

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting
Sunday, December 08, 2024 @ 1:00pm
MINUTES

I. Meeting Call to Order: By Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Sr., Council President at 1:07pm.

II. Invocation: Provided by Ruth Nez, Community Member

III. Roll Call: Roll Call was made by Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Sr. Council Preident

	i. Present Absent	
Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Council President	X	
Mr. Wallace James, Council Vice President		X
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer	X	
Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official	*X	X

- **Arrived at 1:45pm**

IV. Announcements/Introduction:

1. Cornfields Community Christmas Dinner – Sunday December 08, 2024 1:00pm
2. Cornfields Chapter Christmas Bazaar – Friday December 20, 2024 10:00am-2:00pm
3. Cornfields Chapter Community Livestock Water is CLOSED until Spring
4. Navajo Transitional Energy – Community Heating Resource Program
 COAL Dispensing with Ticket: Tickets Expire 03/29/25
 11/6/24 – 02/28/25
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 8am to 4pm (Lunch 12:00p-12:30p)
 03/01/25 – 03/29/25
 Friday and Saturday Only
5. Choice Broadband – Community Presentation; Ammon Smith
 Broadband Services provided through Choice Broadband.
 Choice no longer provides Cellular Services and ended on October 31, 2024.
 If you can see the cellular tower from you home, you will be able to receive services.
 If there is a hill blocking the view of the Cellular Tower, most likely you won't be able to receive services.
 Right now the only tower available is located in Burnside, Az.
6. Kathy Chee, Cornfields Community Baptist Church – Not present at time of Announcement
7. Other(s):
 - Marilyn Begaye, Chapter ASO – Made an announcement on behalf of her Sister Matilda. Her Sister loss her oldest daughter and would like to inform the community and would like to request their support. They will be holding a Family Meeting here at the Chapter on Monday, December 09, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

V. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was read by Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Sr. Council President.
M: Lula Nez S: Cecelia White VOTE: 50 – 0 - 01

VI. **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: November 10, 2024**

M: Judith Shirley S: Brenda Thomas VOTE: 46 – 0 – 05

- Meeting minutes from November 08, 2024 was printed for the audience to read on their own.
- COMMENT: Mary Ann Arnold, Community Member – would like to request the copies of the minutes be printed in larger font for those who cannot read the small print.
- RESPONSE: Sharon Smith, Council Secretary Treasurer – The Minutes are usually Printed with two pages per side, equaling four pages on one paper; front and back. This is printed in this manner to conserve paper.
- There were no questions pertaining to the Minutes provided.

VII. **Old Business:**

1. Business Report November 2024: Ms. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager

M: Lula Nez S: Melvin Chee VOTE: 56 – 0 -02

- Thanked all attending this Chapter Meeting today which will include the Community Christmas Dinner.
- Attended both Planning and Regular Chapter Meetings.
- ARPA Project Updates: Reported that there are a lot of Red Tape she has to go through and can become difficult when requesting funding for various projects.
- ARPA Home Improvement Project – Two groups of workers were initially hired. The Chapter hired two more workers. Now there are some workers who left over time for different reasons, but none the less the improvements are progressing.
- 15 homes have been completed. The Chapter is also allowing families on the list who can do their own renovations and that is 15 families which she has been providing supplies to. Ms. Earle encouraged the families who have applied to renovate their own homes if they have the help needed to move the renovations along.
- With the Home Improvement Project, all supplies have to be inventoried from lumber to hardware.
- Chapter Renovations require a homesite lease. It is up to you as an individual to try and be determined, it can be acquired. There is funding available through the Chapter for Archeology clearance or surveys.
- They continue to provide services such as sale of water, hay and laundry services. The Chapter had water line problems recently and she is learning a lot of information about the Chapter compound. They hired a contractor to assist in locating the water leak problem and it was discovered that there are two pipes located near the Laundry entrance that are sticking out of the ground, and in one of the pipes, it was full of trash and a water bottle. This pipe serves as a vent and is very important. Once the debris was cleared, water starting flowing again without any leaks.
- Wood distribution was provided in November – 201 loads were purchased by the chapter. 6 pallets of wood pellets were also purchased. 4 individuals have not been assisted, so that Chapter is working on this.
- Food Distribution - Food was distributed to the community in October.
- Septic Cleaning – The funding for this will be available soon, please be patient.
- The Chapter cannot always assist their community members, it cannot pay utility bills and always provide fire wood. There are homesite lease application packets available in

