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TSAILE – WHEATFIELDS – BLACKROCK CHAPTER
Regular Meeting Minutes
Sunday- October 15, 2017 @ 1:00 PM

Tsaile/Wheatfields
Chapter BY: *pd*

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Meeting Called to Order: 1:35 PM**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Vice President Begay**
- C. Invocation: Led by President James.**
- D. Review/Accept Agenda:**

Grazing Official Charles R. Chee - Inquiry on monetary donation. If an individual did not submit paperwork to be listed on the agenda, does the opportunity remain open to be included on the agenda?

President James: (Responding to C. R. Chee) Per the policy, paperwork would need to be submitted. However, if an individual is able to submit paperwork the following day, the request for monetary donation will be placed for ratification on the following meeting.

Grazing Official Charles R. Chee: My inquiry is to submit a request for monetary donation on behalf of my son, who will be travelling to Salt Lake City for a conference. My son will present his request at this moment.

Cordell Chee: My request for monetary donation is in support of my travel to Salt Lake City for a conference, as a result of my research at Northern Arizona University on uranium contamination in sheep. I will be presenting my research at Salt Lake City conference.

President James: The request may be added to the agenda for today's new expenditures section, and will be in pending status, awaiting for official paperwork submission.

Any other questions on the agenda?

Grazing Official Charles R. Chee: Next month, there is a conference for grazing officials at Twin Arrows, and I submitted paperwork to request for travel support.

President James: The request will be added to the agenda, new expenditures.

Cordell Chee: Last month, I was informed that the chapter was not accepting scholarship applications, two days before the chapter meeting. Therefore, I did not attempt to submit a scholarship request. Recently, I learned that new scholarship applications were being submitted and accepted.

Vice President Begay: They met for that meeting. For that month of scholarship approval.

President James: We can accept applications for next month's consideration, and

applications must be submitted before the end of the month.

Secretary/Treasurer Nata 'ani: Read the proposed agenda.

President James: Agenda is understood as read with the additions of one new expenditure item – Cordell Chee, and one action item – travel funds for Grazing Official.

David Kedelty: Regarding the agenda, specifically the scholarships, during the last meeting, many of our local students were awarded. A vast majority of our off-reservation students were not able to submit their applications – such as my son.

President James: As stated, all chapter scholarships that were received are presented. Paula was not in the office on Friday, and we do not know what documents were submitted. Chapter administration makes effort to be in compliance, and the community approves expended amounts.

Marjorie Johnson: There is no consistency in regard to the scholarship and the housing application processes. There are applications being submitted and approved for FY2017 and FY2018 – that do not reconcile with their allotted fiscal year. What was the thinking behind the current scholarship and housing application processes?

President James: At the last chapter meeting, 34 chapter scholarship applications were approved in September 2017. The scholarships were approved before the FY18 allocations were received by the chapter nor was the FY18 budget approved by the Navajo Nation president.

At the October 2017 Planning Meeting, it was agreed that the 34 chapter scholarship applicants could be forwarded to the October 2017 Regular meeting, and reaffirmed to avoid delays in scholarship awards.

In the prior years, we would not accept scholarship applications till the month of October when the allocations were received.

Marjorie Johnson: Change '2017' to '2018' in Action Item #2 & #3.

Motion) Charles R. Chee

Second) Julian Perry

Vote: 32-0-3

- E. **Review/Accept Minutes:** Tsaile-Wheatfields-Blackrock Meeting Minutes 09/17/17
Motion) Julian Perry **Second) Sarah James** **Vote: 24-2-6**

Grazing Official Charles Chee: The read 9/17/17 Minutes were read for us today, and there were many comments made on the cemetery, that are not reflected in the Minutes. There are many areas of where the minutes are not sufficient, and can become a liability if used as a reference source.

Additionally, the Diné College resolution has not been processed, it is still in the office. The minutes are not properly done. I pose the question to the community members for their thoughts and comments.

President James: During the October 2017 Planning Meeting, the reliability of the chapter minutes was greatly discussed. I encourage the community members to review the Minutes, especially, if an individual spoke during the chapter meeting, an inquiry can be made on your statement per the Chapter Minutes.

The reason is, in an earlier edition of the Navajo Times, I was quoted. In a February 2017 chapter meeting, I said, specifically, "I was focusing on other projects outside the chapter," then in the Navajo Times, it was printed "President James acknowledge that he was focusing on non-chapter projects." My statement could be easily construed when examined through the lens of a knowledgeable individual.

