

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting  
Sunday January 11, 2026 @ 1:00pm  
MINUTES

## MINUTES

- I. Meeting Call to Order – Mtg was called to order at 1:45pm by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President**
- II. Invocation – Provided by Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Committee Member**
- III. Roll Call**

### III. Roll Call

	i.	Present	Absent
Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President		X	
Mr. Wallace James, Jr., Council Vice-President		X	
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer		X	
Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official		X	

#### **IV. Announcements/Introduction:**

1. Mr. Roy Dempsey, Community Outreach Presentation, Tsehotsooi Medical Center Presentation on the Tse Ho Tsooi Medical Center's Website and how to navigate it. Mr. Dempsey provided a slide presentation using a live website.
2. Ms. Dixie Barlow, Community Liaison, Sage Memorial Hospital
3. AZ Legislative Day at the AZ State Capitol – Wednesday, January 15, 2026
4. Other(s):
  - Lamonte Smith – Community Veteran and Member of Cornfields Chapter. Would like to share with the community of an unjust treatment he has been receiving from the Cornfields Veteran's Organization. He is sharing this situation because he has been hushed to speak up for his rights to address this dysfunctional behavior as he feels. He is further considering a Resolution to request the Local Veteran's Organization to be moved under the Supervision of Cornfields Chapter so that all Veteran's are heard and treated equally. He shared that before Thanksgiving the Veterans we asked to sign up for a Turkey or Ham and that they would be notified as to when they will be available, he never received any notification and he has been requesting what happened to the Ham he signed up for and is being ignored and hushed. He further stated that he has stood up for himself and would like this to be addressed by the Chapter Officials. He feels that Title 26 should be re-examined.

Comment: Mr. Chee, Council President – Thanked Mr. Smith for sharing his concern.

## V. Reading & Approval of Agenda

M: Melvin Chee      S: Dickie T. Smith      VOTE: 18 – 0 – 1

## VI. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: 12/14/25 Regular Chapter Meeting

M: Judith Shirley      S: Linda Holigay      VOTE: 19 – 0 – 1

## VII. Old Business:

1. Business Report December 2025: Ms. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager  
**M: Judith Shirley      S: Linda Holigay      VOTE: 19 – 0 – 1**  
- Ms. Earle, Chapter Manager reported.  
- Cornfields Chapter assisted the Elderly with wood which will heat the home for about 72 hours.

- ARPA – the last disbursement she had been reporting on since she requested back in July was deposited in the amount of \$217,000.00. Honorable Council Delegate, Mr. James assisted her efforts.
- Community Christmas Dinner was held on December 14, 2025. She is thankful for Partnership for Natives who assisted with the food the Chapter served for their Christmas Dinner.
- NTEC – Coal Tickets provided. They provided 40 tickets for coal. 1 Community Member was given a ticket. NTEC brought a load of Coal which the Chapter is providing to the Community.
- They will be working on W-2s this month.
- She will continue to submit reports on behalf of the Chapter.
- Cornfields Chapter received the last drawdown of ARPA funds last week on Wednesday.
- The ARPA Home Improvement Project will restart.

**QUESTION:**

**Cecelia White, Community Member – Have you hired the carpenters that will be working on this project?**

**RESPONSE:**

**Yes, the Carpenters will be the same individuals who were on the Project before.**

**QUESTION:**

**Lamonte Smith, Community Member – Were there funds included for Veterans under the ARPA?**

**RESPONSE:**

**Yes, but the funds were dispersed by guidelines and requests were submitted by the Veterans Orgaization Secretary to the Chapter.**

**VIII. New Business:**

1. **CF- JAN2026-13:** Requesting Approval for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment of the Cornfields Chapter General Activity Funds for the Month of December 2025 in the Amount of \$7,445.68.

**M: Linda Holigay**

**S: Cecelia White**

**VOTE: 17 – 0 – 1**

ACCOUNTS	AMOUNT
Resale Items	3,801.48
Rentals	759.00
Services	2,485.01
Miscellaneous	200.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,245.83</b>

2. **CF-JAN2026-14:** Accepting and Approving the Cornfields Chapter Financial Report for the Month of December 2025

**M: Linda Holigay**

**S: Judith Shirley**

**VOTE: 21 – 0 – 2**

ACCOUNTS	AMOUNT
Chapter Activities General Fund	8,629.09
Navajo Nation General Fund	101,024.38

Land Claims Trust	7,625.98
Supplemental Youth Fund	24,223.32
Housing Discretionary Fund	12,823.97
LGA Grant Fund	20,388.15
Chapter Stipend Fund	35,778.49
Scholarship Claims Fund	6,980.00
PEP Fund	62,551.88
Veterans Fund	6,081.31
NN Sales Tax Funds	24,032.96
ARPA	183,052.53
Unhealthy Food Tax	70,370.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>563,562.09</b>

The Spreadsheet for accounts will be attached to the Resolution submitted.

3. **CF-JAN2026-15:** Expressing support for the request by Navajo Health Foundation – Sage Memorial Hospital, Inc. (“SMH”) to have the Navajo Nation transfer the land leases for two vacant assisted living facilities currently held by Navajo Housing Authority, commonly known as the Cornfields Group Home and the Ganado Assisted Living Center

**M: Cecelia White**      **S: Linda Holigay**      **VOTE: NO VOTE**

Ms. Dixie Barlow, Community Liaison – Sage Memorial Hospital presented the Resolution

Mr. Jerom Prows, Facility Manager – Sage Memorial Hospital assisted with Questions.

### QUESTION(S):

- What population will be assisted?
- When does SMH estimate to open their facility?
- Further questions and discussion pertaining to this lease transfer which led to question,

### RESPONSE:

- SMH has not done a complete needs assessment. But the Facility in Cornfields will be directed toward Adolescent Services. The Ganado Assisted Living Center will be for Adult Day Care or Respite Care Services.
- There was vandalism of the building with copper wiring and tubing being removed which has to be renovated and repaired so the operation expectancy is for 2027.

**COMMENT:**

- Explanation of Lease Transfer by Honorable Vince James, Council Delegate – once the Chapter Constituents vote to approve this Resolution, Sage Memorial will apply for a Lease of its own for their Business, someone needs to ask how the Community of Cornfields can benefit from their new business. Also know that once this facility opens, Sage Memorial Hospital will open up to having their patients come to Cornfields Community, the community should be asking how the community could best be served with priority.
- Further discussion revealed that Cornfields Chapter is the Lease Holder for all businesses on its compound, A Letter of Intent was shared, written in 2017 by the Late Justin Johnson, Council President. There is also a response on file as received from the Land Administration granting the Letter of Intent which names all buildings on its current Land Lease.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- To table this Resolution, to get clarification to better collaborate services for the community. Tabling the Resolution will be up to the Next Chapter Meeting in February.

**MOTION TO TABLE:** Mr. Albert Johnson S: Lamonte Smith **VOTE:** 18 – 0 – 1

Jarom Prows, Facility Director – Sage Memorial Hospital will further look into the request and report the discussion to his Superiors at Sage Memorial Hospital.

## **IX. Verbal/Written Reports**

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James –  
Tribal Legislator's Day – Beginning Tuesday  
Cornfields/Sunrise Low Water Crossing current allocation is \$266,000.00  
Deer Point Business Developement Current allocation is \$300,000.00  
Due to the rising cost of Material, there is a need to advocate for additional funding.  
Chapter Council Delegate Redistricting for the new Election due to the Census Count.  
QUESTION:  
What is happening to the Ganado Post Office? Due to the liability concerns arising from the damaged sidewalks, door and parking lot of the present Post Office and unsettled agreement the Post Office will be moved to St. Michaels Post Office.  
Hardship Funds? Presently the Controller of the Navajo Nation has requested to have all the Navajo Nation Divisions were requested to return the unused ARPA Funds by a certain time-line to determine a payment for a specific population.  
Student Educational Financial Assistance Funds under ARPA – what has happened to these funds for students who attended through the Pandemic.
2. Chapter Officials –  
Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President  
– Will submit a written report at the next Chapter Meeting.  
Mr. Wallace James, Jr., Council Vice-President  
– 12/17 Met with Senator Teresa Hatathlie regarding the Sunrise Low-Water Crossing. They provided a packet to present for additional funding due to the rising cost of material since this project began. They were to also meet with Peshlakai, but they were not able to. He has also provided Road assessments to the community and submitted to the entities responsible for maintenance.  
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer  
– Reported no attendance to the District 17 Meeting on 01/07/26 and also no attendance to the Fort Defiance Agency Council.
3. Grazing Member, Mr. Patrick Yazzie
  - a. District 17 Grazing Meeting – February 02, 2026 – 9:00 am Cornfields Chapter
  - b. Permittee Meeting – To Be Announced – Cornfields Chapter
  - c. Agency Grazing Meeting – January 15, 2026 – 9:00 am – St. Michaels Chapter
4. Farm Board
  - a. Regular Meeting – February 04, 2026 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter
  - b. Land-Use Permittee Training – January 15, 2026 9:00am – Cornfields Chapter  
There will be NRCS present to provide information at this meeting.
5. School Announcements:
  - a. Ganado Unified Schools – Wallace James, Jr., School Board Official

- Last Week – School Board Meeting – elected as the President for the School District Board, and Patrick Burns was selected as the School Board Clerk. There will be 3 positions vacant for the next school Board: Patrick Burns, Wallace James, Jr. and Joseph Mora's position will be vacated.
- Golden Bell Awarded to Ganado Unified School.
- Demolished buildings left a lot of open space on the school grounds.
- A new Athletic Director is being advertised to join the school.
  - b. Ganado Unified Schools PAC Member – Sandra Yazzie, Representative - Not Present
  - c. Greasewood Springs Schools – Ms. Ruthie Nez, School Board Member – Not Present
  - d. Kin Dah Lichii Olta – Ms. Linda Youvella, School Board Member – Not Present

6. Other(s): None

**M: Melvin Chee      S: Albert Johnson      VOTE: 15 – 0 – 1**

**X. Next Scheduled Meetings:**

1. Next Planning Meeting – Tuesday, February 03, 2026 4:00pm
2. Next Regular Meeting – Sunday, February 08, 2026 1:00pm

**XI. Benediction:** Provided by Mr. Melvin Chee, Community Member

**XII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:08pm by Mr. Tyrone Chee, Council President.

**M: Linda Holigay      S: Albert Johnson      VOTE: 15 – 0 – 1**

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Meeting Minutes were prepared and submitted by Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary Treasurer on 01/11/2026.