23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
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Law and Order Committee receives report from Naatsis'áán Chapter regarding the need of public safety services

PHOTO: The Law and Order Committee receive report from Naatsis'áán Chapter officials and members regarding public safety services on August 1, 2017.

NAATSIS'ÁÁN, Utah – On Tuesday, the Law and Order Committee received reports from Naatsis'áán (Navajo Mountain) Chapter officials, community members, and the Page Police Department regarding public safety needs and services in Naatsis'áán, which is located approximately 90-miles northeast of Page, Ariz.

LOC member Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naatsis'áán, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin), who represents the community of Naatsis'áán, explained some of the challenges regarding public safety within the rural community areas.

"The communities need public safety services. The response time to crime is more than two hours. The community pleads to build a police sub-station to help deter crime and to protect Navajo families," said Delegate Daniels.

The community of Naatsis'áán is located within the Kayenta Police District, which is approximately 83-miles southwest of Naatsis'áán.

Naatsis'áán Chapter president Hank Stevens explained the jurisdictional issues of the community.

"The chapter boundaries are both in Arizona and Utah, which creates jurisdictional challenges. The chapter's goal is to meet with both state public safety officials to address the needs of the community," stated Stevens.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) asked if the chapter has designated land for the proposed police sub-station.

"Has the chapter withdrawn land for the sub-station and is there infrastructure available within the land withdrawal? The chapter needs to have a specific plan and identify the task in details," stated Delegate Begay, who recommended that the chapter provide a detailed plan to the committee within two to three months.

LOC member Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tó Nanees Dizi) posed questions to the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety seeking clarification of crime demographics within the chapter area.

"The committee has not heard any data from NNDPS. What are the statistics regarding crime within the communities and are there any cross-commissioning opportunities to help the communities?" asked Delegate Tso.

Page Police Department police chief Frank Balkcom, Sr. responded to Delegate Tso stating that his department has been assisting the Nation to address public safety, and that his department responded to 61 calls in 2016 and 22 calls so far this year.

In March 2016, the committee approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Navajo Nation Police Department and the Page Police Department to improve law enforcement services by providing mutual use of police personnel and resources in the event of a disaster, disorder, emergencies, or special requests in the respective jurisdiction.

The Law and Order Committee approved the reports with a vote of 3-0.

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