At the next month's chapter meeting, the current meeting minutes will be read for approval.

Minutes are needed as soon as possible. And will submit as soon as possible, for the next chapter meeting. This will give ample time for the community members to submit request for corrections to the keeping of the Secretary/Treasurer. If the community wishes to change the Minutes, their request can be submitted during the meetings for corrections, as well.

Additionally, the need for recording device was posed, and would be a great asset for accurate chapter meeting minutes.

Marjorie Johnson: I have a question on the Diné College issue. The issue was greatly discussed, and the Minutes do not reflect the discussion. However, the resolution was approved. Earlier, it was stated that the resolution has not been forwarded to Diné College, this inaction is disconcerting.

The directives from the community are not being followed, the resolution must be delivered to the College per the approval in the minutes.

President James: This resolution was approved at the September 2017 Chapter Meeting?

Marjorie Johnson: Yes, at the September 2017 Chapter Meeting.

President James: It will be signed tomorrow, and directed to be delivered to Diné College.

Verna Jim: Regarding the Diné College Lease, I was never notified, and no entity has reached out to present notification to my keeping. I would like to be notified.

F. Announcements:

- 10/16/17 – Agency Grazing Meeting, Chinle, @ 9 am
- 10/16/17 – Start of Navajo Nation Council Fall Session
- 10/16/17 – Permittee meeting at 8 am
- 10/16/17 – Community Meeting on Diné College Land Lease, TWB Chapter @ 3 pm
- 10/19/17 – ABNDN Meeting @ 6 pm, TWB Chapter
- 10/24/17 – Navajo Nation Referendum Election, Chapter Closed
- 10/26/17 – CHR announcing last-day as CHR
- 11/01/17 – Grazing Meeting at TWB, @ 9 am
- 11/06/17 – Chapter Planning Meeting, TWB Chapter @ 9 am
- 11/10/17 – Yei Bi Chei Ceremony at Crystal, NM
- 11/12/17 – CLUPc Meeting, TWB Chapter @ 10 am

President James: Earlier there was a request for an update on the Diné College issue.

In June 2017, I was visited by a Diné College representative, Mr. Dean Gamble, he explained their final step in withdrawing the land for Diné College use – the College needed the Chapter President's signature, according to the Navajo Nation Leasing Act.

I stated that I could not sign the Lease without the consent of the people; where the community will consider the request, and CLUPc will need to be involved throughout the process. The College is acting in accordance to their Master Plan – requiring extensive land withdrawals.

Marjorie Johnson: I strongly encourage community members to attend tomorrow's meeting. I visited with Mike Halona, and I inquired on Diné College's proposed lease, he stated, "I told them to hurry-up and give me the lease, and give it to me, so I can sign it, even without the Chapter Resolution." It is a very important issue to be discussed at the chapter level.

President James: The General Leasing Act has been given to Mr. Mike Halona, he has the authority to sign-off on all leases.

Victoria Notah: Regarding the Diné College Lease, when we were children, the only request made was to not expand beyond the current DC loop, it was never expanded at the request of the adjacent families and homes near the College. The College was only given a temporary location, while the main campus was elsewhere, and unnotified expansion ensued without the community's consent.

The same situation exists with the unnotified expansion of the elementary school. The land and location was only for a pre-school, not an elementary school, and they are not notifying the nearby residences on the current plan. The adjacent families and homes near the school is displacing families.

The first meetings to discuss the school sites were conducted near my home, with the elders at the time. The community agreed to only allow for temporary locations to the schools, once the constructions were completed in Many Farms, AZ, the schools would re-locate, and the lands returned to the community.

The schools continue to expand without notifying the affected families and homes; it is disturbing for the schools to act in such a manner. Yes, there is employment and education facilities, however, it is not properly managed.

Only a small portion of land for temporary location was the agreement, and we were promised waterline extensions, to our homes, and we find the College has not faithfully agreed to their promise.

II. BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Ratifications:

Monetary Donation: 1. Rita Bahe, Medical Appointment, \$50.00

Motion) Julian Perry **Second)** Alta Begay **Vote:** 41-0-1

Rita Bahe: Representing self to explain medical visits. Submitted \$50.00 gas receipt.

