FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Law and Order committee discusses Chinle Judicial Public Safety Project

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee discussed progress regarding the Chinle Judicial Public Safety Facility.

The Navajo Division of Public Safety is currently working with the Navajo Department of Design and Engineering, Arcadis Consulting, and Arviso Oakland Construction to prepare for the construction of a new public safety facility.

LOC member Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone), said he was wants to ensure that the facility will apply to have operation and maintenance costs covered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“Right now the BIA does not want to issue a Certificate of Occupancy or inspect the facility, but I want to make sure our facilities receive the needed O&M funding to maintain services after it is built,” said Delegate Begay.

The LOC requested for Arcadis Consulting senior project manager Al Francis, to explain how the BIA would work with the Navajo Department of Design and Engineering to ensure the project would be maintained after its completion date.

“Right now the BIA is saying that they are not a project sponsor, however the Chinle project will follow their requirements in case they decide to jump on board,” said Francis.

Delegate Begay said the LOC is looking at the tail-end of the project and even if the BIA is not currently involved, the building must be constructed to meet BIA standards.

Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) said he previously witnessed the working relationship between Navajo Department of Design and Engineering, BIA, and contractors, and often there is confusion over which entity serves as the lead authority.

“Right now the BIA is telling everyone they are not apart of this project, and they will probably tell us the same message if we bring them here,” said Delegate Begaye. “We need to bring in each party to discuss this project, because this is creating a bottleneck from every direction.”

Following the discussion, LOC members requested a follow-up meeting with key stakeholders in Sept., at which time they will vote on the report.

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