

RESOLUTION OF THE  
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - First Year, 2023

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE; RESCINDING  
RESOLUTION NO. BFS-52-05 AND APPROVING NEW PROCEDURES FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET MEETINGS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Budget and Finance Committee is a standing the Navajo Nation Council with oversight authority over the Office of the Controller, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of the Auditor General, the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission, the Insurance Services Department, the Retirement Services Department, and the Insurance Commission. 2 N.N.C. § 300(A), 2 N.N.C. § 301(B) (13).
- B. As the Oversight Committee for the above-named Navajo Nation Programs, the Budget and Finance Committee will hold a meeting to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budgets for each of these Programs. The Budget and Finance Committee, as with each Oversight Committee, will review the budgets for the Programs under its purview and will make recommendations concerning the Program budgets, for including in the Navajo Nation's FY2024 Comprehensive Budget. 12 N.N.C. § 840(A).
- C. In Resolution No. BFS-52-05 approved in September 2005, the Budget and Finance Committee adopted certain Rules for their budget meetings (termed "hearings" at that time). For the FY2024 budget season, the Budget and Finance Committee is rescinding those 2005 Rules and adopting new Procedures for its budget meetings.

**SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- A. The Budget and Finance Committee approved Resolution No. BFS-52-05 in September of 2005. A copy of BFS-52-05 is attached hereto as **EXHIBIT 1**. In BFS-52-05 the Budget and Finance Committee adopted certain Rules for their budget meetings (termed "hearings" at that time) conducted pursuant to its authority under 12 N.N.C. § 840(A) as an Oversight Committee for various Navajo Nation Programs.
- B. In the interest of establishing uniform standing committee budget procedures for conducting the budget meetings pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 840(A), Resolution NO. BFS-52-05 should be rescinded and new Procedures should be adopted for the Budget and Finance Committee's FY2024 budget meetings.
- C. The Budget and Finance Committee has reviewed and considered the proposed "OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETINGS PROCEDURES - FY2024 PROGRAM BUDGETS" (attached hereto as **EXHIBIT 2**) and finds that adherence to such Procedures will effect a more efficient review and recommendation process regarding the FY2024 Program budgets, and approval of such Procedures is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation.

**SECTION THREE. RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. BFS-52-05 AND APPROVING NEW PROCEDURES FOR FY2024 BUDGET MEETINGS**

- A. The Budget and Finance Committee hereby rescinds Resolution No. BFS-52-05 in its entirety.
- B. The Budget and Finance Committee hereby rescinds all other previously approved Budget and Finance Committee resolutions, if any, pertaining to rules, procedures, or the like, for budget hearings or budget meetings.
- C. The Budget and Finance Committee hereby approves the "OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETINGS PROCEDURES - FY2024 PROGRAM BUDGETS" attached hereto as **EXHIBIT 2**.

**SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Action shall become effective in accordance with 12 N.N.C. § 840(A) and 2 N.N.C. § 189(A).

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting held at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 3 in favor and 2 opposed, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaandiin Parrish', written in a cursive style.

Shaandiin Parrish, Chairperson  
Budget and Finance Committee

Motion: Honorable Carl R. Slater  
Second: Honorable Seth A. Damon



*Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council*

**BFS-52-05**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
20<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year 2005**

**Legislation No. 0729-05  
Sponsored by Honorable Harold Wauneka, Council Delegate**

**AN ACTION**

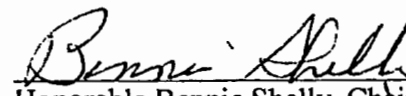
**RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCE; AMENDING RESOLUTION BFMY-59-95,  
REPEALING THE RULES OF ORDER FOR CONDUCTING BUDGET AND PUBLIC  
HEARINGS, AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE RULES  
OF ORDER FOR BUDGET AND FACT-FINDING HEARINGS.**

**BE IT ENACTED:**

1. The Navajo Nation hereby amends Resolution BFMY-59-95 by repealing the Rules of Order for Conducting Budget and Public Hearings, and adopting the Budget and Finance Committee Rules of Order for Budget and Fact-Finding Hearings, attached as Exhibit A.
2. The Budget and Finance Committee shall utilize the Budget and Finance Committee Rules of Order for Budget and Fact-Finding Hearings, attached hereto as Exhibit A, until such time as this resolution is amended.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing legislation was duly considered by the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of in 05 favor and 00 opposed, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2005.