B. New Expenditures:

1. Chinle Azee'Be Nahagah of Dine Nation (\$50.00)
2. Salt Lake City Conference - student research presentation on uranium contamination study with sheep. (\$50.00) – Cordell R. Chee

Motion) Marjorie Johnson **Second)** David Kedelty **Vote:** 42-0-4

C. Action Items:

1. ALTCS request for office location.

Motion) **Second)** **Vote:**

Defer to November 2017 Planning Meeting*

2. Accepting and Approving Financial Reports September 2017

Motion) Julian Perry **Second)** Victoria Notah **Vote:** 21-2-14

Secretary/Treasurer Nata'ani: Presented Financial Reports September 2017

Marjorie Johnson: Explanation on Fund 01.

Secretary/Treasurer Nata'ani: Fund 01 is actual cash – received from trash sales, and fax fees.

Marjorie Johnson: The ending fund balance of \$239k+, does this reflect any encumbrances?

Secretary/Treasurer Nata'ani: There are encumbrances within the \$239k+, the request was made for the Financial Reports to reflect a balance that would reflect an unexpended balance.

Please do keep in mind that our CSC diligently works on producing the combined and detailed Financial Reports supported by the individual financial statements. Our CSC is “stretched thin” by the many duties of two to three staff members, where she is the only one fulfilling all administrative duties and responsibilities. We continue to monitor the financial health of the chapter, and a financial report with detailed encumbrances will be forthcoming.

Marjorie Johnson: My inquiry is based on the Executive Branch’s view that chapters have excess amounts of funds that gives reason for chapters to be criticized for unexpended balances. If funds are available, the chapter should expense the funds. (For the Record).

Vice President Begay: The Chapter does earmark the funds, however, the programs or projects must be ground ready to expense the funds. CLUPc, officials, and stakeholders must work together to get the programs and projects ‘shovel ready.’ Many chapters experience a barrier to expense the funds when programs and projects are not shovel ready.

Willis Becenti: The negative balance of \$29k+, how is this being handled to off-set?

Secretary/Treasurer Nata’ani: During this chapter meeting, Action Item#7 – Carry-Over, the negative balance of \$29k+ will be off-set through carry-over.

The negative balance was a carry-over from the previous budget.

Marjorie Johnson: The negative balance of \$29k+, the unidentified expenditures line-time? Is this line-time a result from this past fiscal year?

Secretary/Treasurer Nata’ani: The negative balance of \$29k+ was the result of the Audit – where the Office of the Auditor General and the prior administration was involved in producing the corrected balances.

We made efforts and attempts to determine the details of the ‘Unidentified Expenses’ line-item in conjunction with Window Rock offices, and all offices are not forthcoming, at the moment, there is no action.

Marjorie Johnson: The negative balance begins with the past fiscal year from 2016 to 2017.

Secretary/Treasurer Nata’ani: The negative balance in Fund 02 is the direct result of the reconciliation efforts of the Office of the Auditor General and the prior administration, a negative balance was carried over from those efforts.

Willis Becenti: The audit continues to resurface in our chapter's financial state. The questions I posed during the audit, to identify the details of the 'unidentified expenses' line-items were not answered by the auditors as well.

I inquired through other chapters, if such a line-item exists. They all resoundingly replied, "no."

If the "unidentified expense" line-item cannot be explained, this chapter is not doing it's job, and no one is securely guarding our chapter funds.

There is another line-item, "bad debt," was that negative balance off-set by other funds. That line-item is no present on this financial report. What are the details on the absence of the "bad debt" line-item?

Secretary/Treasurer Nata'ani: I am aware of the "bad debt" line-item that existed in the General Fund 01, a cash account, where the first five months of received cash slowly brought the balance into a positive balance for the remainder of the fiscal year – currently, a positive balance.

Willis Becenti: In earlier financial reports, there was \$55k in the audit expense line-item, I noticed it was no longer there shortly there-after.

The office explained that \$41k of the 'audit expense' line-item went to cover the lost funds, that LeAnne was blamed for. Why did we not get a record of the transaction? Why were we not asked? It was done administratively.

Anything done, that involves funds, per Window Rock, it has to be done via the chapter approval, approved by the community. There is "unidentified expense" and "bad debt" line-items that exist within our government.

Vice President Begay: The Secretary/Treasurer and I started our terms in January 2017, and we made numerous attempts, through the Window Rock offices, to resolve the "unidentified expense" and "bad debt" line-items; where we are told that the financial enigmas occurred prior to our terms.

Since the start of our terms, we diligently monitor the financial activities of the chapter funds to-date; prior to our terms, we continue with our best efforts to work with the financial enigmas before our terms.

