



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2020

## Ganado community to receive new senior citizens and veterans center with approval of Síhasin Fund appropriation



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and local community members celebrate the signing of Resolution CJY-57-20 in Ganado, Ariz. on Aug. 5, 2020.

**GANADO, Ariz.** — On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed into law Resolution CJY-57-20, which appropriates approximately \$1.4 million from the Navajo Nation's Síhasin Fund for the design and construction of a new 4,800 square-foot senior citizens and veterans center in the community of Ganado, Ariz. The ceremony was held outdoors with social distancing and COVID-19 prevention protocols in place.

“In a time of adversity and challenges brought upon the Navajo Nation by the COVID-19 pandemic, the approval of these funds inspires renewed hope within our communities and our Navajo people. Today, we celebrate a milestone for the community of Ganado. This new senior citizens and veterans center will not only provide services, but it will also be a place of healing. We were taught to take care of our parents, grandparents, and all of our elders and those are the teachings we must pass on to our young people. I congratulate the community of Ganado for working together to bring change for their people. This initiative took many years of hard work and perseverance to be where we are today,” said President Nez.

Last year, President Nez and Vice President Lizer attended the Ganado community’s elder day celebration, where they voiced their support for the construction of the new center to support services for elders and veterans. They were joined by Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman and Department of Health Executive Director Dr. Jill Jim during Wednesday’s signing ceremony.

“We were here in Ganado several months back and we assured you then that the Nez-Lizer Administration would do everything we can to move this project forward. This new center will be the pride and joy of Ganado for many years to come and it will also strengthen and help to build the economy and the community. Thank you to all of the veterans and elders who are with us today — you make us proud to be who we are and you are what makes us a strong people. We thank all of you for everything you have done for our Nation and our country. God bless all of you,” said Vice President Lizer.

During the signing ceremony, local elders and veterans including Lók’aa’ Niteel Veterans Organization Vice Commander Andrew Lynch, Isabelle Shondee, and Carolyn Holmes offered their words of encouragement and appreciation. Long-time Ganado resident and Gold Star Mother Carolyn Holmes, urged those in attendance to continue working together to make progress for all Navajo communities. Holmes, a grazing permit holder who allowed for 10-acres of land to be withdrawn within her grazing area for the project, also stated that other grazing permit holders should not stop projects from progressing especially when they benefit entire communities and many people.

Council Delegate Vince R. James, who represents the Ganado community as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, sponsored the legislation that was eventually approved by the Council by a vote of 22-0 during the summer session on July 22, 2020. During the signing ceremony, he spoke about the years of dedication it took to develop the plans and secure the funds for the project. He also thanked the local grazing permit holders for allowing a 10-acre area of land to be designated for the project, which is located nearly one-mile west of the Ganado Chapter house.

The former senior center operated out of a modular home for years before it was ordered to close due to deficiencies with the structure of the facility. The new center will provide meeting rooms and space to provide services for local elders.

“Not only does this project symbolize hope, but it exemplifies the resiliency of our Navajo people. During a worldwide pandemic and public health emergency, we have local leaders who continue

to move our communities forward and to inspire hope for our future generations. Thank you to the 24th Navajo Nation Council for their support and approval of the funds as well,” added President Nez.

The funding for the project is separate from the Navajo Nation’s CARES Act funds. On July 31, the 24th Navajo Nation Council approved a CARES Act expenditure plan, which will be considered by President Nez and Vice President Lizer once the resolution is finalized/certified by the Legislative Branch and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President.

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RESOLUTION OF THE  
 NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
 24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - SECOND YEAR, 2020

AN ACTION

RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$1,444,032 FROM THE SÍHASIN FUND TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GANADO CHAPTER; AND APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE SÍHASIN FUND GANADO SENIOR CITIZENS AND VETERANS CENTER EXPENDITURE PLAN PURSUANT 12 N.N.C §§ 2501 - 2508

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).
- B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to review all proposed legislation which requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9).
- C. The Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to review and recommend to the Navajo Nation Council the budgeting, appropriation, investment, and management of all funds. 2 N.N.C. § 301 (B)(2).
- D. The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to provide oversight of the chapters of the Navajo Nation, as well as oversight over community development on the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §501 (C)(1).
- E. The Navajo Nation Code provides the purpose of the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund ("Síhasin Fund") is as follows:

§ 2502 Purpose

- A. The purposes of this Fund are to provide financial support and/or financing for:
  - 1. The planning and development of economic development and regional infrastructure supporting economic development and community development, including such infrastructure as, but not limited to, housing, commercial and government buildings, waterline, solid

waste management development, powerline projects, and transportation and communication systems, within the Navajo Nation; and

2. Education opportunities for members of the Navajo Nation.
- B. For the Purpose in § 2502(A)(1), Fund expenditures for infrastructure shall not be limited by 12 NNC § 1310(F) or TCDCJY-77-99.
  - C. Leveraging the Fund by way of guaranteeing loans, match funding, direct funding in part, and other weighted uses of the Fund, including loan financing from the Fund, for the purposes in § 2502(A)(1), shall be favored over direct funding in whole.

