

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting
 Sunday, January 12, 2025 @ 1:00pm

MINUTES

- I. **Meeting Call to Order** – by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro Temp. at 1:26 pm
- II. **Invocation** – provided by LaTanya Dineyazhe, Army Chief Staff Sargent – Family member of Council President Pro-Temp.

III. **Roll Call**

	i. Present	Absent
Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Temp	X	
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer	X	
Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official	•	1:53p

IV. **Announcements/Introduction: - Read by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer**

1. Tse Ho Tsoii Medical Center – Roy Dempsey, Community Relation Outreach Specialist
 Community Update –
 - a. HPDP identified depression to be the leading cause of hospital visits today.
 - b. Provided an overview of symptoms for Depression.
2. Navajo Transitional Energy Corp.– Presentation on New Energy Initiative - No Presentation
3. Cornfields Chapter Wood Hauling Permit available
4. Sage Memorial Hospital Mobile Clinic – Cornfields Chapter – 01/30/25
5. Tsehootsoii Medical Center Mobile Clinic – Cornfields Chapter – 01/22/25
6. Kathy Chee, Cornfields Community Baptist Church – No Update
7. Other(s):
 - a. Elta Shepherd, Teacher – Cornfields Head Start Center
 Their enrollment of students – 13 students, they are still open for enrollment
 Current Deficiencies: Their canvas covering their playground is needed but working with their program
 A New Cook was hired and will begin 01/13/25
 A Foster Grandparent will begin volunteering Monday 1/13/25
 They are encouraging mask use when visiting their Headstart Center.
 - b. Deidre Taliman, Daughter of Victoria Begay, thanked the Chapter for Scholarship assistant she was able to receive her Bachelor’s Degree in Sports Science.
 - c. Jerome Shirley – addressed the Community to share appreciation for his brother Tyrone’s appointment. Encouraged the Community to support one another and avoid unfavorable criticism.
 - d. Henry James Smith – Community Member; late son of Anslem and Roberta Smith shared with the community that on January 04, 2024, it was very windy, and there was smoke that kept coming from his stove pipe, he figured it was just the wind, so he left the stove cool until late evening. When he built a fire in the evening, he didn’t notice anything wrong. On Sunday he began working on cutting out some dry wall for renovations to his home, when all of a sudden after noon he saw flames inside his ceiling around the stove pipe, he began to douse the flames with water, but it only became worst. He went to his nephew’s home next door to ask for their help, but the water was not enough, so they called the Ganado Fire Department. The Fire Department was able to help them. He has

come before the Community to request assistance in repairing his home, he also reported that his parents' home was built in the 70's and is very weathered. He would also like to request if a new home can be built.

RESPONSE:

Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer – Suggested that he come in to the Chapter House tomorrow 01/13/25 to inquire was assistance is available that would be able to assist in repairing his home. Then this information will be entered into the minutes to record that Mr. Smith brought his concern before the people. Once his story is heard, the Administration should be able to refer him to the resources he can inquire with as well.

Later through the course of the meeting, Mr. Smith approached me to report that he had already come into the Office but he was told there is no money to assist him with. I will be following up with the Chapter to inquire about the outcome of his request and consider referral where appropriate. The Grazing Official has also reported that he just started the process of transferring the established homesite lease to Mr. Smith's name.

V. Approval of Agenda – Meeting Minutes read in Navajo by Ms. Sharon Smith

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Judith Shirley

VOTE: 37 – 0 – 3

Request made by Mr. Tyrone Chee to add Kin Dah Li Chii'i Schools to Reports under Item 6. d. and to add wording to RESOLUTION: CF-JAN2025-14 - Approving and Updating the Supervision of Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager for Cornfields Chapter by Sharon C. Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer up until the next elected Council President and Council Vice President is selected.

The Motioning party, Ruthie Nez and Second Motioning party, Judith Shirley concurs the request and approved to add item.

VI. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: 12/08/24 Reg, Meeting and 01/09/25 Special Meeting.

M: Judith Shirley

S: Ruthie Nez

VOTE: 35 – 0 – 4

The Meeting minutes from 12/08/24 and 01/09/25 were both printed and left for the community to pick up and review on their own. The Minutes were not read, therefore accepted as copied provided.

VII. Old Business:

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

M: Leon Shirley

S: Warren Thomas

VOTE: 33 – 0 – 3

Chapter Planning and Regular Meeting attended for the month of December 2024

Chapter Operational hours 8-12 and 1-5

Ongoing services provided for the community include Shower, Laundry, Drinking water, hay sales; currently out of hay hopefully more to be delivered tomorrow.

ARPA Projects: Home Improvement Assistance, Heating Source assistance were the main projects the chapter was working on. Due to the funds being provided by the Federal Government, there are policies and stipulations attached. An additional 1.7 million was allocated by Honorable Delegate James for Bathroom Addition. She worked hard to gather project plans and quotations.

