

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA
October 24, 2005**

Kayenta Town Hall, Kayenta Justice Court and Peabody Coal Mine – Time: 9:17 a.m. (DST)

PRESENT: Jerry Brownlow, Chairman; Percy Deal, Vice-Chairman; David Tenney, Member; Jesse Thompson, Member; J.R. DeSpain, Member; James G. Jayne, County Manager; Darlene Fraley, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Deal welcomed those present and led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation.

Bill Cly of the Kayenta Township and Albert Bailey of the Chapter welcomed all present advising that Kayenta is a unique community in that it is its own government and encouraged sharing experience that the County has access to as well as supporting the Township when possible. Mr. Bailey introduced Chapter personnel and reviewed the history of the Township. He advised that Kayenta collects a sales tax and does not look to a central government for everything while using government support to leverage funds.

Mr. Brownlow introduced the Board of Supervisors and all elected officials in the audience: Judge Nielson, Judge Wing, Judge Ruechel, Judge Widmaier, Judge Bradley, Judge Hatch, Superintendent of Schools AJ Brown, Clerk of Courts Juanita Mann, and Constable Claw. He recognized Holbrook City Manager David Newlin, Highway Patrolmen, and County staff from the Sheriff's Office, Human Resources, Public Works, Building and Grounds, Administration and the Board of Supervisors.

KAYENTA AIRPORT PLANNING PROJECT: Bill Cly introduced the Kayenta Township staff. He reported the existing airport in Kayenta is not in good condition. The new one will have hangars and be north of the existing site with an anticipated completion date of 2006. In response to questions from Mr. Newlin, Mr. Cly stated that the airplanes using the airport use general aviation fuel and due to concerns regarding large planes tearing up the runway, the plane passenger limit is about 20. Mr. Deal and Mr. Cly discussed the difficulties experienced when seeking financial assistance from the State and the FAA. Mr. Deal advised other areas such as Homeland Security, emergency management agencies and fire departments experience these same difficulties. Mr. Bailey advised that the airport must be upgraded as it must be usable in the event of medical emergencies. He reported Kayenta Township is asking for financial support from the County.

SCHOOL BUS ROUTE MAINTENANCE: Kayenta Unified Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Allsbrooks, welcomed all Navajo County representatives. He recounted the agreement between the County and the Kayenta schools regarding road maintenance of school bus routes wherein the district accepted responsibility for the maintenance. He reported that a recent legal opinion advises that schools can not maintain roads, that this is a federal, state and county responsibility. He stated that agreements for the bus routes must be between the BIA and the County and he is willing to facilitate the agreement. He reported Kayenta has 2500 students and transports 1500 of them with 32 bus routes, half of which are not paved. Mr. Allsbrooks reported the district is willing to house the equipment and would consider a lease; he said it could become a sub station to house equipment to be used on roads other than bus routes. He reported that Kayenta School District has made considerable academic progress and is the first reservation district to reach performance plus academic rating. All schools in the district made Adequate Yearly Progress and a major criteria of this performance measure is attendance. He stressed the need to take the measures necessary to maintain the school bus routes. Mr. Deal expressed his concern regarding this issue and discussed the need for the BIA to cooperate with the County to assist in addressing the issue. Mr.

Parsons reported that there have been monthly meetings with the BIA and school district on this issue. He advised that not all bus routes are BIA or County roads. He stated when a Memorandum of Understanding is reached then the Board could designate the use of special funds for this project. Mr. Thompson stated that the BIA, Navajo Nation, School District and the County are working together to address this issue. Mr. Bailey advised that his Chapter passed a resolution requesting that the school district maintain the roads until an agreement could be reached. He stated that the maintenance of roads is tied closely to safety and medical issues. Mr. Allsbrooks stated the school district is willing to maintain the roads but has a legal opinion advising that they can not. He said he will enter into an agreement as long as the agreement doesn't make the district responsible for the maintenance and he reported that the district hasn't received money from the County or the BIA since July. Mr. Deal requested the County Manager's support in putting together an agreement in cooperation with the BIA and the school district to address this issue. A resident, Ben Johnson, presented a document from the Black Mesa Community School, stating their roads are 100% not paved and they would like to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Black Mesa. Mr. Brownlow stated that the Board is committed to improving reservation roads and has lobbied Congress to increase the TEA 21 allocation. Mr. Thompson encouraged everyone to come together on this issue, stating that a BIA/County MOU is a slow process and children need to get to school now.

