

**NAVAJO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2006**

**At 9:28 a.m. Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order:** Vice-chairman Percy Deal led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

**PRESENT:** Jesse Thompson, Chairman; Percy Deal, Vice-Chairman; David Tenney, Member; James G. Jayne, County Manager, and Darlene Fraley, Clerk of the Board. J.R. DeSpain, Member, and Jerry Brownlow, Member, not present.

Chairman Jesse Thompson introduced the board members. Blaine Baker, Director of the Kayenta Unified School District Human Resources, welcomed the elected officials and representatives of Navajo County. Chairman Thompson thanked Mr. Baker for hosting this occasion and recognized audience members requesting self-introductions: Dr. Kartchner, County Director of Health; Judge Tom Wing, Superior Court; Mary Springer, County Purchasing and Finance; Dusty Parsons, County Public Works Director; Judge Evelyn Bradley, Justice of the Peace; Lillian Smith, community member; Juanita Mann, County Clerk of the Superior Court; Laurie Justman, County Recorder; Cammy Darris, County Assessor, Mary Fontes, HAVA business analyst representing the Secretary of State; Manny Hernandez, County Treasurer; Linda Morrow, County School Superintendent, Leo Sheppard, County transportation liaison servicing District I and 2; Daniel Peaches, Kayenta Township and previous legislator; Alfred Yazzie, Kayenta Chapter; Helen Bonnaha, Kayenta Chapter and Health Board for seven chapters plus Paiute Nation, Kelly Dastrup, County Elections Director; Jones Grassis, Shonto Chapter. James Jayne, County Manager, Chairman Thompson, Vice-Chairman Deal and Supervisor Tenney expressed appreciation for all that were present and observed this process is very valuable in coming to an understanding of the area needs.

**Internet auction information:** Mary Springer reported the internet auction for seized and forfeited items by the County Sheriff and County Attorney, including several vehicles, was launched this morning. She provided the internet address and the procedures to submit bids stating the auction will remain open to the public for two weeks. In response to a question from Helen Bonnaha, Ms. Springer advised that following the auction a clear title will be issued for vehicles purchased. In response to a question from Judge Wing, Ms. Springer advised that the successful bidder has ten days to pick up their purchase, paying with a cashier's check, cash or money order and if the item is not picked up, it will go to the next bidder.

**Proposition 400 presentation:** County Manager James G. Jayne expressed appreciation to Supervisor Deal for the opportunity to provide information regarding Proposition 400. He conducted a PowerPoint presentation that outlined general fund expenditures; general fund revenues; limitations to expenditures as related to the constitutional limit; expenditure limit definition; expenditure limit history; that Navajo County is the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in per capita on expenditures for basic services; problems that include public safety, transportation issues, access to services, quality work force; a proposal to take this issue to a public vote on November 7 to request a general election increase through Proposition 400; a "yes" vote will not authorize any new taxes and will allow existing revenues to be spent on improved county services addressing county priorities, increased law enforcement coverage, additional investment in transportation infrastructure, more accessible government services, and reduced operational and training costs to make a more effective and efficient workforce; that the issue will not authorize any additional taxes; that if the measure passes it will provide an avenue for funding to invest additional resources in county transportation, public safety and accessible county offices. All supervisors spoke to this issue, stating they would like to see increased services for all county residents to include the four areas

identified within the power point presentation. Supervisor Deal stated he strongly believes that with the passage of Proposition 400 the sheriff will consider placing deputies on the reservation as there are social problems related crimes, drugs, meth, and school communities. He said the roads are in need of repair and are heavily traveled by tourists from all over the world. He stated other basic and essential areas needing attention are fire protection, sewage disposal, flooding, street lights and a safe house program. Chairman Thompson stated the public is concerned about transportation and the board and county manager are doing everything possible to work on the roads. He said that Dusty Parsons works with various governmental entities to determine what additional services need to be provided and put a plan in place. He said that in the area of law enforcement, Apache, Coconino and Navajo counties are talking with the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe to reach agreement.

Helen Bonnaha discussed a recent lightning storm where lightning struck a trailer and it burned to the ground because the fire department arrived 25 minutes after the fire started, ran out of water and there was no water in the fire hydrant. She said these are safety issues that need to be addressed. She said that if there were paved highways they would have better access. She said she is on the community school board and maintenance for buses is costly due to poor road conditions and there is a need to invest in roads for the safety of children. Dusty Parsons reported agreements are being put in place to locate road yards around the reservation and he is working with the BIA to gravel the road near Jeddito. He said they are also submitting for Navajo Nation fuel excise tax grants for road projects. He said the agreement to maintain school roads could be put in place quickly on the Navajo County side but it is more difficult to gain the Navajo Nation approval. In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Jayne reported that of the 1.6 million dollars paid in taxes over 1.2 million dollars went to Kayenta Unified School District, additional taxing entities received some of that funding and a small portion went to Navajo County.

Local Government: Kayenta Township Commission: Daniel Peaches, Township Manager, thanked the supervisors for attending. He spoke for an extended period of time, discussing road project needs advising the Township does not have the funding to pay for engineering and studies; the Nation's EPA requires upfront payment that is expensive and then if payment is made, their schedule is full. He discussed collaboration between agencies to fund projects and the need for a vehicle license fee in Kayenta. He stated the airport is not sufficient and described related difficulties, stating they need a regional airport for transportation and medical needs. He discussed the need for planners to determine their future; necessary infrastructure such as water and sewage lines to meet growing community needs, the movement away from traditional ways in the tribe, pressure on students to get good grades, the drought, the need for a flood management study, and the desire to have community college services here.

Early voting information: Recorder Laurette Justman thanked those present to address the board and county staff. She advised that an early voting site is set up at this school district today for Kayenta, Shonto and Chilchinbeto. She discussed voter registration requirements, election time lines and that those that vote early will not have to go through the ID at the polls process.

Discussion of items of mutual interest to the Navajo Nation residents who live within Navajo County and the Navajo County Board of Supervisors: Several local residents addressed the board requesting assistance in the area of roads, drug prevention, police coverage, emergency supplies for those times when roads are impassable, school bus routes' maintenance, the need for an improved air strip, equipment that needs maintenance or replacement, and elderly tribal members who need additional

assistance.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:17 p.m. and reconvened at 12:45 p.m. with all those listed before present.

Presentation by the Arizona Secretary of State's office regarding ballot measures on the November 7, 2006 ballot: Mary Fontes reviewed all propositions on the ballot providing a venue for those present to ask questions and state their opinions.

Lillian Smith addressed the board, stating that she is glad they came today and that they now come once a year. She said Kayenta is small but it is growing, acting as a hub to other communities. She expressed the desire for a Navajo sub agency here. She said the county could assist by providing better roads, sheriff's coverage, air strip improvement assistance, and a landfill. She stated many of the elderlies are concerned about these items plus ID at the polls. She invited the board to return to Kayenta. At 2:15 p.m., Chairman Thompson invited Lillian Smith to offer the benediction.

Adjourn: **Supervisor Tenney made a motion** to adjourn; motion seconded by Supervisor Deal; vote unanimous approving the motion.

**APPROVED:**

**DATE:**

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**Jesse Thompson, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**Clerk of the Board**