



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

Contact: Alastair L. Bitsoi, Public Information Officer

Phone: (928) 871-7228

Cell: (928) 255-2943

Fax: (928) 871-7255

abitsoi@navajo.org

www.navajonationcouncil.org

December 1, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GSC hears budget update from Shelly-Jim Transition Team

Speaker Morgan to sponsor public luncheon at 2011 Inauguration

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Shelly-Jim Transition Team went before the Government Services Committee today and updated the committee of its efforts in securing funds for the Jan. 11 inauguration of President-elect Ben Shelly, Vice President-elect Rex Lee Jim and the 22nd Navajo Nation Council.

Deeswood Tome, director for the Shelly-Jim Transition Team, said funds from Navajo Nation Executive Branch programs had been identified to help with the transition and inaugural activities. Mr. Tome went before the committee to clarify whether the identified sources in the executive branch required committee oversight approval.

“We have six weeks left and we need money for inauguration programs, media, marketing, invitations and etc,” Tome said. “We would like funds at this point, so we may put it toward the transition and inauguration costs.”

Two weeks ago, Mr. Tom presented a budget of \$191,870 to the Budget and Finance Committee, who recommended he work with Controller Mark Grant to identify funds for the transition and inauguration. Tome stated Mr. Grant and Chief of Staff Patrick Sandoval had identified funds in the executive branch.

“We put together a budget two weeks ago and the Budget and Finance Committee voted 6-0 to accept the budget report,” added Tome. “We vacated the notion of using the Personnel Lapse Fund and instead have pulled money from the executive branch programs.”

Honorable Orlanda Smith Hodge asked whether monies pooled from various executive programs would have an impact on the delivery of services to the Navajo people. Mr. Grant said the impacts to the executive branch were minimal and that the method to retrieve funds in the executive branch will help reach the goal of attaining the \$190,000 transition and inauguration budget. Honorable Ervin Keeswood informed Mr. Tome that the identified funds in the executive branch are an interdepartmental affair, which does not require committee oversight approval.

The committee approved the Shelly-Jim Transition Team report on a unanimous vote.

Honorable Amos Johnson also issued a directive to the Office of the President and Vice President to work cooperatively and collectively in meeting the needs of the new administration because of the difficult process Mr. Tome and his team has experienced in securing funds for the transition and inauguration costs.

In an effort to help the Shelly-Jim Transition Team meet its budget goal, Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan announced a \$50,000 contribution from the Office of the Speaker and Legislative Branch Transition Team to feed the several thousands of Navajo people who will be present at the 2011 Inauguration.