- the Chapter and it is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain all needed information. The Chapter can assist to cover the expense of an archeology clearance or survey cost.
- The Chapter is also being criticized for providing only one load of wood, there are some individuals who expect more. The Chapter Manager is sharing this information only because she would like the community to understand that the Chapter should only be a resource, everyone needs to be sufficient.
 - NTEC – Community Heating Program – they provide coal tickets for anyone who would like to haul a load for themselves. This year the Chapter gave in and ordered 2 truck loads of coal and distribute Sand bags full of Coal. The Chapter had to hire 2 workers to bag the coal and this was distributed with the wood.
 - The Chapter also purchased a wood splitter which was helpful when distributing wood and 2 Stihl Chainsaws.
 - The Chapter is also continuing to assist in providing water to families who do not have running water and there is also a water truck available.
 - She also continues to meet with her Staff and she often asks for their assistance where needed.
 - November 13, 2024 – Roads Meeting was held with NDOT, BIA and Apache County. Two major roads that Cornfields brought up was N15 and the Sunrise Low Water Crossing.
 - o N-15 – Historic Preservation is holding the start of construction due to the Archeological artifacts.
 - o Once Historic Preservation okays the construction, they will plan to start.
 - o Sunrise Low Water Crossing Update - \$166,000 was allocated by the SiHasSin Funding. NDOT will begin a temporary fix by placing three culverts pipes in the wash and the construction will begin after two projects are completed.
 - Thanksgiving Dinner was provided last month during the Chapter Meeting as well. Although everyone has probably ate so much turkey to present, maybe if you would like to suggest a different menu, let the Chapter know.
 - She continues to leave her Office Door open to anyone who wants to visit, so she will continue to do so.

QUESTIONS:

- Community Member – He has noticed that Cornfields Chapter does not have a Community Health Representative, how can this be addressed? They need assistance with medication pick-up or provide transportation to individuals.

RESPONSE:

- The Chapter staff will refer community members to the neighboring Chapters for assistance. Presently Cornfields does not have their own CHR. The CHR is not allowed to assist with medication or provide transportation to anyone who needs to get to a medical appointment.

2. Financial Report for November 2024 by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

M: Brenda Thomas

S: Linda Holigay

VOTE: 62 – 0 – 3

- Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer read two months of the Chapter Revenue and General Account ledger from months October 2024 and November 2024 in the Navajo language and secondly in the English language.

QUESTION:

- Ruth Nez – She shared that she would like a posting of what was read posted in the Chapter ion a designated Bulletin.
- Alfreda Earle – She has fixed a bulletin board to post the financial reports, she will begin to post the reports beginning the month.

REPOSNSE:

- Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer – Responded to report that since there was no Financial Report provided during the last Regular Chapter Meeting, there is no record included in the Minutes for November 2024. This report will be included in todays Meeting Minutes.
- Alfreda Earle – Chapter Manager – provided explanation on all accounts covered for the Financial Report.
- Cornfields Chapter – Statement of Revenues for the Month of October 2024
 - o RESALE ITEMS-----\$2,950.99
 - Hay
 - Water
 - o RENTALS-----\$ 900.00
 - Tractor
 - o SERVICES----- \$1,956.95

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TOTAL \$5,807.94

- Cornfields Chapter Ending Balances as of 10/31/24

General Activities	\$813.13
Personnel Funds	\$56,709.28
Land Claims	\$12,691.28
Supplemental Youth Funds	\$65.15
Housing Discretionary	\$21,220.95
LGA Funds	\$6,322.44
Chapter Stipend Funds	\$18,506.47
Scholarship Funds	\$10,297.50
PEP Funds	\$37,314.66
Veterans Funds	\$2,507.62
Emergency Fund	\$2,205.79
NN CIP	\$2,496.99
NN Sales Tax	\$18,803.52
Unhealthy Food Tax	\$60,190.83
ARPA	\$122,231.70
TOTAL	\$372,377.31

