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# THE NAVAJO NATION

## TSAYATOH COMMUNITY CHAPTER

### Post Office 86 – Mentmore, NM 87319

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*Council Delegate, Lester C. Yazzie*  
*President, Ramona J. Nelson*  
*Vice President, Ellen Young Thomas*  
*Secretary/Treasurer, Lucy Antone*  
*Land Board, Davina Spencer*  
*Community Service Coordinator, Jay Chee*  
*Accounts Maintenance Specialist, Brend Chicharelllo*

### TSAYATOH CHAPTER REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

#### DECEMBER 15, 2024 @ 1:00 PM

#### TSAYATOH, NAVAJO NATION, NEW MEXICO

- I. **Meeting Call To Order: 1:30 PM**
  - a. **Official Roll Call:** Ramona J. Nelson, Ellen Young Thomas, Lucy Antone, Davina Spencer, and Jay Chee.
  - b. **Invocation:** Ramona J. Nelson
  - c. **Sargeant at Arms:** Ellen Young Thomas
  
- II. **Review & Adoption of AGENDA:** The agenda was read by Lucy Antone and was adopted by the community members.
 

MOTION:	Henry Long	SECOND:	Robert Yazzie
VOTE:	-16- In Favor	-0- Oppose	-3- Abstained
  
- III. **Review & Acceptance of the Monthly Financial Report:** Lucy Antone read the monthly financial report. Ramona J. Nelson called out three times for a motion and the second failed. The Monthly Financial Report was not accepted.  
Henry Long, after his report, recalled the passage of the Financial Report.
 

MOTION:	Henry Long	SECOND:	Kathy Yazzie
VOTE:	-15- In Favor	-0- Oppose	-5- Abstained
  
- IV. **New Business: (Resolutions/Action Items).** Each action item was read and approved.
  - 1. Resolution TSA #2024-12-001: To approve and accept unitizing Unhealthy Food Tax Fund in amount of \$239.27 for the Eastern Navajo Agency Crownpoint meeting held on December 07, 2024, from Fund 40 GL Code 6352.
 

MOTION:	Kathy Yazzie	SECOND:	Elizabeth Mosley
VOTE:	-17- In Favor	-0- Oppose	-4- Abstained
  - 2. Resolution TSA #2024-12-002: To approve and accept the Budget Transfer from Fund Code 01 - GL Code 6101 in amount of \$2,500.00 to Fund Code 10 - GL Code 6303 Operating Expense for Janitorial Supplies.
 

MOTION:	Henry Long	SECOND:	Kathy Yazzie
VOTE:	-15- In Favor	-0- Oppose	-4- Abstained
  - 3. Resolution TSA #2024-12-003: Amending TSA-2024-09-0011, Fund Management Plan for the General Fund Account (Fund 01) for the Tsayatoh Chapter, to include Fund and GL Codes.
 

MOTION:	Elizabeth Mosley	SECOND:	Nora Bia
VOTE:	-15- In Favor	-0- Oppose	-5- Abstained

- 4. Resolution TSA #2024-12-004: To approve funds in amount of \$532.42 for the community Christmas dinner utilizing fund 23 GL Code 6352.  
MOTION: Robert Yazzie SECOND: Kathy Yazzie  
VOTE: -16- In Favor -0- Oppose -5- Abstained
- 5. Resolution TSA #2024-12-005: To approve and accept Unhealthy Food Tax Funds in amount of \$285.94 to purchase apples, oranges and peanuts For the Community Members' Christmas dinner from Fund 23 GL Code 6352.  
MOTION: Elizabeth Mosley SECOND: Kathy Yazzie  
VOTE: -13- In Favor -0- Oppose -4- Abstained
- 6. Resolution TSA #2024-12-006: To approve and accept hiring Two PEP workers to assist with the preparation of the community holiday dinner.  
MOTION: Nora Bia SECOND: Dorothy James  
VOTE: -15- In Favor -0- Oppose -4- Abstained
- 7. Resolution TSA #2024-12-007: To approve and accept hiring High School and College Students for the TY'25 Winter Youth Employment with a start date of December 23, 2024, to January 03, 2025, utilizing Fund 08 GL Code 6101.  
MOTION: Dorothy James SECOND: Sarah Begay  
VOTE: -14- In Favor -0- Oppose -5- Abstained