Willis Becenti: So, the current efforts are to 'clean-up' after the prior administration?

Vice President Begay and Secretary/Treasurer Nata'ani: Yes.

President James: The audit reports – the missing \$41k was placed in Fund 02, resulting in the negative \$29k+. Until the end of this fiscal year, we are able to off-set the negative balance.

There is always concern when funds are missing. I never stated that LeAnne was responsible for the missing funds. The auditors conducted their audit, and the work is theirs alone.

Annette Blackhorse: I continue to be concerned about the missing funds; where did the funds go, the community financially advanced an 'unknown' individual.

The audit is only a preliminary discovery, where it is then referred to crime units to investigate. The crime unit investigation process continues to be impeded and barricade by our own people. Window Rock is not in support of an investigation to finally provide a definitive answer that is not a puzzling reply or response.

I am not the only concerned individual in our community regarding the missing funds. The recurring inquiry on our enigmatic financials may seem to be an attempt to single out individuals. If a thorough investigation was conducted, individuals can finally be exonerated, and should be in the best interest of everyone in our community.

Approved

**3. Accepting and Approving Chapter Housing Applications for FY 2018– \$4,315.63.
Motion) Ernie Yazzie Second) Lucinda Campbell Vote: 37-0-6**

Vice President Begay: Explanation of current Chapter Housing Application process – two applications are on the floor for consideration.

Rochelle Harvey: Representing self.
Bernice Chee: Representing self.

Approved

**4. Accepting and Approving Chapter Scholarships FY18.
Motion) Marjorie Johnson Second) Verna Jim Vote: 42-0-3**

****President James removed self from Action Item #4****

Vice President Begay: Explanation of the current Chapter Scholarship Application process.

Danielle Bitsilly: Representing self.
Julian Perry: Representing self.
Deirda C. Dominques: Represented by Zane James.
JoHansen Jim: Representing self.
Dionca Jim: Representing self.
Monique S. James: Represented by Julian Perry.
Rackell Werito: Represented by self.
Jayvion Chee: Representing by father, Sam, Jr.
Erica Ben: President James read a bio submitted by student.
Kevin Harvey: Representing self.
Shante Bitsilly: Represented by Danielle Bitsilly.
Dominic Kedelty: Represented by David Kedelty.

Marie White: Inquiry, is our chapter is now accepting students from other chapters.

President James: Chapter scholarship applications are screened for chapter membership qualifications.

Approved

5. Request for financial assistance to purchase livestock equipment (panels and squeeze chute)

Motion) Marjorie Johnson Second) Stanley Kedelty Vote: 32-0-6

Grazing Official Charles Chee: This past summer, during meetings on proposed Grazing Official benefits, many benefits were being recommended. As of September 26, 2017, those proposed benefits would not be afforded to Grazing Officials.

Current Grazing Official remunerations do not begin to cover a living-wage, where all expenses incurred during official duties are all out-of-pocket from Grazing Officials.

Requesting for livestock equipment to be fully vested with to conduct Grazing Official duties for the chapter community. I have my personal livestock equipment, but I utilize my equipment for my livestock, where it is not feasible to

continuously break-down and set-up my personal livestock equipment to conduct my duties.

I place this consideration in the hands of the community.

President James: Is there a total amount for consideration? The total \$6,882.37.

Willis Becenti: Agree with Grazing Official for purpose. However, the prior Grazing Official purchased livestock equipment.

President James: I am not aware of the prior grazing official purchasing livestock equipment.

Willis Becenti: A check was produced.

President James: Note for Action, directed to CSC to verify inquiry.

****ACTION – Ask Paula about the prior livestock equipment****

Adrianne Begay: Where would the livestock equipment be stored? And if Navajo Nation policies will be applied to secure inventory?

President James: Property will be stored at the chapter. Anything the chapter buys, Navajo Nation inventory policies are applied, and inventory numbers are placed on the property.

Pearl White: Supports the purchase of livestock equipment for Grazing Official duties. The Grazing Official was able to assist with our livestock management. Many of the community members have livestock, but many of us do not have the helping hands to manage and care for our livestock, particularly when branding is required. Additionally, the current Grazing Official has been able to explain the current policies and laws.

Where are the helpers to the Grazing Official? And that the law limits Grazing Officials to conduct their duties without the necessary assistance; how did the Grazing Official become a solo provider? The matter of insurance for the Grazing Official is also a concern that needs to be addressed.