- Cornfields Chapter – Statement of Revenues for the Month of November 2024
 - o RESALE ITEMS-----\$3,489.50
 - Hay
 - Water
 - o RENTALS-----\$ 491.00
 - Tractor
 - o SERVICES----- \$2,246.75

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TOTAL \$6,227.25

- Judith Shirley, Farm Board Member asked to make a comment on behalf of the Farm Board, but was opposed by Vince James, Honorable Council Delegate.
- Vince James, Honorable Council Delegate intervened to explain the Roberts Rules of Order to inform Mr. Cleveland, Council President that the Substitute Motion over rules the original Motion and should be voted on before we can move back to the original motion if the substitute motion should fail.
- The votes determined that the Substitute motion failed, so we went back to the original motion.

M: Ruth Nez

S: Clara Baloo

VOTE: 8 – 21 – 18

Now back to the Main Motion: Is there a discussion?

Judith Shirley; Farm Board Member

This Resolution was approved through the Cornfields Farm Board and only asked Cornfields Chapter to support them. The purpose is the Resolution is to provide an opportunity for young people who are interested in planting. As it is now, the old farm plots are just there with no activity. If the Permittee is very elderly, they are encouraging for the Permit to be transferred to a grandchild.

Fritz Roanhorse, Farm Board Member – Since the beginning of their present term, they have been questioned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs about their plans and actions to cancelled inactive permits. The Permits were issued by the government with regulations and this should be considered for its use. They have been informing the Community all summer and no one had any questions, some of the permit holders have agreed to cancel their permits. Now the BIA is requesting the Cancellations to include a list of names to identify the individuals, so this supporting resolution the Farm Board is requesting will be submitted with their Resolution they passed along with a list of names.

Lawrence Sam, Farm Board Member – Also commented on the purpose for their efforts. To add to this explanation, this is a request from the BIA. Some of these Permits are dating back to the 1930s. Once all the old permits are cancelled, the community can start new. This would provide for a better crop count. There are regulations for these Permits.

Ruth Nez, Community Member

Thank you for the explanation, this is what helps. With proper explanation all can be considered. Some of these farm plots were established by our grandfathers and for those who voted in favor, you have erased the legacy....

POINT OF ORDER: Provided by Honorable James to state there is no vote at this time and this is a comment out of speculation. A vote was called for the original Motion.

IX. Verbal/Written Reports

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James
 \$8.8 Million – This was distributed to Cornfields Chapter and all Chapters that he represents for Food Distribution, propane assistance.
 \$179 Million was expected to be returned for unused ARPA funds - \$105 Million is the actual amount returned.
 Bathroom Additions – 16 from Cornfields \$76,000.00 for one bathroom Addition.
 Food Assistance totaled in the amount of \$65,000.00 for Cornfields Chapter
 Septic Tank Cleaning - \$90,000.00
 Community Cemetary - \$75,000.00

Cornfields Hazard Premium Pay \$40,000.00

Heating Assistance - \$95,000.00

Home Improvement and Renovation totaled in the amount of \$98,468.00 – 50% of this amount was transferred to the Chapter's account.

Please understand that the home requesting home improvement or renovation has to be occupied 365 days a year, if the home is your second home then don't bother requesting assistance. If at the end of the home improvement project, there are lapse funding then you may have consideration. This information is being shared so that the people are aware to eliminate harassment.

He is very appreciative of all the Community of Cornfields and to the coordination of Chapter Administration and the Chapter Manager.

Fleet Management of the Navajo Nation did not have any fuel therefore all Tribal Vehicles, Headstart Buses and Senior Center Vans were grounded. With further investigation, it was found that the Procurement Process was failed to be followed to purchase new vehicles for the Navajo Nation President's Office. There was a second contract used to purchase vehicles using the Fuel Account. As of Thursday, 12/05/2024 the person disclosing the information to Health and Human Services Committee was terminated by General Services Director – Shawnovan Dale. Title VI Funds were also used to purchase expensive promotional items for the Office of the President. Title VI is budgeted and used for LIHEAP, Indigent Burial Assistance,

The Navajo Nation Council does not have the Authority to remove the Navajo Nation President, but the People do, since they are the majority voter.

