

# Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Special Meeting Minutes

May 20 – 10:00a.m.  
Painted Desert Campus, Tiponi Community Center Board Room  
2251 East Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, AZ 86025

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**Governing Board Member Present:** Chair. Everett Robinson, Ms. Kristine Laughter; Mr. Frank Lucero; Ms. Rosie Sekayumptewa; Derrick Leslie

**Governing Board Member Absent:**

**Others Present:** President Von Lawson; VPLSS Michael Solomonson; CIO Michael Jacob; Betsy Wilson; VPAS Maderia Ellison; VPHR Nicole Ulibarri; Katie Matott; Justin White; Russell Kupfer; Allison Landy; Becca Hunt; Norvita Charleston; Farah Bughio; Amanda Sutter; Melody Niesen; Michael Broyles; Tabitha Stickel; Talaina Fisher; Erin Pug; Paul Hempsey; Jeremy Raisor; Lia Keenan; Betsy Wilson; Jeese Reeck; Jonathan Lawrence; Angie King; Josh Rogers; Kenneth Coggin; Karen Baker, Olivia Jaquez; Kate Hahn

## **Truth in Taxation – Notice of Tax Increase Public Hearing**

### **Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **Agenda Item 2: Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation Publications**

VPAS Ellison reviewed the process required by Arizona State Statute for notifying taxpayers of the college's intention for property taxes.

No questions.

### **Agenda Item 3: Public Hearing on Truth in Taxation**

VPAS Ellison reviewed the recommendation for setting the primary property tax rate for 2025 – 2026.

Chair Robinson commented on increased tax rates being due to the Assessor's evaluation of properties.

Ms. Sekayumptewa asked if we collected taxes in Apache county. VPAS Ellison responded no, we have IGA's instead.

### **Agenda Item 4: Call for Public Comment**

None.



## **Agenda Item 5: Adjournment**

### **2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget Public Hearing**

#### **Agenda Item 1: Call to order**

Chair Robinson called the session to order

#### **Agenda Item 2: Presentation of Proposed 2025 – 2026 Budget**

VPAS Ellison reviewed the recommended budget for fiscal year 2025 - 2026

No questions.

#### **Agenda Item 3: Call for Public Comment**

None.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Adjournment**

### **Special Meeting**

#### **Agenda Item 1: Call to order**

Chair Robinson called the session to order.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Request to Approve 2025 – 26 Primary Property Tax Rate & Levy**

VPAS Ellison requested that the Board approve the recommended property tax rate and expected levy.

Mr. Lucero asked if we always had to set the tax rate to the maximum. VPAS Ellison responded that we go to the maximum for equalization funding.

Mr. Lucero asked if the legislature knew we are a poor county. VPAS Ellison responded that they may be aware of it.

Ms. Laughter asked for clarification on equalization funding and not receiving taxes from the Navajo Nation. VPAS Ellison clarified the process of receiving equalization aid.

Mr. Leslie asked if we were assuming that the economy has recovered. VPAS Ellison responded that while the economy may be recovering there is a lag for Navajo County to catch up.

Mr. Lucero asked what the TNT rate would bring in. VPAS Ellison responded, about \$366, 000 less.



*Ms. Laughter made a motion to approve the recommended property tax rate and expected levy. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. Mr. Lucero and Mr. Leslie voted against.*

### **Agenda Item 3: Request to Approve 2026 – 2028 Proposed Capital Budget**

VPAS Ellison requested the Board approve the 2026 – 2028 capital budget.

Mr. Lucero ask if grant money from the Kayenta project off set this. VPAS Ellison responded no.

Mr. Lucero asked which the area the deficit would be in. VPAS Ellison responded that revenues are less than the projects.

Chair Robinson made a comment that the State Legislature use to give money for building projects.

Mr. Lucero asked if we don't have the money we just push it down the road? VPAS Ellison responded yes and elaborated on other options.

Mr. Lucero asked for clarification on what was included in the capital budget. VPAS Ellison responded it included everything over \$5,000 but not the ERP implementation.

*Ms. Laughter made a motion to approve the proposed capital budget.*

*Chair Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson, Mr. Lucero and Mr. Leslie voting in favor. There were no voted against.*

### **Agenda Item 4: Adjournment**

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 10:28a.m.