Septic Cleaning Project remains with Window Rock ARPA Administration, so she will be following up on this.

Home Improvement Project - 16 homes have been completed, 3 homes are currently being renovated, and 15 homes were given material for the homeowners to complete themselves. She continues to encourage homeowners that are able to complete their home improvements on their own if possible.

200 loads of wood were given out to the community in November, wood pellets were distributed equally in November 2025 as well.

There is still some wood left and they are still assisting community members. The Chapter is also giving out Coal. She reported to the Audience to keep in mind that this heating source was covered by allocations under ARPA funds, once this is exhausted, the community will have to acquire their heating source on their own, so prepare.

She submits report for expenditure of ARPA funds monthly and is a tedious task.

The Chapter also continues to provide water delivery to community members that do not have running water, she is currently working with Indian Health Services to collaborate on the cost, this might be ending in another couple of years. Community members currently receiving assistance for water are scheduled once a month, if additional water is needed they are informed to purchase water on their own.

Meeting at the AZ State Capitol with Myron Tsosie, AZ State Representative (Ms. Earle and Ms. Smith) on Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

Roles and Responsibilities – What was defined by Speakers at the Oath of Office Ceremony for Chapter President, Vice-President, and Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Grazing Officials and Farm Board Members.

\$490,000 ARPA balance to be requested for drawdown from the Navajo Nation beginning this week 01/13/2025 to cover Home Improvement Projects.

QUESTIONS/COMMENT:

Vera Johnson, Community Member – has a comment that she would like to share. She shared words of appreciation for the work that Ms. Alfreda Earle does and she also shared that she has received educational assistance for her present educational pursuance.

Honorable Vince James, Council Delegate – Shared that he is being blamed for interfering in the disqualification of the vacated Chapter Official positions. He would like to challenge anyone blaming him to file charges against him with the Navajo Nation Ethics and Rules Administration.

Jimmie Taliman, Community Member – Shared his comment to state that although there are criticisms every day, keep going for the people as he knows in his own experience.

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

M: Lula Nez

S: Elizabeth Johnson

VOTE: 31 – 0 – 4

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer read the Monthly Revenue and Monthly Balance Sheet of Accounts for the month of December 2024 in the Navajo and English Language.

VIII. New Business:

1. **CF- JAN2025-09:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter Activity Funds for the Month of December 2024 in the Amount of \$7,954.36.

M: Jimmie Taliman

S: Elizabeth Johnson

VOTE: 32 – 0 – 4

No Questions posed by audience.

2. **CF- JAN2025-10:** Accepting and Approving the FY2024 Carry-Over Funding from the Navajo Nation Gaming Revenue in the amount of \$961.79.

M: Jimmie Taliman

S: Ruthie Nez

VOTE: 32 – 0 – 5

QUESTION:

Elizabeth Johnson, Community Member – where will this Gaming Funds go into the budget line item?

Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager – The gaming funds is used for Chapter Utilities, Telephone and Internet and Rural Addressing. It has been several years since the last allocation, and it comes to the Chapters when Gaming makes enough revenue to allocate to the Chapters. These funds remain in the Budget held in Window Rock.

3. **CF- JAN2025-11:** Accepting and Approving the FY2024 Budget Carry-Over for the Summer Youth Employment Supplemental Fund in the amount of \$24,377.50.

M: Jimmie Taliman S: Elizabeth Johnson VOTE: 31 – 0 – 4

No questions posed by audience.

ADDITION:

4. **CF-JAN2025-14:** Approving and Updating the Supervision of Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager for Cornfields Chapter by Sharon C. Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer – up to next elected Council President and Council Vice President is selected.

M: Priscilla Chee S: Ruthie Nez VOTE: 31 – 0 – 5

No Questions posed by audience.

IX. Verbal/Written Reports

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James –
 - a. ARPA Funding – Explained the Honorable Crystalline Curley, Honorable Speaker of the Council presented this at the Agency Council Meeting in Klagetoh yesterday 01/11/2025.
 - b. January 2025 Chapter Report – this also explains and provides a diagram of how the ARPA funds were separated.
 - c. Veteran’s Report – highlighted the allocations for Cornfields Chapter and the Fort Defiance Agency Chapters.
 - d. HESC Mtg 01/13/25 Mtg with Southwest Indian Foundation regarding contract of housing projects.
 - e. Please follow construction for Veteran’s homes; there was a four bedroom home being built that the family could not even fit a dining room table with 6 chairs and a bedroom so small that a king mattress will fit wall to wall on the Navajo Nation that had to be reported and currently being corrected.
 - f. N-15 Update:
 - a. Phase I – Approved amount of \$16million and needed \$5million for completion
 - b. Phase II – Approved amount of \$20million and needed \$4million for completion
 - c. Phase III – Greasewood Springs Chapter proposed to assign N15 to the AZ Highway Department, there will be further discussions of their decision in the coming future.
 - g. Water Rights – update
 - h. January 30, 2025 – Economic Development Meeting at 10am Cornfields Chapter.