Funds should be found to support Grazing Official living-wages, and funds for Grazing Official assistants need to be found for full support.

President James: Grazing Officials need support from their communities to send their strong recommendations to the Navajo Nation President to provide adequate funding, without the current state of line-item vetos.

Why do we not fix the current community corral? The safety of the Grazing

Official is of great concern, where individual visits could potentially turn violent. Furthermore, the community corral is able to streamline the efforts of the Grazing Official to conduct services for the community.

The central offices and government are not fully supporting our community Grazing Officials, and we will continue to support for further funding.

Victoria Notah: All presented statements in support of our Grazing Official are true, and we should support our Grazing Official.

Asking for insurance for the Grazing Official, and to find the funds to support a living-wage.

Approved

- 6. Requesting the Navajo Nation President and the 23rd Navajo Nation Council to Approve the Rangeland Improvement Act and Approval of the Department of Agriculture FY'2018 Unmet Needs Budget Request of 2.1 Million from the Undesignated Unreserved Fund Balance: Sponsor: CLUPC Motion) Sara James Second) Lucinda Campbell Vote: 29-0-8**

Marjorie Johnson: Supporting Resolution for the Grazing Official to receive a living-wage and benefits, as previously presented and expounded upon in Action Item #5.

President James: (Addressing Delegate BeGaye) Is the Grazing Official request an item on the Council's Fall Session?

Recommending that the resolution be directly given to the Navajo Nation President and Navajo Nation Council: recommending a change in title to – “Requesting the Navajo Nation President and the 23rd Navajo Nation Council to Approve –“ Motion and seconding party to approve for a change in the title.

Delegate BeGaye: Report on President and Vice President being requested to deliver their reasonings for cutting the FY18 Navajo Nation Budget. Navajo Nation President did not adequately meet with the Council members.

Navajo Nation Council is in support of restoring all prior proposed wages and benefits before the line-item vetos.

Requesting for the community to consider a resolution to restore chapter funds without budget cuts.

Marjorie Johnson: The Council is responsible for creating the budget; when the Navajo Nation President doubled his staff and doubled his budget, the council did not attempt to question the president's budget. The president received his budget, and will not be easily swayed for other budgets.

Resolution Approved

- 7. Approving and accepting the FY'2017 Carry-Over Funds within the Chapter Budget Line items in the amount of \$239,211.55. And Approving an additional \$3,155.59 to zero-out Fund 02.**

Motion) David Kedelty

Second) Willis Becenti

Vote: 32-0-5

Secretary/Treasurer Nata 'ani: Explanation of FY'2017 Carry-Over Funds process in conjunction with hand-outs; attempting to zero-out the negative balance of \$29k+.

Marjorie Johnson: Where is the total amount for consideration to off-set the negative balance?

Vice President Begay: Explanation of Restricted and Un-Restricted funds as diagram on hand-outs.

President James: Red high-light amount will remain in the Fund and not transferred, while the green high-light amounts are transferrable.

Marjorie Johnson: Placing Amendment: If the intent is to zero out the balance from \$29k, an additional \$3,155.59 cents from Fund 17. (\$18,059.04 for total transfer from Fund 17) Negative balance of \$29k+ for the total amount.

President James: Consideration for Senior Fundraising negative balance. Fundraising cannot be included in the carry-over. Will be clarified at a later date for further action.

Resolution Approved

8. Travel Request for Grazing Official, DNR, 11/15-17/17
Motion) Marjorie Johnson Second) Nelson James

Vote: 26-0-2

Grazing Official Charles Chee: Grazing Official training, and the Agriculture Department recommends the use of chapter travel funds.

President James: Cost estimate will be forward when return from travel.

Marjorie Johnson: Comment on the consistency of reports provided when individuals travel on chapter funds. I am aware that chapter officials go on travel, and no reports were provided back to the community.

President James: Yes. It was agreed that all individuals utilizing chapter travel funds provide a report to the community, upon return from travel.

Approved

III. REPORTS:

- Marjorie Johnson: Personal matter.

Marjorie Johnson: Asking for an update on Travel Reimbursement for ICIP travel. I did not receive my reimbursement because my Travel Report was submitted past the due date.

In the policies and procedures, it is possible process the Travel Reimbursement with a justification. I did justify it. It continues to remain unresolved. So, I ask for an update from President James.