**V. Receive Chapter Governance & Business Reports:**

- a. Honorable Navajo Nation Council Delegate: Mr. Lester C. Yazzie
- b. Veterans' Organization: Commander Henry Long
- c. Community Service Coordinator: Mr. Jay Chee
- d. Land Board: Ms. Davina Spencer
- e. Espanola Resource Center : (EEOICPA) Ms. Laverne Nakai
- f. Community Health Worker: Ms. Samantha Chee

**VI. Brief Announcements/Statements:**

- 1. December 23, 2024: Tsayatoh Community Christmas Dinner.
- 2. December 24, 2024: Christmas Eve.
- 3. December 25, 2024: Christmas Day. National Holiday. Chapter Admin closed.
- 5. December 28, 2024: ENAC Special Mtg at Crownpoint Chapter at 9:00 AM.
- 6. December 31, 2024: New Year's Eve.
- 7. January 01, 2025: New Year's Day. National Holiday. Chapter Admin closed.
- 8. If you are requesting assistance with Powerline Extension/Water Line Extension/House Wiring please stop by the Chapter and make sure your application is on file and update your information. Continental Divide Electric Company (CDEC), Office of Sanitation Facilities and Construction (IHS/OEHE) is also requesting that an application must be on file, or an application submitted. House Wiring must have all documents on file with the Chapter to move forward. (Reminder: all services will require an approved home site Lease/Residential Lease).
- 9. Heavy Equipment (Motor Grader and Backhoe) Call the chapter for more information.

**VII. Adjournment: 3:24 PM**

MOTION: Elizabeth Mosley

SECOND: Dorothy James

VOTE: Unanimous for adjournment.

**Reports/Discussion:**

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- Lester C. Yazzie was not present.
- Henry Long reported having the Tsayatoh Veterans' Organization meeting on December 09, 2024, to discuss and prepare plans. Vice-president, Ellen Young Thomas was present. The 31 chapters Veterans' commanders met at Ojo Encino Chapter on December 11, 2024. Land Board members, chapter officials, Navajo Nation and State officials were present. He encourages all Veterans to attend meetings. He stated the chapter is to express feelings by speaking out and listening. The Monthly Financial Report was not accepted. That is not good. What happens to the chapter budget? He went on about how the financial report is made. He wanted to know what Code 27 and sewer are and wants specific. The audience needs to know. Then he recalled the passage of the financial report.
- Ramona J. Nelson continued with the meeting.
- Jay Chee made a point of order requesting to go back to the financial report. Jay Chee explained, the chapter is operating with the Continuing Resolution. Fund Code 27 has the beginning balance, how much is spent and the balance. The Grader tires (6) were purchased in the amount of \$6,257.12. He mentioned President elect Trump will call for tariff taxes to Mexico and Canada. The cost of goods will increase. The Winter Youth Fund will be spent on High School and College students who will work beginning December 23, 2024, to end on January 03, 2025. There are 7 applicants. Call out for two PEP workers to help with Christmas dinner did not attract any applicants. The two jobs were advertised. The community members are not interested in PEP jobs. Scholarship applications are due on December 31, 2024, at 4:00 PM. Check off list is on the application. Jay Chee and his father and brother, Lester Ashley, Samantha Chee, and Davina Spencer hauled wood from Rock Springs Chapter. The wood has been distributed to those who needed firewood. He mentioned the Christmas dinner for the Community Members will be held on December 23, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This will be a drive through event. There was no input from the community members and the chapter administration had to decide what was best. There was no interest nor suggestions of entertainment. It was noticed there are a few tables. This is disturbing and Office Specialist will order more tables. Food should be on the tables not on laps. He even reached out to the nearby churches for presentation of Christmas stories. There was no response. The community members will receive to go lunches and there will be Toys for Tots for those with children.

