

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020

PRESIDING: JoAnn Dedman, Chairperson

LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE

X Ramona Begay
X Emmett Kerley

X Philmer Bluehouse
X Anselm Morgan

X JoAnn Dedman
X Lorencita Willie

0 Exec. Rep (Vacant)
X Shawnevan Dale

X Kenneth Maryboy
X Larry Rodgers

0 Jud Rep (Vacant)
0 Crystal Cree

STAFF: Edward Dee, Executive Director; EJ John, Policy Analyst; DeWayne Crank, Policy Analyst; Tauve Begaye, Admin. Assist.; Wanda Nelson, Sr. Office Spec.

Agenda	Discussion(s)	Recommendations(s) Action(s)
1. Call Meeting to Order; Roll Call; Invocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Called to Order at 10:09am. Roll call by Edward Dee, Executive Director; 7 Teleconference, constitutes a quorum. Invocation by Comm. JoAnn Dedman, Chair 	Quorum establish – 7 Commission Members in attendance VACANT: Executive Branch Representative Judicial Branch Representative
2. Introduction of Guest(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Pernell Halona, 24th NNC Hon. Jamie Henio, 24th NNC Hon. Carl Slater, 24th NNC Hon. Daniel Tso, 24th NNC Hon. Paul Begay, 24th NNC 	
3. Review and Adopt Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda read by Edward Dee, Executive Director, ONGD <p>Mr. John: Roll Call Vote</p>	Approve Agenda Motion: Kenneth Maryboy Second: Anselm Morgan Vote: 7 in favor 0 oppose 1 abstain
4. Old Business	NONE	
5. New Business	a. Resolution No. CNGD-0701-20: AN ACTION TO SUPPORT NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL LEGISLATION 0153-20: AN ACTION RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCE, LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'YATI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(17) TO INCLUDE THE	Approve Res. No. CNGD-0701-20 Motion: Kenneth Maryboy Second: Philmer Bluehouse Vote: 8 in favor

BUDGET LINE-ITEM VETO AUTHORITY LANGUAGE APPROVED BY NAVAJO VOTERS THROUGH INITIATIVE ELECTION IN 2009.

Chair Dedman: this is a very important subject; therefore, I'll have Ed give a brief history on what lead to this.

Mr. Dee: for the record, its appropriate to read the entire resolution. I'll defer to EJ John to read the resolution.

Mr. John: (read Res. No. CNGD-0701-20).

Chair Dedman: I'll give the floor to Ed for the brief history.

Mr. Dee: on July 18, last week there was a meeting that was convened, including Speaker Seth Damon, Chief Legal Counsel Dana Bobroff, Delegates Charles-Newton, Henio, Daniel Tso that were on the call. Also, the Chairwomen and Staff. At that time, 0153-20 had not been dropped; however, we were informed by Chief Leg. Counsel Bobroff that Legislation was going to be dropped by the end of the day and that's what became the 0153-20 legislation.

Chair Dedman: the discussion is now open.

Hon. Slater: if the resolution passes I'm happy include it, so Legislative Counsel work on it. If the Commission has any questions, I'm happy to respond to them.

Comm. Rodgers: more of a question perspective; difference between this resolution and the one we passed at the last meeting. What's the scoop? Can we get some comparative statements on this?

Chair Dedman: the previous resolution was recommending to the NNC. Now the Council took it up and is 0153-20, that is being sponsored by Hon. Daniel Tso. That would be the difference.

Mr. Dee: 0701-20 is supporting, which has been dropped by Hon. Daniel Tso. The earlier resolution, 0602-20 is basically a referendum that will go before the people, when an election is solidified. Your resolution will go to the Navajo Nation Council in the form of a recommendation for a referendum to be put on the election ballot. This one is to fix the language.

Comm. Rodgers: the main emphasis is for improvement.

Chair Dedman: so, this resolution will be added as part of public comment to 0153-20.

Hon. Henio: how many vetoes has Nez done, compared to Begaye, Shelley, Shirley. This is getting of hand.

Chair Dedman: any other questions?

Hon. D. Tso: number 1 is your supporting resolution leg. 0153-20. I appreciate the fact that this was put on the agenda to basically to make known its intent and purpose- do what the Navajo people voted on in 2009 ballot question. The language should be similar to what is in the blue book of Title 2. The other aspect would be something that the CNGD would consider themselves to do on the referendum language. The main thing is what is before you now. As you know, there is some abuse. It evolves from former AG Ethel Branch's opinion. We think it is wrong, that is why I'm sponsoring this legislation.

