



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee receives report from Teesto Chapter regarding the new Home Site Lease Regulations

TEESTO, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee received a report from Teesto Chapter officials and community members regarding concerns and issues with the new home site lease regulations. They also reported on the progress of the reconstruction of their new chapter house. Teesto Chapter is located approximately 44-miles north of Winslow, Ariz.

In October, the RDC approved Legislation No. 0380-15, which amended the Navajo Nation Home Site Regulations. The regulations established a proprietary fund account to provide better services to the public, an increase in the home site lease application fee, the approval of home site lease penalties and fine fees, changes to the forms for Navajo Trust Land and Fee Lands, and home site lease location restrictions.

“It is important for the committee to hear the concerns of the local governments. We will assist to address the issues and explore possible solutions,” stated RDC vice chair Council Delegate Benjamin L. Bennett (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill).

Teesto Chapter president Elmer Clark reported that the new home site regulations do not reflect the community members’ needs and livelihood.

According to a Teesto Chapter resolution dated March 20, community members recommend the RDC to rescind the new home site lease regulations because the chapter did not participate in the policy changes, the regulations violate the Diné Fundamental Laws, the new fines and fees are questionable, and the new regulations were created by central Navajo government and local governments were not involved.

Navajo Nation Land Department manager Mike Halona, stated that the amendments to the home site lease regulations have been an on-going initiative since 2007 and there have been numerous public hearings and announcements. Many land concerns and issues were addressed in the new regulations, added Halona.

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) stated that all chapter communities are different and appreciated Teesto Chapter for bringing forth their concerns.

Clark also reported the progress of the reconstruction of the chapter house, which was burnt down in 2014. On March 10, the chapter conducted the ground breaking for the new chapter house, added Clark.

The Resources and Development Committee approved the report with a 3-0 vote with a recommendation for Teesto Chapter officials to attend the NNLD Home Site Lease Regulation Conference in Flagstaff, Ariz. from April 26 to 28.

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