



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Law and Order Committee receives update on Ramah Detention Facility

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee received an update report regarding the construction and funding of the Ramah Detention Facility.

According to Ramah Navajo Chapter Office of Grants and Contracts development officer Martha Garcia, estimates show that it will cost approximately \$5 million to complete the construction of the facility, which had to be scaled down in order to meet bid requirements.

“We have been holding biweekly meetings between the construction [entities] and the chapter. Things have been moving along smoothly and we are on schedule,” said Garcia.

The company Arcadis is the delegated construction manager for the project, while the Whiteriver Construction Company is carrying out the construction of the facility, according to Garcia.

The construction is funded by several sources including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Fund, the Navajo Nation, Ramah Navajo Chapter, and other federal grants awarded to the project.

LOC member Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) expressed concern regarding the size and cost of the project in relation to the future operation of the facility, which is scheduled for completion in May 2015 and scheduled to begin operating in October 2015.

“Do you have an estimate in terms of additional funding? I do not want to see this great building get built and it’s too much for the chapter to handle,” said Delegate Begaye.

Garcia said approximately \$350,000 from the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development has been allocated to the project and has recently completed the SAS process, and will now begin the legislative process to approve the funding.

She added that the funds would go towards the security system and laundry area for the detention facility, which were part of the scale backs that can now be added back to the project.

LOC vice chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat) commended the chapter and construction entities for the efficient communication

and diligent work on the project, and encouraged the chapter to seek additional funding to cover potential shortfalls.

“I know there were some scale backs on this project, but I think we can seek additional funding to return those needs back to the project and get them constructed as well,” said Delegate Shepherd. “This facility has been long overdue.”

LOC members voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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