Speaker Morgan announces winter session agenda

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan has announced the agenda for the 2010 winter session of the 21st Navajo Nation Council. The one-week session will begin Jan. 25 at the Navajo Nation Council chamber.

The session will begin with oral reports from Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan; the state of the Navajo Nation address from President Joe Shirley Jr.; a report on the special prosecutor investigation of OnSat, BCDS and the Council’s discretionary assistance program from Navajo Attorney General Louis Denetsosie; a report from Dr. Robert Shelton regarding efforts to assist the Navajo Nation at the University of Arizona; a report from Aneva J. Yazzie, chief executive officer for Navajo Housing Authority, on NHA’s recent accomplishments and activities; and a report from Walter W. Haase, general manager for Navajo Tribal Utility Authority on NTUA’s 2009 accomplishments, its 2010 budget and its 2010 goals.

Written reports will also be submitted to the Council by the various standing committees of the Council, boards and commissions, the regional director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the area director for the Indian Health Service.

In old business, Legislation No. 0523-09, sponsored by Tom Lapahe (Tachee/Blue Gap/Whippoorwill) seeks approval and acceptance of a grant proposal from the Hoosh Dooh Dii To’ Development Inc. to the Navajo Nation Council for Undesignated Unreserved Funds in the amount of $200,975. This legislation was tabled Oct. 20 due to lack of funds.

Legislation No. 0418-08, sponsored by George Arthur (T’iistoh Sikaad/San Juan/Nenanezad), seeks the repeal of a resolution adopted July 8, 1930, by the Navajo Tribal Council authorizing the President of the United States to establish the Canyon De Chelly National Monument to be administered by the National Park Service and adopting as the official position of the Navajo Nation the transfer of the administration, oversight and funding of the Canyon De Chelly National Monument from the National Park Service to the Navajo Nation. This item was tabled Oct. 22 to allow Council to discuss the matter further in a work session.

In new business, there are 18 items up for discussion and consideration by the Council.

Some highlights include Legislation No. 0598-09, sponsored by Willie Tracey (Ganado/Kinlichee) to make the position of the Navajo Attorney General an elected position.

Legislation No. 0746-09, sponsored by LoRenzo C. Bates (Upper Fruitland), seeks approval of terms and conditions of a Senior Unsecured General Obligation Tax-exempt Term Loan from Key Bank in the Maximum Principal amount of $60 million to primarily use as funds to construct public safety facilities and judicial complexes across the Navajo Nation in determined areas.

Legislation No. 0010-10, sponsored by Katherine Benally (Dennehotso), Andy R. Ayze (Chinle) and George Arthur, seeks the enactment of the Office of Legislative Counsel Amendments Act of 2010. The purpose of this resolution is to enhance the ability of the Office of Legislative Counsel to provide legal services to the Navajo
Nation Council, its standing committees, the boards and commissions, office and entities of the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation government.

Legislation No. 0775-09, sponsored by Johnny Naize (Tselani/Cottonwood/Nazlini) and Sampson Begay (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain), seeks confirmation and appointment of Tom Platero as the division director for the Navajo Division of Transportation.

Legislation No. 0758-09, sponsored by Hope MacDonald Lone Tree (Coalmine Canyon/Toh Nanees Dizi), seeks the enactment of the Navajo Nation Internet Sex Offenses Act of 2009.

A complete copy of the Winter Session agenda is available online at www.navajonationcouncil.org.

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