COMMENTS:

Leon Shirley, Community Member – Asked the Community to pray for a good outcome when the Officials and Honorable Delegate meets with the Governor and AZ State Legislator so that they receive the funding needed to complete N15.

Jimme Taliman, Community Member – Encouraged Honorable Delegate and Council Officials to continue to advocate and pray about it.

2. Chapter Officials

Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Temp – Introduction to Attendees as selected Pre-Temp on Thursday 01/09/2025.

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

01/08/2025 – Attended the District 17 Meeting in Steamboat.

01/12/2025 – Attended the FD Agency Council Meeting in Klagetoh.

Resolution CF-JUL2024-61 was presented to the District 17 Council and that was approved with a supporting vote to be passed on to the FD Agency Council.

Resolution CF-JUL2024-61 was presented to the FD Agency Council by the District 17 Council President and Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer provided a presentation to inform the FD Agency Council to support and vote to pass this Resolution to be passed to all names Committees and on to the NN Council Winter Session on week of January 27, 2025. This Resolution was accepted approved. Please continue to pray that this Resolution will be moved on to have the needed waterline to become reality.

01/15/2025 – State Capitol – Presenting to Mr. Myron Tsosie, AZ Legislator.

3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie

- a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – February 03, 2024 Ganado Chapter 9:00am
- b. Cornfields Permittee Meeting – January 13, 2025 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter Livestock Record Keeping
- c. Agency Grazing Meeting – January 15, 2025 Location has not been identified. Ganado Water Resources – water station has hired an individual as Operator. He will be scheduled for orientation. They are seeking another position to be filled.
- d. Sun Valley Auction – now on a bi-weekly schedule for auction.
- e. Jim Bydone, with Division of Natural Resources has moved their office to Gallup, NM. An appointment needs to be scheduled ahead of time.
- f. Livestock Inventory for 2024 has closed and tally was submitted. Tally for 2025 will begin in Summerv2025.
- g. There are reports that there are calf thieves, be on the look-out. If you recognize the person, report their name.
- h. Livestock Forage Program – Apache County
- i. Livestock Infrastructure Funds – Navajo Nation. CKP is no longer the Contract Accountant but another Company was assigned.

QUESTION

Honorable Vince James – Has the Grazing Officials heard or met the new Contractor?

RESPONSE

No, the Grazing Officials were just informed and they have not met the new Contractor. They will most likely discuss this at the Agency Meeting.

4. Farm Board

- a. Regular Meeting – January 14, 2025 9:00am
- b. Land Use Permittee Training– January 16, 2025 9:00am

Judith Shirley, Farm Board Member – introduced the returning and new Members. She is looking forward to working with the community and would like to encourage the community to apply for available farm plots. The Farm Board closed/cancelled a number of Land Use Permits which were not being used.

5. CLUPC:

- a. No Meeting Scheduled

6. School Announcements:

- a. Ganado Unified Schools – Wallace James, Jr., School Board Clerk – Not Present
 - b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative
Meeting is until next Tuesday 01/14/25 and will have updates until next month.
FRIDAY 01/10/25 – Hon Vince James received a complaint from a family and shared this concern with the Superintendent and Mr. Macarlo Roanhorse, School Board Member. Honorable James recommended for the family to reach out to the NN Human Rights Commission, AZ Office of the Attorney General.
 - c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Lucinda Godinez, Principal – Not Present
Ms. Ruthie Nez – Greasewood Springs Community School Board Member
-There were 5 staff from Cornfields Community that were removed as staff.
-Meeting at the end December at Wild Horse Pass in Phoenix, Az.
-01/15/24 First School Board Meeting
-New School Construction – still in planning and designing phase. All funding have not been released for construction to begin.
- Future consideration for Kindahlichii’I Olta.
 - Ruthie Nez reported for Kin Dah Lichii’i School – Linda Youvella reported that the School Board has one vacant position at this time, but would like to begin providing reports once the vacancy has been filled.
7. Other: None
M: Sandra Yazzie **S: Melvin Chee** **VOTE: 19 – 0 - 1**

X. Next Scheduled Meetings:

- 1. Next Planning Meeting
Date: Tuesday – Tuesday, February 04, 2025 4:00pm
- 2. Next Regular Meeting
Date: Sunday – February 09, 2025 1:00pm

XI. Benediction: Provided by Albert Anthony Johnson, Community Member

XII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm
M: Ruthie Nez **S: Vera Johnson** **VOTE: 20 – 0 – 1**