

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting
 Sunday, February 09, 2025 @ 1:00pm
MINUTES

I. Meeting Call to Order – Mtg Called to order at 1:25pm by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Tempore

II. Invocation – Provided by Ms. Latana Wheeler, an honorable veteran from our Community.

III. Roll Call

	i. Present Absent	
Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Temp	Y	
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer	Y	
Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official	2:20p	

IV. Announcements/Introduction:

1. Tse Ho Tsoii Medical Center – Roy Dempsey, Community Relation Outreach Specialist
Community Update – Not present
2. Navajo Transitional Energy Corp.– Presentation on New Energy Initiative – Not Present
3. Valentine’s Bazaar – Wednesday February 12, 2025 10:00am to 2:00pm
4. Kathy Chee, Cornfields Community Baptist Church – Not Present
5. Other(s):
 - Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer – Shared with the constituents of a great accomplishment of one of their Community Members; Mrs. Vera Johnson completing her Doctoral Studies and as of January 31st, 2025 she was awarded the title of Dr. Vera Johnson. We congratulated her on her great accomplishment and wished her the best in all her future endeavors. Dr. Johnson also provided the meal to share her appreciation with the community.

V. Approval of Agenda

M: Victoria Begay S: Dee Dee Bob VOTE: 21 – 0 – 2

Change(s):

- **Remove “Tuesday” under Item X for March 09, 2025 – Regular Chapter Meeting date.**
- **Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Temp also would like to have the Name: Fort Defiance Business Regulatory to be changed to Fort Defiance Regional Business Development as indicated in the Heading for Item VII – Resolutions; CF-FEB2025-16.**

VI. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: 01/12/25 Regular Chapter Meeting

M: Dee Dee Bob S: Victoria Begay VOTE: 21 – 0 – 3

The Meeting Minutes from 01/12/2025 was printed and given out to constituents, the meeting minutes were reviewed and not read.

VII. Old Business:

1. Business Report January 2025: Ms. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager

M: Janice James S: Dr. Vera Johnson VOTE: 33 – 0 – 1

Planning and Regular Chapter meeting attended

Continued services provided to the Community from daily.

The Chapter has run out of hay since Friday 02/07/25, hopefully they can have more by the week.

- February 17, 2025, Chapter will be closed due to Holiday – Presidents’ Day
- Home Renovations are continuing throughout the community
- Water delivery continues to be provided to families in the community with no running water and is reported to Indian Health Services and they continue to pay the water bill to NTUA
- The Chapter still has COAL tickets available through NTEC which is free.
- Election Update: There were two vacant positions from the last election, one position was re-opened. A special election will be scheduled for March 11, 2025 for the Council President Position. Three Candidates: Sandra Godbey, Tom Todacheenie, Tyrone Chee. The position for Council Vice-President is still under litigation per Navajo Nation Election Administration.
- Ms. Earle attended the Legislative Day at the AZ State Capitol on January 15, 2025. She and Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer attended to present a funding request to our AZ Representative Myron Tsosie for the Sunrise Low Water Crossing. She will follow up on the status for this Legislation later this month.
- 01/30/25 – She attended a meeting with Economic Development for an update meeting pertaining to Business Site Lease and Land Withdrawals. We have three Business Sites; Deer Point is the largest. Trinity, a business development is still interested in starting their Home Manufacturing Business with a Shopping Plaza and is requesting our support with a Resolution which is included today.
- ARPA draw-down requested for ongoing home renovations, she will follow up on its status this week.
- W-2s was provided to all employees.
- Thanked Tyrone and his family for the food being shared with the community.

Dr. Vera Johnson – Shared her appreciation and announced that she was awarded the title of “Dr.” upon completing her Defense.

Ms. Joan Dalgai, Community Member questioned Dr. Johnson what her Dissertation was about, and if all positions for the Farm Board was filled

Dr. Vera Johnson, - Shared with the Audience what her Defense entailed – How the Dine Woman balances home life and her career.

Ms. Cecelia White, Community Member shared a concern regarding how Cornfields Chapter is open to sell livestock hay to other surrounding communities which causes a shortage for the Cornfields Community when they need hay.

Ms. Alfreda Earl, Chapter Manager responded to state that Cornfields Chapter has left the sale of Hay open to the surrounding Communities to generate a constant flow of revenue for the Chapter and that the revenues cover the cost of re-ordering hay when they need. The Chapter has not been left without hay sales lasting a month or more. If the majority of the community feel the same way, then can also request a Resolution to limit sales to outside surrounding communities and if so, would they also want to include the Laundromat? Another problem that this could cause is the hay sitting too long in the barn that may cause mold to grow inside the hay, and that since hay delivery is usually in the amount of 500 bales per load it might take a year to sell.

Victoria Begay, Community Member also commented to state that the Chapter should think about the health of the community livestock, they would not want unhealthy hay to feed their livestock with, Cornfields Chapter should leave the sales open as is.

Dee-Dee Bob, Community Member also commented to reassure Ms. Earle that she is doing a good job in generating Revenue monthly with sales of Hay, water, and services with providing a laundromat and to leave the sales as is, open to all surrounding communities.

2. Financial Report for January 2025 by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

M: Janice

S: Ruthie Nez

VOTE: 30 – 0 – 2

- Cornfields Chapter – Statement of Revenues for the Month of January 2025

- o RESALE ITEMS-----\$6,287.61
 - Hay
 - Water
- o RENTALS-----\$ 457.00
 - Tractor
- o SERVICES----- \$2,182.10

=====

TOTAL \$8,926.71

- Cornfields Chapter Ending Balances as of 01/31/25

General Activities	\$1,412.55
Personnel Funds	\$22,392.73
Land Claims	\$6,290.58
Supplemental Youth Funds	\$65.15
Housing Discretionary	\$18,906.95
LGA Funds	\$6,301.34
Chapter Stipend Funds	\$8,906.47
Scholarship Funds	\$7,547.50
PEP Funds	\$2,965.63
Veterans Funds	\$622.03
Emergency Fund	\$1,766.53
NN CIP	\$2,196.99
NN Sales Tax	\$532.70
Unhealthy Food Tax	\$60,190.83
ARPA	\$22,651.50
TOTAL	\$162,749.48

VIII. New Business:

1. CF- FEB2025-15: Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter Activity Funds for the Month of January 2025 in the Amount of \$9,299.63..

M: Elizabeth Johnson

S: Janice James

VOTE: 31 – 0 – 2

No Questions posed for this Resolution

2. **CF- FEB2025-16:** Supporting, Approving, and Authorizing Cornfields Chapter to pursue economic development investment opportunities and development with International One and Trinity Home's Development & Investment and further requesting the Fort Defiance Regional Business Development Office to work with and provide technical assistance to International One and Trinity Home's Development & investment to start up our businesses.

M: Ruthie Nez

S: Janice James

VOTE: 29 – 0 – 4

- Victoria Begay; Would like to request a presentation for updated information about the business and its successes.
- Elizabeth Johnson; Is there anyone from CLUPC available to elaborate on the Business since they should be closely involved.
- Ruthie Nez; This Resolution clearly states that Trinity will be working directly with the Fort Defiance Regional Business Development Office, we should support it for a business that our grandchildren will witness one day.
- Sharon Smith; Commented to state that this is just a support for Trinity and that the Fort Defiance Regional Business Development will working directly with them. Presently there is no CLUPC, after all Council Officials positions are filled, the Chapter will move forward in advertising for new members.
- Alfreda Earle; Also explained that as she had mentioned earlier, she was able to review Trinity's request with RBDO – Leonard Francisco and they are looking forward to working with them.

3. **CF- FEB2025-17:** Authorizing and Supporting the Cornfields Chapter and the Cornfields Grazing Committee Member, Department of Agriculture, Department of Resource Enforcement and the B.I.A. to implement a 4-Year term Feral Horse, Stray and Unclaimed Livestock Removal Program, beginning 2025 – 2028, in efforts to improve the Ecological Health and Productivity of the Navajo Rangelands for present and future generations of the Navajo People.

M: Elizabeth Johnson

S: Victoria Begay

VOTE: 26 – 0 – 3

- Ruthie Nez, Community Member – requested to have the Grazing Official to assist Community Members when their livestock is mistakenly picked up. She had two horses with state-brands taken, when she went to claim them in Window Rock they had already hauled them off.
- Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official shared that he usually requests this Resolution and would like this Resolution be put in place to last his elected term. This Resolution is due to the drought conditions with limited forage for livestock.
- Joan Dalgai – inquired hiw much time is given for claiming livestock when hauled into Window Rock. The Grazing Official should advocate for the community members to provide how time the livestock owner has before the livestock is hauled off the Reservation.
- Dr. Vera Johnson – Suggested an announcement of round-ups when scheduled so that the community is aware to have their livestock penned when round-up occurs.
- Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official – Commented to state that all livestock owned and bearing a state brand is unlawful to keep without and Federal Issued Grazing Permit under Title 3.
- Dickie Smith, Community Member – Wanted to comment on the Pro-Tempore assignment and encourages the community to work respectfully with them. In terms of livestock, the horse holds very sacred blessings with rain. We need to continue to hold all of our horses and continue to take care of them, teach your young children, grand-children the importance of taking care of Livestock.

IX. Verbal/Written Reports:

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James
 - Continues to support his Chapters by trying to make it to all of the Meetings they hold.
 - ICWA – Navajo Child Adoption on Utah; Utah would like to remain the sole decision maker for all Navajo Children who have been awarded, the Navajo Nation is currently working on this issue to keep relatives in contact with the child.
 - Bathroom Additions – had mentioned last meeting, this continues.
 - Immigration Sweep – So far any Navajo involved in the Immigration Sweeps have been questioned and released without further incident.

 - Joan Dalgai – Questioned about a legislation regarding Navajo Nation Marriage that was presented to the Navajo Nation Council?
 - Honorable James responded to report that this legislation was directed back to the Nabi ki yati Committee.

2. Chapter Officials
 - Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Temp
 - 1/30/25 Mtg with Navajo Nation RBDO
 - Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer
 - 1/15/25 – AZ Legislator’s Day
 - 2/04/25 – Chapter Official Orientation

3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie
 - a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – February 03, 2024 Ganado Chapter
 - b. Cornfields Permittee Meeting – Week of 02/17/25 – Cornfields Chapter
 - c. Agency Grazing Meeting – February 14, 2025 Window Rock Veterinary Clinic
 - d. Elected Grazing Orientation – February 24th and 25th, 2025 – Tsaile, AZ
 - AIF – Applications are being taken now at Navajo Department of Agriculture
 - 2024 – Tally Count was submitted at the end of last year.
 - Leroy Willie – 47 years – retired from Branch of Natural Resources.

QUESTION/COMMENT:

Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Temp – Wanted to share that when he applied in the past, and when he went to request the status of his application, he was told that other people use their own money to purchase hay for their livestock and he should do the same. There are others who probably went through the same thing.

4. Farm Board
 - a. Regular Meeting – February 11, 2025 @ 9:00a
 - b. Land Use Permittee Training – February 13, 2025 @ 9:00a

Presenter: Mr. Lawrence Sam

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 – Not Present
 - c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member
 - Tuesday 02/11/25 1:00 pm – School Board Meeting.
 - Navajo Nation School Reauthorization
 - BIA returned funds that had been allocated for contractors to demolish, renovate the other
 - d. Kindahlichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member – Not Present
7. Other: NONE
M: Dr. Vera Johnson **S: Janice James** **VOTE: 21 – 0 – 3**

X. Next Scheduled Meetings:

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

XI. Benediction: Provided by Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official

XII. Adjournment: 4:53 PM Meeting adjourned by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President Pro-Temp
M: Janice James **S: Cecelia White** **VOTE: 20 – 0 – 3**

Prepared by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on Sunday February 09, 2025