



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Budget and Finance Committee continues FY2025 Comprehensive Budget Public Hearings in the Fort Defiance Navajo Agency



Left to Right: Council Delegate Lomardo Aseret, Norman M. Begay, Shaandiin Parrish, Carl Roessel Slater, Amber Kanazbah Crotty, and Lester Yazzie at Ganado Chapter House.

GANADO, Ariz. — On Tuesday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council’s Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) held a public hearing for the Fort Defiance Agency, the public hearing focused on the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2025 Comprehensive Budget. The public’s discussions revolved around the critical needs of Diné veterans and infrastructure challenges within the Navajo Nation, particularly in the Fort Defiance Agency.

During the hearing, the public emphasized the need to increase support for all Diné Veterans by utilizing the Veterans Trust Fund and allocating resources for veteran housing and burial assistance, while ensuring that surviving spouses and Gold Star Mothers are adequately supported.

Council Delegate Vince R. James reaffirmed the BFC’s commitment for increased financial transparency and the efficient deployment of resources. “Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our people. It is our duty to ensure they receive the benefits and services they are entitled to,” said Delegate James.

Community members voiced their concerns about the slow progress in veteran housing projects and the need for better management of allocated funds, calling for the BFC to allocate

funds to address these longstanding issues.

Ganado Chapter President Marcarlo Roanhorse highlighted the urgent need for local improvements, including road safety improvements on State Route 264 and procurement of heavy equipment to support ongoing community projects. Additionally, the revitalization of local businesses was discussed to enhance the quality of life and economic development within the region.

Chair Shaandiin Parrish emphasized the importance of community involvement in the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). She highlighted the need for transparency and effective communication regarding the progress of these projects, as well as ensuring that community members are informed and involved in the decision-making process related to their local capital projects.

“It’s important to make sure that community projects are part of the chapter’s CIP list, supported by a resolution from the community, and we will follow up with economic development to see the status of these projects,” said Chair Parrish.

As the public hearings continue, the BFC remains focused on gathering input from community members across the Navajo Nation. The BFC is determined to maintain transparency and continue its dialogue with Navajo communities to ensure that the budgetary process reflects the collective voice of the Navajo Nation.

The Budget and Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial management and budgetary decisions of the Navajo Nation. The BFC is committed to ensuring that financial resources are allocated effectively, transparently, and in alignment with the needs and priorities of the Diné people.

Upcoming BFC Public Hearings include a Central Navajo Agency hearing at the Chinle Chapter House on Friday, August 16, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m. The Budget and Finance Committee will host a public hearing in the Northern Navajo Agency on Monday, August 19, 2024, at the Shiprock Chapter House starting at 10:00 a.m. Doors for all public hearings will open at 8 a.m.

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