BIA ROADS: There were no BIA representatives present to address this topic.

DRUG COURT PRESENTATION: Presiding Judge Dale Nielson reported that the judicial system will initiate a Drug Court in Navajo County in January. He outlined the membership of the drug court who will come together on a weekly basis with those who must participate in a Drug Court as a condition of their probation. He explained this is an 18 month program designed to break methamphetamine addiction through weekly meetings, drug tests, participation in AA or NA meetings, community service, specific incentives and if necessary because of noncompliance, sanctions that may include jail time. The Court did not receive a requested grant but in recognition of the growing problem of meth in the County the courts made a commitment to fund this project that has a good success rate in other areas of the country. Judge Nielson will be the only judge participating in the drug court initially. He encouraged Kayenta to allow the implementation of such a program and advised that grant funding is critical to future success. Mr. Newlin offered the City of Holbrook as an employment opportunity for those who are going through the program. Judge Wing reported that the growing meth problems in the County are impacting families when children must be removed from the homes and gave an example of a veteran CPS worker whose morale is suffering from this growing problem. Asa Begay reported that he does contract work for the Department of Justice and reviews Drug Court proposals. He stated that a major grant success component is the effort of cooperation between the County that borders the Nation with the Nation. He said reviewers look for sustainability, capacity, skills and knowledge. He advised that personnel is available for technical assistance in developing a grant proposal. Mr. Thompson reported that at one time the Drug Court was available on the Navajo Nation. He thanked Judge Nielson for reaching out to the Native American community and encouraged the establishment of such a program.

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY—FIRE: Constable Claw advised that he volunteers on the Kayenta fire department and they are seeking funds from the County for equipment for the fire department as matching funds for a grant. He said they are currently using equipment borrowed from the Navajo Nation and are requesting assistance from Navajo, Apache and Coconino Counties. Donna Leno reported that she works for the Indian Health Services seeking grants and is using this experience to assist in obtaining grants for the Fire Department. She said their department is an all volunteer department, covering 4,000 square miles in three counties in Arizona and San Juan County in Utah. She advised that the Kayenta Fire Department is the only emergency response team within 150 miles and it takes an average of 20-30 minutes to respond in

Navajo County and about two hours to respond to San Juan County. She reviewed funding needs that included equipment and basic items such as gas. Rose Hullivan stated that the building is very nice and makes everyone feel safe but on a tour of the building you become aware of the basic needs that are not met. Mr. Deal encouraged those discussing this issue to submit a request for assistance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Bill Cly introduced a local businessman, Richard Mike, stating he would like to develop a property tax system to support the Township and create equity of services.
- Helen Bonnaha introduced herself, giving her professional employment background. She stated that:
 - She does not understand why the BIA neglects the roads.
 - They should not have to fight Arizona to get medical help for their elders.
 - The Fire Department needs are great and while they work to be self sufficient they need help from each County.
 - Kayenta and the County are growing and they need to learn together, eliminating invisible barriers.
 - They only see white people at election time and amended that to say that Judge Nielson does come to the Nation and thanked him for addressing the meth problem.
- Lena Clitso requested support for their Chapter resolution for veterans and senior citizens.
- Frank Donald, Jr. thanked the Board of Supervisors for coming to Kayenta as well as Navajo County staff, Chapter Officials and Township Officials. He stated there are needs in the community and a group such as this working together could network to help the people.
- Julius Young thanked everyone for coming and invited those present to tour the school district. He reiterated concerns regarding the urgency of the road issue and stated he is meeting with the County and BIA to reach an agreement. He thanked Percy Deal and Jesse Thompson for their representation.

TOUR OF KAYENTA JUSTICE COURT: Justice of the Peace Evelyne Bradley conducted a tour of the newly remodeled Justice Court, expressing appreciation to the Building and Grounds crew as well as the County Manager for their support in this renovation project.

LUNCH: Percy Deal and Judge Bradley provided lunch to all present.

TOUR OF PEABODY COAL MINE: Chairman Brownlow, Supervisor Deal and Supervisor Thompson, along with several Navajo County staff members and guests enjoyed a tour of the coal mine.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 DST.

APPROVED:

DATE:

Jerry Brownlow, Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk/Deputy Clerk of the Board