His Upcoming Scheduled of meetings:

Thursday 12/12/24 – DBOSB (Dine Bi Olta School Board Meeting- will be traveling to Las Vegas, NV

NHASDA – Meeting also to be held a in Las Vegas.

Sunday 12/15/24 – Meeting with DPM at Twin Arrows Casino Resort

Tuesday 12/15/24 - Dine Dept of Education

Thursday 12/18/24 - Legislative Services Christmas Dinner at Fire Rock Casino

Guest:

Shirleen Jumbo-Rintilla – Re: CF-DEC2024-07

Provided further explanation of the Rural Addressing project. The homes that are currently occupied will be counted, vacant home, ceremonial grounds, summer homes will not be counted.

This process to complete will take two years to complete all together.

2. Chapter Officials

Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Council President –

- Updated the Community that he also continues to monitor the workers with the home improvement and renovation project.
- He also shared with the community that he recently received a letter from the Navajo Nation Election Administration that he was disqualified. But this is not official until a later time. But he feels he has done many good things for the community.

COMMENT:

- Ruth Nez, Community Member
There should be an appeal process for this disqualification. You should look into this.
- Honorable James, Council Delegate
The Navajo Nation Council did make this a law. If expense reports were not returned within 10 days after the election.

Inauguration will be on January 07, 2025.

Mr. Wallace James, Council Vice-President – Absent

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer –

- Thanked each and every community member.

3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie
 - a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – January 06, 2024 Steamboat Chapter
 - b. Cornfields Permittee Meeting – December 09, 2019 9:00am -Cornfields Chapter
 - c. Agency Grazing Meeting – December 16, 2024 at Window Rock Veterinary Clinic, 9:00 am
 - Opened to share an issue that occurred last week. This pertains to Division of Natural Resources, they had their offices located in Fort Defiance, they were evicted from their office and they are moving back to Gallup, New Mexico. The main reason was due to the heating system not working properly. The number for Branch of Natural Resources in Fort Defiance is no longer in service.
 - He has a Permittee Meeting scheduled for tomorrow, they are also incorporating this luncheon in an appreciation luncheon for him.
 - Vince James, Honorable Council Delegate commented on a TIBC (Tribal Interior Budget Committee) Meeting in Washington DC in March 2025. Encouraged Mr. Yazzie to attend this meeting to explain the Current Grazing Permits – pending reissuing Grazing Permits to the Department of the Interior. This will be a new Administration and will be interesting to see who the new President will appoint.
 4. Farm Board
 - a. Land Use Permittee Training – December 12, 2024 9:00am
 - b. Regular Meeting – Friday December 06, 2024 1:00pm
 - Fritz Roanhorse, Member – announced next meeting. Thanked the community for allowing him to help them during his appointment.
 - Judith Shirley, Member – looks forward to seeing our younger generation to participate in the future farming.
- OTHER: Senior Social
- Judith volunteers her time to spend with the Elderly population. She has activities like Chair exercises, playing kick ball, and spending time to share with the elders. Let the Chapter know if this should continue.
5. CLUPC:
 - a. No Meeting Scheduled
 6. School Announcements:
 - a. Ganado Unified Schools – Wallace James, Jr., School Board Clerk – No Report
 - b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative
On 12/5/24 a Public Hearing held for the new IPP and was approved by the School Board. She will report again next month.
 - c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Lucinda Godinez, Principal – Not present.

7. Other: None

M: Crystal Billie

S: Linda Holigay

VOTE: 34 – 0 - 03

X. Next Scheduled Meetings:

1. Next Planning Meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2025 4:00pm
2. Next Regular Meeting
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 1:00pm

XI. Benediction: Alban Yazzie, Community Member

XII. Adjournment: This meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm by Mr. Morgan Cleveland Sr., Council President

M: Crystal Billie

S: Nellie Dalgai

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting minutes was prepared and submitted by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer