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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **COUNCIL ADOPTS FY07 BUDGET**

The Navajo Nation Council passed the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2007 Comprehensive Budget on Thursday, August 31, 2006, by a vote of 64 in favor and 11 opposed.

Legislation No. 0642-06, the FY07 Comprehensive Budget, was presented by Budget and Finance Chairperson Ben Shelly (Thoreau) with agents Dominic Beyal, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Mark Grant, the Controller of the Navajo Nation. Willie Tracey, Jr. (Ganado/Kinlichee) made the motion to adopt the legislation and Harry Brown, Sr. (Shonto) was the seconding party.

By law, a budget must be adopted at least 20 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, which begins October 1<sup>st</sup>. The President has 10 days to sign into law, veto or allow to become law with no action.

The budget included 15 amendments, many of which used the undesignated, unreserved fund balance to meet unmet needs for programs that serve the Navajo

people. For example, money was set aside to fund student employees at each of the 110 Chapters. \$1 million was appropriated to Navajo Preparatory School for construction. The Navajo Nation Zoological and Botanical Park, which faced closure if not funded, was appropriated \$286,749.

The effort to create a Realty Management Program within the Division of Economic Development was also funded. The creation of the program is necessary, Roy Dempsey (St. Michaels/Oak Springs) said, because the Navajo Nation will now be undertaking the role of approving business site leases, a responsibility that previously belonged to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Funding for the rehabilitation of the Navajo Nation Council Chamber, a National Historic Landmark, was approved at \$150,000. Funding for the Navajo Election Administration to conduct the elections this year was also approved.

A proposal by Hope MacDonald LoneTree to provide funds for the Navajo Nation Fire and Rescue Services was passed by the Council. Also passed, were proposals to fund Water Resources Offices for Shiprock and Chinle.

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