Jay Chee is working on projects, office work and other issues one at a time. He spoke out about the three officials are not working as a team. He also mentioned the Vice-President runs the meeting if the President is absent. He said to read what the roles and responsibilities are.

His niece from Las Cruces was home for the holidays and he wanted to be with his family.

Road Runner Food Bank will be at Manuelito Chapter to distribute food boxes from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This event is for both Manuelito and Tsayatoh chapter community members. Jay has ordered 100 boxes for registered Tsayatoh community members.

- Elizabeth Mosley was given time to express herself. She said she did not like the Christmas dinner plans. She also mentioned that the tables and chairs were at the McCray's Naadaa. She wanted to know what the Christmas tree represents (joy). She commented of her disappointment and got emotional regarding the negative innuendos made against her children who are chapter officials.
- Jay Chee responded that he inherited what inventory there is in mid-June. He also mentioned if the chapter meetings could be on other days than Sundays.
- Jayne Long praised Jay Chee for his performance and practicing the policies. She agreed and suggested changing the meeting days. She said no one is being blamed; we are all on the same level and learning.
- Davina Spencer made her report on her representation to help with Tsayatoh and Rock Springs Chapters. She was appointed as a Land Board Member because she wanted to help the permit holders with their grazing permits. She is receptive to harsh treatment. Grazing permits removable and renewal of grazing permits are being discussed. Conservation plans and all updates are required by BIA. She read off the names of the permittees who have renewals. All others are pending.
- Marie Bahe wanted to know about her grandmother's house where three male persons have moved in. Davina Spencer will assist her.
- Jay Chee expressed his appreciation of the Land Board with respect that she is advocating for the people. She has gained experience and knowledge from the Navajo Nation.
- Laverne Nakai of Espanola Resource Center (EEOICPA) gave a report on Part B of the EEOICPA and Part E of the EEOICPA. Part B of the EEOICPA provides lump-sum of \$150,000 and medical benefits to current and former workers who have been diagnosed with cancers beryllium disease, or chronic silicosis ad whose illnesses were caused by exposure to radiation, beryllium, or silica while working directly for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), its contractors or subcontractors, a designated Atomic Weapons Employer, or a beryllium vendor. Part E of the EEOICPA provides federal compensation and medical benefits to DOE contractor and subcontractor employees who worked at covered facilities and developed an illness because of exposure to toxic substances.
- Ramona J. Nelson asked a question if EEOICPA is the same as RICA. In 1980 her father was working with Kerr McGee and the mine shaft collapsed on him causing his back problems. Phil Harrison is working with them and there has been no compensation.

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- Laverne Nakai explained that RICA is with the Department of Justice whereas the EEOICPA is with Department of Labor. Filing with RICA closed in June. Applicants for EEOICPA may request a Navajo Language speaking person to assist them. Referrals to Laverne, an applicant must have work history, evidence of medical history, social security number, home address, and birth certificate. Home visits with interview appointments will be scheduled.
- Jay Chee asked about websites for coal miners and Black Lung disease. Laverne responded that they are separate.
- Jay Chee read the Community Health Worker, Samantha Chee's report. December is hand washing month. Use soap and water if possible. Use hand sanitizer. She assisted with Wood cutting and hauling from Rock Springs chapter. She encouraged flu and COVIC-19 vaccination at GMIC on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. She makes home visits. Be careful burning wood and coal for heat. Too much fuel is not good. For announcement, Jay reminded everyone that the new officials will have the inauguration at Navajo Technical University on January 6, 2024. He has been invited as well.
- Ramona J. Nelson expressed her appreciation of all community members, chapter officials and others who assisted her during her presidency. She has learned the process.

**Respectfully submitted by:**         /S/        Lucy Antone         **on December 16,**  
**2024**