12 N.N.C. § 2502, as amended by CJA-03-18.

- F. The Sihasin Fund provides that "Fund Principal" shall consist of all deposits made to the Sihasin Fund and that "Fund Income" shall consist of all earnings (interest, dividends, etc.) generated and realized by the Fund Principal, and that Fund Income shall be deposited in and added to Fund Principal until such time as a Fund Expenditure Plan is duly adopted. 12 N.N.C. §§ 2504 and 2505 (C).

## SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Ganado Chapter has been certified as a Local Governance Certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation under 26 N.N.C. §§ 101 et al.
- B. As set forth in Ganado Chapter Resolution No. GAN-147-2019, attached as **Exhibit A**, the Navajo Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NOSHA) recommended the closure of the Ganado Senior Citizens Center, a residential double-wide trailer, due to multiple safety issues and building deficiencies; and on February 26, 2016, the Ganado Chapter closed down the Senior Citizens Center to protect the public.
- C. The Ganado Chapter has been advocating for a Veterans Center since before 2012, see **Exhibit B**, and has worked to secure the necessary land withdrawal for the Senior Citizens and Veterans Center.
- D. The Navajo Nation Council, through resolution CAP-35-18, approved and adopted the Sihasin Fund Powerline and Chapter

Projects Expenditure Plan including \$833,333.00 for the Ganado Senior Citizen Center project at CAP-35-18, Exhibit D, Item No. 135. This request for \$1,444,032.00 is in addition to the amount approved by CAP-35-18 attached as Exhibit C.

- E. The Ganado Senior Citizen and Veterans Center Scope of Work and Cost Breakdown are attached as Exhibit D.
- F. The "Section 164 Review Form" for the \$1,444,032.00, including Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of the Controller and the Department of Justice reviews, along with project budget and process schedules, are attached as Exhibit E.

**SECTION THREE. ALLOCATION OF \$1,444,032.00 TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GANADO CHAPTER AND APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE GANADO CHAPTER SENIOR CITIZEN AND VETERANS CENTER EXPENDITURE PLAN**

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby allocates one million four hundred forty-four thousand thirty-two dollars (\$1,444,032.00) from the Sihasin Fund to the Capital Projects Management Department within the Division of Community Development on behalf of the Ganado Chapter to plan, design and/or construct the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center as detailed in Exhibits D and E.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby approves and adopts the Sihasin Fund Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center Expenditure Plan as set forth in this resolution and in Exhibit D and E, attached and incorporated herein.
- C. The Sihasin Funds allocated for the Sihasin Fund the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center Expenditure Plan may be further leveraged by bond or loan financing pursuant to the Navajo Nation Bond Financing Act, 12 N.M.C. § 1300 et seq., as amended, using Sihasin Fund earnings for repayment and financing costs upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Navajo Nation Council.

**SECTION FOUR. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF EXPENDITURE PLAN ADMINISTRATION**

The Navajo Nation hereby approves administration of the Sihasin Fund Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center Expenditure Plan as follows:

- A. The Navajo Nation Controller shall determine whether the source of the \$1,444,032.00 allocations from the Sihasin Fund will be from Fund Principal or Fund Income or a combination of both;
- B. The funds allocated to the Capital Projects Management Department on behalf of the Ganado Chapter for the planning, design and/or construction of the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center shall be released to the Capital Project Management Department within ninety (90) days following enactment of the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center Expenditure Plan;
- C. The funds allocated for the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center Expenditure Plan shall be used solely to design, plan, and/or construct the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center described in Exhibit D and E. Any and all cost-savings shall be returned to the Sihasin Fund once the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center is completed;
- D. If requested by the Ganado Chapter, the Capital Projects Management Department may transfer the funds, responsibility and accountability for the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center Expenditure Plan to the Ganado Chapter pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement or other form of grant agreement executed pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164 (B), as amended; and
- E. The fund allocated for the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center shall not lapse on an annual basis pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 820 (N), however, any funds not spent or encumbered within twenty-four (24) months of the later of the date funds are released to the Capital Projects Management Department or transferred to the Ganado Chapter shall revert to the Sihasin Fund principal, unless recommended otherwise by the Resources and Development Committee and approved by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

#### **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

The Sihasin Fund Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and Veterans Center Expenditure Plan, as set forth above, shall become effective pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 2505.

#### **SECTION SIX. DIRECTIVES**

The Ganado Chapter and the Capital Projects Management Department shall report the status of the Ganado Chapter Senior Citizen and

Veterans Center to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee a least once per quarter after the initial disbursement of funds.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 22 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2020.



Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

July 27, 2020  
DATE

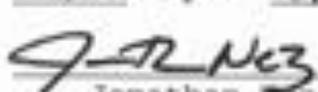
Motion: Honorable Wilson Stewart, Jr.

Second: Honorable Rickie Nez

Speaker Seth Damon not voting

## ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I, hereby, sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(10), on this 5th day of August, 2020.

  
Jonathan Nez, President  
Navajo Nation

2. I, hereby, veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(11), on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Nez, President  
Navajo Nation

3. I, hereby, exercise line-item veto pursuant to the 2010 Certified Initiative, over the supplemental appropriations approved herein by the Navajo Nation Council; on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Nez, President  
Navajo Nation