  
Honorable Bennie Shelly, Chairperson  
Budget and Finance Committee

Motion: Raymond Maxx  
Second: Harold Wauneka

**EXHIBIT A**

**THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
RULES OF ORDER FOR  
BUDGET AND FACT-FINDING HEARINGS**

- Rule 1. The Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee shall act as the presiding officer over the Committee hearing and maintain decorum and order in the Committee hearing. The Vice Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson. Provided; the Budget and Finance Committee may by motion and second, duly adopted, choose one of its other members to preside over the hearing and to maintain decorum and order over the hearing, in the event that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are absent, or if the purposes of the hearing would be better served by appointment of a presiding officer other than the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson.
- Rule 2. All members of the Budget and Finance Committee shall be permitted to ask questions of witnesses in the hearing. At the discretion of the presiding officer, representatives of the Office of Legislative Counsel, the Office of the Attorney General, or the Office of Auditor General may be permitted to ask questions of witnesses in the hearing.
- Rule 3. The formal rules of evidence and court rules of procedure shall not apply to Budget and Finance Committee budget and fact-finding hearings. The presiding officer may exclude testimony or documents, or both, that are determined by the presiding officer to be irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious.
- Rule 4. During budget hearings, Office of Management and Budget staff shall read into the record the funding summary for divisions, departments and programs prior to the commencement of presentation by other witnesses.
- Rule 5. All witnesses shall be sworn upon their oath and present their testimony under oath.
- Rule 6. Each witness shall be provided a maximum of ten (10) minutes for their testimony. This period of time may be extended at the discretion of the presiding officer. There is no limitation on the time which the Committee may take in questioning and receiving responses from the witnesses.
- Rule 7. Witnesses shall, in addition to oral testimony, be permitted to submit documents in support of their oral testimony. Such documents shall be identified by the witness presenting them, and shall be marked and maintained as exhibits to the hearing record by the legislative advisor to the Budget and Finance Committee.

## **EXHIBIT A**

- Rule 8. Testimony shall not include matters which are currently in litigation or the grievance process, pending before another forum.
- Rule 9. With regards to budget hearings, the Committee shall issue its recommendations in accord with the current Navajo Nation Budget Instruction and Policies Manual.
- Rule 10. With regards to fact-finding hearings, the Committee shall adopt a written report by resolution, no later than 30 days following the close of the fact-finding hearing. The report shall include all findings and recommendations of the Committee relative to the issues addressed in the fact-finding hearing.
- Rule 11. All hearings shall be open to the public, except during such periods as the Committee determines that witness testimony or documents, or both, are sensitive or confidential in nature. When this occurs, the Committee may convene into an executive session.
- Rule 12. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall provide staff to be present at the Committee hearing and to provide legal advice and legislative assistance to the Committee.



