

Presiding: Nelson Damon Roll Call: 64 Invocation: Harold Drake

Discussion on Navajo Irrigation Project continued.

Mr. Keesee: Explained that the 1957 Irrigation Feasibility Report reflected only those lands which could be served by gravity, which was approximately 10,000 acres. To secure the full amount of acreage, 110,000, it was necessary to obtain additional land from the South San Juan Division. He stated that the acreage shown on the map which was on display, was in error and the amount should be increased from 13,000 to 14,391 acres.

Mr. Wolf: Re-stated the questions he had previously raised about the acreage of Federal land which must be secured by the Navajo Tribe. The acreage involved was 73,000 plus, however, the Advisory Committee had been furnished a figure of 43,000 acres, during a review of the project in October. He requested Mr. Keesee to give an explanation on the revised figures.

Mr. Keesee: Explained that the original report had divided the land to be secured off the Reservation, into two classes:

- (1) 14,391 acres which could be served by gravity flow and
- (2) 40,000 acres which would require pumping equipment to service.

He stated that at that time the land would be procured in 40 acre tracts; however, it is now recommended to secure the land by full sections. This would permit the Navajo Tribe to form a solid block and eliminate private holdings within the project area. He advised the Tribal Council it would be its decision to determine the procedure and method they wished to have pursued in obtaining the land.

Ed Plummer: Tribal Land Investigation Office, explained the status and ownership of the lands involved in the South San Juan Division. He stated these lands were presently off the Reservation and ownership was held by private individuals, the Federal Government, the State of New Mexico and individual Indian allotments. His office's studies had not been complete as no definite decision had been made on securing the lands. He stated his office, with the concurrence of the Resources Committee, recommended that the Navajo Tribe buy the total amount of land held by private owners and also secure the Indian allotments in order to block the entire area.

Allen Harvey: Stated he was concerned about the Navajo people living in this area not being informed about the possibilities of being moved from their present homes. He suggested that the Councilmen and Chapter Officers from the districts involved, meet with the people and advise them of the proposed plan to add their lands to the irrigation project.

Tyler H. Harris: Stated that the people of his area are aware of the proposed plan and meetings had been held to extensively discuss the matter. The people are in full agreement with the proposal.

Bill Becenti: Asked how much Tribal funds would be required to secure the additional land for the project.

Mr. Keesee: Replied that the authorization act provides for the Navajo Tribe to secure the Federal lands at an appraised value, which will require Tribal funds. He stated the private, State and Indian allotments may be condemned by the Secretary of the Interior and be paid for from the project funds.

Frank Bradley: Made a remark about the Government condemning the land. He believed additional information should be secured prior to being acted upon by the Tribal Council. He suggested additional meetings be held with the people involved. He said the Council should be advised how much it will cost the Navajo Tribe to finance this project. He explained that it costs the Tribe \$500,000 annually to maintain the Shiprock Irrigation system. He stated the water users are not repaying the Tribe. The Tribe assumed the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation systems on the Reservation, and this is now an annual expense to the Tribe.

He re-stated his remark about the possibility of having the Water Contract written on a five-year basis and at the end of that period it could be renewed if the Tribe so wished. He believed it would cost the Tribe about \$2 million to secure the land and prepare it for farming. He also believed the operation and maintenance costs would be \$10 per acre and the individual farmers would not be able to pay the operation expenses.

He believed the Farm Training Program at Shiprock was producing farmers, but they have no farms to go to. He believed the BIA should carry out the project for the first five years and then if it is successful, the Tribe could take it over. He was against the Council making the trip to inspect the project as he believed it would not be useful. He believed the Council should remain in session rather than make the trip and continue the agenda items. He made a motion to drop the discussion on the Irrigation Project and take up Item #13, "Authorizing Construction of Police and Judicial Facilities".

John Nelson Dee: Talked in favor of continuing the discussion on the Irrigation Project and stated that the project was not new and had been discussed in the Tribal Council for the past seven years. He stated the Council men from the districts involved in the projects should defend the project and express their opinion on this vital matter.

Vote: For: 58 - Opposed: 1.

Proposed Resolution of the Navajo Tribal Council "Authorizing the Police and Judicial Facility at Window Rock".

Carl Todacheene: Made a motion to approve resolution as presented.

Jones Van Winkle: Seconded the motion.

Allen Harvey: Believed the jail facilities should be retained at Fort Defiance as he believed it was a historical location and it would be appropriate to maintain the jail there. He believed the judicial facilities could be located at Window Rock if the Council so desires.

Howard Gorman: Explained that the original authorization for the police and judicial facilities was for location at Fort Defiance. He recommended the location be changed to Window Rock as it is a more appropriate location. He requested the Council approve the proposed resolution.

Vote: For: 64 - Opposed: 0.

Samuel Billison: Made several remarks about the new Police and Judicial facilities. He also mentioned that a Navajo Policeman, Alfred Yazzie, had been selected to attend an FBI Training Academy.

Mr. Billison complimented Mr. John D. Kilgore on his efficient operation of the Tribal Design and Construction Department and he hoped he would continue his good work.

Announcement:

Schedule for the trip to Farmington and Navajo Irrigation Project was given to each Councilman.

Whereupon the Navajo Tribal Council recessed until March 3, 1964, in order to give the Tribal Councilmen an opportunity to take the above mentioned trip.