Hon. P. Begay: I'm just listening in right now. Thank you.

Comm. Morgan: a Special Meeting was called for the Commissioners. There was an agenda put forth. The definition was explained by Mr. Dee. We have a general

0 oppose
1 abstain

understanding of what is before us. Madame Chair this is a Commissioner's meeting, I call for the Question.

Chair Dedman: before we go to voting, I would like to give everyone a chance to speak.
Comm. Bluehouse: with the veto, we have the funds tied up. We need to funds to get things done, because we are in an emergency situation with Covid-19. I want people to use the funds.

Comm. Begay: the issue we are discussing, it was talked about in June. I was not on the line for the first meeting. I was on the call, the second time. There was really no explanation on the legislation, due to it already being discussed. What is the exact meaning? I listened to Mr, Dee's explanation and understand. To this point, the law is not being used properly. It is being abused. With all the explanation I heard today, I'll support it. Along with Mr. Bluehouse question, how do we plan to address that?

Comm. Willie: I am in support of this resolution. In order to maintain the balance, we cannot allow too much power to one branch. I just wanted to express mt support in this resolution.

Chair Dedman: any others? Will have Ed answer Bluehouse question.

Mr. Dee: let me go back to Del. Henio's comment. The data that he eluded too; we have the data on the uptick. This administration has really shown its use and misuse of this application, which we will include as part of the public comments later today.

Next question, they way I read the description. 0602-20 is separate and has already been passed. That is a separate fix, to this fix. We do have the transcript from the Title 2 subcommittee meeting. This resolution is supporting 0153-20. The previous resolution is for the referendum, when we solidify the election.

Chair Dedman: shizhe'e Comm. Bluehouse, was your question answered?

Comm. Bluehouse: No. There seems to be a very strong urgency. Right now, we are dealing with legislations, modifications and so forth. We should get this out to the people. What can we do? What authority can we develop or propose that can address that area? We need to move right along and get the help to the people- water lines, electric system, etc. It has to do with health and mental health. This Commission should be in the position to move in that direction to advocate language change, which is good and well. The election is good by the people- it is clear. We need to get away from the political shenanigans and maneuvering. We are dealing with people's lives, well-being. I just want to make that emphasis and stand on that.

Chair Dedman: perhaps that is a topic for the regular meeting. Ed, can you see how we can address that.

Mr. Dee: yes Chair.

Comm. Rodgers: can I make a statement? I am quite supportive of what Mr. Bluehouse is suggesting; perhaps, under Reports. Have someone or group that is working with the council; from the epicenter or whoever is the lead to make a report. We need answers addressed. Can we get someone to give a report? We are in an emergency situation and need to do something about it.

Chair Dedman: Hon. Halona?

	<p>Hon. Halona: with this resolution that you have. How do you guys perceive the #4 on Whereas? How does the Commission see that point? Is that what the President is doing or gets his authority from? Is this the actual language that is written into the law that was provided?</p> <p>Chair Dedman: Ed, can you assist in getting Delegate Halona’s question answered?</p> <p>Mr. Dee: I defer to EJ.</p> <p>Mr. John: I can’t necessarily give you the opinion on behalf of the CNGD. From what I suspect the President does use these powers. That’s the kind of power the executives have, which they use. Line-Item Veto is used to veto a specific monetary amount.</p> <p>Chair Dedman: thank you for the explanation. Does that answer your question sir?</p> <p>Hon. Halona: yes, it does. The President has been using that power a lot, lately. I’m just wondering if they CNGD sees it that way.</p> <p>Chair Dedman: Any other comments. Call for the Question. Mr. John assist us in leading the Roll Call Vote.</p> <p>Mr. John: Roll Call Vote</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>8-0-1</u></p> <p>Chair Dedman: this resolution is hereby adopted. Thank you, Delegate Tso and Speaker Damon, for sponsoring the legislation. I urge the Delegates on the line to co-sponsor the resolution.</p>	
<p>6. Receive Reports</p> <p>7. Others</p> <p>8. Next Meeting</p> <p>9. Adjournment</p>	<p>None</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Dee: there is nothing, other than to make a note. We will work on the recommendation to Comm. Bluehouse request. • Proposed on Friday, July 17, 2020, 1:00pm, via Teleconference. • Meeting Adjourn at 11:07am. <p>Mr. John: Roll Call Vote</p>	<p>Adjourn Meeting Motion: Philmer Bluehouse Second: Anselm Morgan Vote: 8 in favor 0 oppose 1 abstain</p>