**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETINGS  
PROCEDURES  
FY2024 PROGRAM BUDGETS**

1. The Standing Committee Rules of Order are to be used for the oversight Budget Meetings. The only exception is Rule 8.
2. These Procedures suspend Rule 8 of the Standing Committee Rules of Order. The Order of Agenda Business for the Budget Meeting shall be as follows:
  - A. Call Meeting to Order; Roll Call; Invocation
  - B. Recognize Guests and Visiting Officials
  - C. Review and adopt the Agenda. The Agenda items shall only include budget legislations.
  - D. Close of Meeting; Announcements; Adjournment
3. The Budget Meeting shall be posted for a duration of five (5) consecutive work days.
4. The Committee may recess during the five-day meeting to provide time for amendments to be drafted and budget exhibits to be corrected.
5. The Committee is not required to swear in agents or other presenters, either from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) or Program staff.
6. After a budget legislation is motioned, OMB shall present a simple budget summary for each Program's budget before the Sponsor of the legislation starts their presentation. A staff member of OMB shall be available at each Committee Budget Meeting, either virtually or in person, to answer relevant questions and to clarify issues during the discussion.
7. The Sponsor of the budget legislation, and his or her agents, will have a maximum of 10 minutes, or other time period established by the Committee, to present the legislation. The Committee Chair, at his or her discretion, may increase the time period for the initial presentation of the legislation.
8. As with any legislation, the Committee Members may ask questions of the agents and OMB through the Sponsor. Questions to advisors, e.g., the Controller, Department of Personnel Management, should go through the Committee Chair.

9. The Office of Legislative Counsel (OLC) will provide fillable amendment forms to the Committee members to be used for amendments to the Program's detailed budgets and Conditions of Appropriations/Legislative Concern exhibits. The fillable amendment forms shall be submitted to the Committee Advisor.

Requests for amendments to the body of the legislation shall be handled the same way as other legislations and should be submitted directly to OLC.

10. The Committee Advisor is responsible for keeping a complete and accurate list of all proposed amendments to the detailed budgets, and providing the proposed amendments to the Program, OMB, the Controller, and to OLC.
11. When, and if, a proposed amendment to the Program's detailed budget is approved by the Committee, the Committee Advisor will add the approved amendment to Exhibit C. The Program(s) shall work with OMB to revise Exhibit B, when necessary, to reflect the approved amendments made to the detailed budgets and Exhibit C.
12. If amendments are made to a Program's budget, the Committee will table the legislation to give the Program time to revise its detailed budgets and prepare the filled-in Exhibits B and C. When the Program returns to the Committee with its revised detailed budgets and its completed Exhibits B and C, if additional amendments or corrections are needed, the Committee will go into a recess to allow the Program time to make the budget corrections in order to avoid tabling the legislation twice and permanently eliminating the legislation from the Committee's agenda.
13. Upon reconvening after the recess, if the Committee is not satisfied with any of the proposed amendments or with any of the revised detailed budget provided by the Program, the Committee may recess a second time.
14. As with any legislation, the Committee will vote on all amendments to each budget legislation and will vote on the main motion for each budget legislation for the divisions and programs that it oversees. A quorum of Committee members is required for each vote.
15. Final approved Oversight Committee resolutions serve as recommendations to the Budget & Finance Committee. The Oversight Committee, through the Chair and/or Vice Chair, or designee, shall present the adopted Oversight Committee resolution and final program budgets, with all amendments inserted, to the Budget & Finance Committee.



## BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

August 8, 2023

Oversight Budget Meeting

### VOTE TALLY SHEET:

**Legislation No. 0163-23:** An Action relating to the Budget and Finance Committee; Rescinding Resolution No. BFS-52-05 and Adopting New Procedures for Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Meetings

**Sponsors:** Shaandiin Parrish and Carl Slater, Council Delegates

*Consent Agenda item*

*Motion: Carl R. Slater*

*Second: Seth A. Damon*

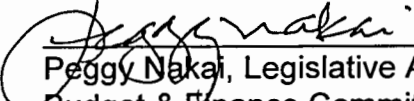
*Vote: 3-2, Chairperson not voting*

### Final Vote Tally:

Lomardo Aseret	yea	
Norman M. Begay		nay
Amber K. Crotty		nay
Seth A. Damon	yea	
Shaandiin Parrish		
Carl R. Slater	yea	

*Absent:*

  
Shaandiin Parrish, Chairperson  
Budget & Finance Committee

  
Peggy Nakai, Legislative Advisor  
Budget & Finance Committee