

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA**

**Special Meeting
January 11, 2005**

Supervisors' Chambers, Holbrook, Arizona-Time 10:15 a.m.

PRESENT: Present in Chambers: Chairman Jerry Brownlow; Vice-Chairman Percy Deal; Members Jesse Thompson and David Tenney; County Manager James G. Jayne; Deputy County Attorney Lance Payette; Board Secretary June Foard.

UPDATE ON CURRENT NORTHERN ARIZONA DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY: Larry Dunagan reported that the Declaration of Emergency now includes Apache County. He indicated that the declaration still stands as originally declared with the amendments to include Navajo, Apache and Gila County. Mr. Dunagan asked if there were any new information that came from meeting with the Navajo Nation. He reported that, at this time, there is no direction from the Governor's office on how to proceed. He reported that they are looking at the BIA roads on the reservation for funds to repair those roads. BIA representatives reported that they will have an assessment team go out to assess the conditions and damage to the roads on the Navajo Reservation for cost estimates. That is being done at the Tribal and Federal level. The use of State funds to repair the Federal and BIA roads on the reservations cannot be reimbursed to Navajo County by the State. The County has the option of using other funds. Mr. Thompson reported that the Hopi BIA was working almost 24 hours per day and was assisting with the assessments. Discussion was held on funds available for help and re-imbursement. Questions were raised as to whether reimbursements could be made by the State for Federal roads. Lance Payette reported that there could be no reimbursements from the State for those Federal roads as only Federal monies could be used.

Larry Dunagan reported there have been temporary repairs done to the levee. There were 10,000 additional sandbags received from the State. The information 593 line is now operational for residents in Winslow to call for updates on the levee.

Mr. Tom Hieb reported on the repairs to the levee. He reported that the emergency repairs were done when the levee breached on December 31, 2004. Since then there were several things done. Experts were brought in to look at the breach and decide what to do to make the repair for short term and long term. The experts were pleased with the temporary repairs. Mr. Hieb reported they will be getting some recommendations for future repairs of the levee. Mr. Hieb reported the storm had been downgraded which should help the situation. He added they will continue to monitor the levee for additional cracks and there were equipment crews on standby. Discussion was held on funds for the temporary repairs.

Mr. Menlove reported that there were some materials donated by APS and those materials were very much appreciated. Mr. DeSpain requested a letter be prepared to thank APS for the materials.

It was reported that there have been 12,000 to 15,000 sandbags placed on the levee. The bags have been placed 2 to 3 feet high in the breach area to ensure that water would not go over the levee. Jack Brooks pointed out the areas that were of the most concern. Chairman Brownlow asked if the railroad crossing was in danger and Tom Hieb reported that there was not much danger at this time. Mr. Thompson expressed his appreciation of everyone's efforts to help with this emergency.

Mr. Parsons reported on costs of the repairs to date. Mr. DeSpain asked how much of the \$200,000 amount would be refundable. Larry Dunagan reported the State Legislature could increase that amount at the Governor's request.

Mr. Jayne stated that he would like to thank all the county staff for their assistance with the emergency and advised that Public Works staff was working on letters to thank the various entities.

Several tribal entities were in attendance to present information regarding concerns for their area and for residents in outlying and remote areas. Mr. Herb Begay reported that tribal officials were assessing the areas for residents that needed water, food, medicines, coal and other necessities. Problems with roads on the reservation were discussed. Mr. Begay reported that school bus routes are a priority as it is impossible to get some of the children to school at this time. Mr. Harry Begay addressed the board regarding his area of the reservation. Mr. Begay presented pictures taken on January 5, 2005 of road damage. Mr. Deal reported that there has been more damage due to rain and snow since the photos were taken. Mr. Fred Tso, Transportation Director for several school districts, addressed the board regarding some of the school routes. He reported that about 2,500 miles per day were traveled by school buses. He indicated that most of the routes were impassable and unsafe at this time. Mr. Tso reported that many of the culverts were washed out. It was reported that several of the schools have been forced to shut down because it is impossible to get the students to school. Requests were made for the Board of Supervisors to lend any support that was available. Mr. Donald Chee from Forest Lakes addressed the board. He reported that there were three bus routes in his area to maintain - Pinon, Kayenta and Black Mesa. He reported they had a road grader, but no money to maintain it. Ms. Joan Greiser with the BIA in Gallup addressed the board indicating that the BIA has just learned that the Navajo Nation has declared a state of emergency. She indicated the BIA has been keeping the paved roads open as much as possible. She reported that she spoke with Ken Davis from the Arizona Emergency Department. He indicated that if State funds were requested, there must be at least \$700,000 in damages and the roads must be major arteries. She reported the roads could only be returned to their original state. She added that the BIA was doing all they could to help with the situation. Assessments were being done and funds applied for.

The board adjourned into Executive Session to receive legal advice on this issue. Upon their return the following action was taken:

APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR FLOOD-RELATED EMERGENCY PROJECTS:
Approval for funding for flood-related emergency projects, to include possible use of Highway User Revenue Fund monies for flood-related road repairs. It was moved and seconded to approve funding from District Special Road Funds (HURF), in a total amount of

\$200,000 (\$75,000 from Dist. I, \$75,000 from Dist. II, \$25,000 from Dist. IV, and \$25,000 from Dist. V); motion approved unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned until **Tuesday, January 18, 2005**, upon a **motion made by Mr. DeSpain**; motion seconded by Mr. Thompson; vote unanimous approving the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jesse Thompson, Chairman

DATE: _____

ATTEST:

Darlene Fraley, Deputy Clerk of the Board