto Tso
Herman Daniels, Jr.

Resources and Development Committee

Alton Joe Shepherd (Chair)
Benjamin L. Bennett (Vice Chair)
Davis Filfred
Walter Phelps
Leonard H. Pete
Jonathan Perry

Subcommittees and Task Forces

Naabik'iyátí' Committee's Sacred Sites Task Force

LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Jonathan Perry
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

Naabik'iyátí' Committee's Arizona Gaming Subcommittee

Alton Joe Shepherd
Jonathan L. Hale
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

Naabik'iyátí' Committee's Title II Reform Subcommittee

Alton Joe Shepherd
Norman M. Begay
Tom T. Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Davis Filfred
Jonathan Perry
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Otto Tso

Naabik'iyátí' Committee's Síhasin Fund Subcommittee

Leonard Tsosie
Nelson S. BeGaye
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Nathaniel Brown
Tom T. Chee
Seth Damon
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Otto Tso
Peterson Yazzie

Naabik'iyátí' Committee's State Task Force

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Nathaniel Brown
Tom T. Chee
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Walter Phelps
Peterson Yazzie

Naabik'iyátí' Committee's Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee

Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Jonathan L. Hale
Jonathan Perry
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

Commissions

Eastern Navajo Land Commission

Leonard Tsosie
Norman M. Begay
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Edmund Yazzie

Navajo-Hopi Land Commission

Walter Phelps
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Lee Jack, Sr.
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

Utah Navajo Commission

Nathaniel Brown
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred

For more information on meeting dates, times, and locations, as well as legislations and news, please visit: ***www.navajonationcouncil.org***

2016 Fall Council Session

Legislation Results

*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

LEGISLATION 0324-16

Adopting the Síhasin Fund Chinle Nursing Home Community Development & Housing Expediture Plan Pursuant to CD-68-14 and 12 N.N.C. § § 2501-2508

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Jonathan L. Hale

ACTION: FAILED
(Required 2/3 or 16 supporting votes from Council)

YEA (14):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Jonathan L. Hale
Jonathan Perry
Leonard H. Pete
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Dwight Witherspoon
Peterson Yazzie

NAY (6):
Tom Chee
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Lee Jack, Sr.
Otto Tso
Leonard Tsosie
Edmund Yazzie

NOT VOTING (4):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Benjamin L. Bennett
Davis Filfred
Walter Phelps

LEGISLATION 0338-16

Adopting the Síhasin Fund Navajo Community Development Financial Institution Economic Development Expenditure Plan Pursuant to CD-68-14 and 12 N.N.C § § 2501-2508

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Leonard Tsosie

ACTION: FAILED
(Required 2/3 or 16 supporting votes from Council)

YEA (15):
Nelson S. BeGaye
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Lee Jack, Sr.
Jonathan Perry
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Otto Tso
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie
Peterson Yazzie

NAY (5):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Jonathan L. Hale
Leonard H. Pete
Raymond Smith, Jr.

NOT VOTING (4):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd

LEGISLATION 0370-16

Appropriating $3,800,000 from the Síhasin Fund to the Division of Public Safety Department of Emergency Management for the Emergency 911 System, the Amber Alert System for the Rural Address System

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

ACTION: REFERRED to the Standing Committees

YEA (10):
Benjamin L. Bennett
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Leonard H. Pete
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie
Peterson Yazzie

NAY (9):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Jonathan L. Hale
Jonathan Perry
Alton Joe Shepherd
Raymond Smith, Jr.

NOT VOTING (5):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Walter Phelps
Otto Tso

LEGISLATION 0369-16

Appropriating $5,000,000 ($1,000,000 for each agency) from the Síhasin Fund to the Community Housing and Infrastructure Development Department to address the House Burn-Out situations throughout the Navajo Nation, and waiving 12 N.N.C. § § 820(I) and 860(C) relating to the Capital Improvement Process

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

ACTION: FAILED
(Required 2/3 or 16 supporting votes from Council)

YEA (8):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nathaniel Brown
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Jonathan L. Hale
Jonathan Perry
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (10):
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Peterson Yazzie

NOT VOTING (6):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Otto Tso

LEGISLATION 0227-16

Amending the Navajo Nation Code at 5 N.N.C. § 204(A), the Navajo Business Opportunity Act to classify the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority as a priority one Navajo Nation owned business

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Jonathan L. Hale

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (10):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan L. Hale
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Dwight Witherspoon

NAY (7):
Benjamin L. Bennett
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Leonard Tsosie
Edmund Yazzie

NOT VOTING (7):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Otto Tso
Peterson Yazzie

2016 Fall Council Session

Legislation Results

*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

LEGISLATION 0257-16

Confirming nomination of Ms. Charlotte Begay to Commission on Navajo Government Development

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Jonathan L. Hale

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (17):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan L. Hale
Jonathan Perry
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (7):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Otto Tso
Peterson Yazzie

LEGISLATION 0242-16

Amending 3 N.N.C. § 878(C)

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Dwight Witherspoon

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (15):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Perry
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (9):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Peterson Yazzie

LEGISLATION 0287-16

Amending CAP-26-16 by approving sixty (60) additional days for Navajo Partitioned Land Chapters to make proposed alignments for range units

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Dwight Witherspoon

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (16):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Perry
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (8):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Otto Tso
Peterson Yazzie

LEGISLATION 0290-16

Establishing the Navajo Nation Permanent Trust Fund Five-Year Contingency Fund for the purpose of maintaining a reserve of monies designated from the Permanent Trust Fund Income Five-Year Expenditure Plan

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Dwight Witherspoon

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (13):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Perry
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (2):
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Nathaniel Brown

NOT VOTING (9):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Peterson Yazzie

LEGISLATION 0362-16

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of $510,616 to the Navajo Election Administration

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Lee Jack, Sr.

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (13):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Perry
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (2):
Seth Damon
Nathaniel Brown

NOT VOTING (9):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Peterson Yazzie

2016 Navajo Nation Fairs

Picture Highlights

PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie at the Eastern Navajo Fair Parade on July 23, 2016.

PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (left) with Miss Indian New Mexico State University LaniRae Padilla at the Eastern Navajo Fair Parade on July 23, 2016.

PHOTO (above): Speaker LoRenzo Bates hands out items during the 70th Annual Navajo Nation Fair Parade in Window Rock, Arizona on September 10, 2016.

PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Otto Tso during the 70th Annual Navajo Nation Fair Parade in Window Rock, Arizona on September 10, 2016.

PHOTO (above): Children participating in Zumba dancing inside the 23rd Navajo Nation Council tent during the 70th Annual Navajo Nation Fair "Ashkii Happy Kids Day" on September 8, 2015.

PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Lee Jack, Sr., Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr., Council Delegate Walter Phelps during the Western Navajo Agency Fair in Tuba City, Arizona on October 15, 2016.