



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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President Shelly approves \$8.3 million in supplemental appropriations



President Shelly let go of the purse strings and approved \$8.3 million in supplemental funds. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—On Jan. 6, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly met with the Office of Management and Budget to discuss council resolutions requesting supplemental appropriations amounting to more than \$8.3 million.

“It’s important that we ensure funding for these projects are in line with the Navajo Nation Appropriations Act,” President Shelly said. “We have more than \$30 million in the UUFB right now, but we must be prudent with those funds.”

President Shelly signed CD-71-14, which provides \$500,000 from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance for Oljato Chapter. The funds will be for professional technical services and architecture and design for the chapter’s new multipurpose building.

The same bill provides \$5 million to the Nahata Dzil

Shopping Center project. The president had reservations about signing the legislation because the two projects are not listed in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

The Appropriations Act states, “All budget requests for capital improvements shall be in compliance with an adopted Capital Improvement Plan and shall not be approved unless in compliance with the plan.”

The legislation was originally only for the Oljato Chapter, but the shopping center was added as an amendment.

“I compromised and signed this legislation because the shopping center project is shovel-ready and listed on the five-year Economic Development Plan,” President Shelly said.

Resolution No. CD-75-14 was also signed for approval of \$500,000 from the UUFB for Tonalea-Red Lake Chapter’s

professional technical services and demolition project. President Shelly approved this project, but again, it is not listed on the five-year CIP. The project, however, is also listed on the five-year Economic Development Plan.

“I’ve worked with the council on approving these projects, but they need to ensure their legislation is in compliance with the law for any future legislation,” President Shelly said.

Legislation No. CD-69-14 was also approved by the president and allows Cameron Chapter to receive \$180,120 from the UUFB for their multipurpose facility. The project is on the five-year CIP and is in compliance with the Appropriations Act.

Resolution No. CD-72-14 was approved for \$600,00 from the UUFB for the purchase of a new bus for Navajo Transit System. The president had a small concern with the proposal summary

because it does not mention the bus purchase, but OMB will apply an administrative fix.

President Shelly also approved Legislation No. CD-73-14 for \$1,559,250 from the UUFB for elected officials operating expenses, planning and regular chapter meetings. The funds will be distributed to the elected officials as follows:

The district grazing officials will receive \$877,500. The farm boards will receive \$483,750. The Eastern Navajo Land Board will receive \$198,000.

“During this administration, we have held tight to the Nation’s purse strings to ensure the UUFB was maintained above the minimum balance allowed,” President Shelly said. “Today, we have let go of the purse strings to approve these projects for the people.”