FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Teesto residents to receive new multi-purpose community center with approval of funding

TEESTO, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Elmer P. Begay and Teesto Chapter officials on Friday, as he signed into law resolution CJY-37-22, appropriating $1.5 million from the Síhasin Fund to complete the ongoing construction of the Teesto multi-purpose community center.

The resolution was unanimously approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council on July 26. The $1.5 million investment will resolve the funding shortfall for the community center project, which is expected to be completed by next month. The overall project cost is approximately $6.5 million, according to Teesto Chapter Manager Clara Tsosie.

“Today is a very special day for all community members as we celebrate the signing of this bill that will help many people and instill a greater sense of hope and growth throughout the community. When the former chapter facility burned down several years ago, we visited the community and we worked with the local leaders to move this forward. We appreciate the collaborative effort between the 24th Navajo Nation Council, the Teesto community, and our
Administration to fund the community center for elders, veterans, students, and families,” said President Nez.

In May, President Nez visited the construction site along with Teesto Chapter President Elmer Clark, Vice President LeRoy Thomas, and Chapter Administrative Assistant Helen Yazzie to view the new facility, which will house chapter operations and staff, a gymnasium, kitchen, conference room, and offices that can also be used for community events.

Teesto Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Sophia Francis recalled losing the previous chapter house due to a case of arson and described how the community came together to make sure that a new facility would be built to support local residents.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, construction was delayed and the costs of construction materials have significantly increased because of the supply chain shortage across the country. Despite these setbacks, chapter officials anticipate that the new facility will be in operation and occupied by September.

“The community center project is a great investment for Teesto and surrounding communities. The center will accommodate multiple activities for all community members. This milestone will provide more opportunities for growth and development,” said Vice President Lizer.

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the Teesto Chapter officials, community members, and the 24th Navajo Nation Council for their support.

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