President James: Referring to the Planning meeting of October 2, 2017, regarding TA, at the September planning meeting. Travel occurred in July 2017, Travel Report and claim were submitted late. The CSC would not be able to process a reimbursement, as clearly stated on the TA, that all claims must be submitted before the end of ten days after travel for settled claims. The travel reimbursement claim was submitted past the due date, and cannot be honored per the policy. The CSC is adhering to and in compliance with TA the policy.

By August 2017 TA reimbursement matter migrated over into the chapter forum, and during the September 2017 Planning Meeting, at the time, I stated and read the policy specifically states that "any reimbursements that are not returned within 10 tens is not payable, unless a designated chapter manager and/or a chapter official (designated) for good cause."

I stated to Ms. Marjorie Johnson, that the CSC is within the policy to not process a reimbursement, if you wish to further pursue for a reimbursement – prepare a

justification to be delivered to our keeping. The process for justification was presumably in process, when Secretary/Treasurer Nata'ani dispatched an inquiry to the Division of Community Development – Administrative Service Centers for an opinion on the TA Reimbursement matter - Mr. Johnny Johnson

I received the justification letter, and choose not to render a decision before an opinion was received from Division of Community Development – Administrative Service Center during the month of September 2017.

In September 22, 2017, approximately, I contacted Mr. Johnny Johnson to provide a quick response on the TA reimbursement because chapters, as with our own chapter, are closing out accounts for the fiscal year. We hope to potentially resolve the reimbursement before the close-outs.

Mr. Johnny Johnson mentioned that he was too busy to bother with matters, such as our request for an opinion on the TA reimbursement issue. He further encouraged that the TA reimbursement issue should be handled by the local chapter officials, as they were voted into office, over the phone. I responded that he should submit a letter to our chapter to the effect of his statement that chapter officials may render a decision on the TA reimbursement matter. If I proceed to render a decision based on our conversation without a written statement, I open myself to potential liabilities.

October 2, 2017, Planning Meeting, the TA reimbursement issue remained unresolved. I decided to spearhead the resolve for the TA reimbursement, and I travelled to DCD-ASC. Mr. Johnny Johnson was on emergency leave, when I visited DCD-ASC, so, I asked Nicketa Kirk to fix our TA reimbursement and she did fix it.

The week before our regular chapter meeting, 10/15/17, on a Wednesday, Mr. Johnny Johnson released a letter to my keeping that authorized the chapter president to mediate a dispute, the authority to render a decision was released to my keeping. I agreed.

The following day, I was preparing a document to affect the authority given to me from DCD-ASC, when I received call on my cellphone from the Department of Justice. DOJ personnel, Ms. Neomi Gilmore, she instructed that I do bother on the TA reimbursement matter, and not to exercise the authority to render a decision. I inquired as to why I am being instructed to wait. Ms. Neomi Gilmore responded that more time is needed to conduct an investigation. I wanted to know why there are conflicting opinions between DCD-ASC and DOJ, I thought Mr. Johnny Johnson consulted with DOJ to draft the authorizing letter.

It turns out that earlier that day, the Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer inquired into the letter of Mr. Johnny Johnson, and the departments are now asking for more time to look into the matter. The TA Reimbursement issue will

linger for awhile longer for DOJ to complete their investigation, and we are to leave the TA Reimbursement issue alone.

The TA Reimbursement is dragging on, and I appealed for a quick decision, as the claimant is patiently waiting for a decision as well. I also stated that the DOJ personnel, Ms. Gilmore only called to notify the information, but it is better to put the shared information in writing. Ms. Gilmore responded that I do not have time to put it in writing, I am busy. I responded that if there is no written communication on the TA Reimbursement, it will greatly complicate matters. A DOJ letterhead with the instructions of Ms. Neomi Gilmore is in my possession.

I do not know if the other chapter officials wish to comment on the situation.

Vice President Begay: Per the emails and communications, the administrative matter cannot be commented on.

Secretary/Treasurer Nata'ani: Purely an administrative matter. That is where it's at.

Marjorie Johnson: In regard to the administrative matter, at the last chapter meeting, there was memo that chapter officials are not to be involved in chapter administrative matters. Yet, they are involving themselves.

Additionally, at the planning meeting, my father hugged me and stated "I'll make sure you get it." Now, their stance has change.

No more pursuit. I do not want the issue anymore. Let it go. Because in the first place, they are not following policies and procedures, reading and interpreting it the way they want it. I don't want to deal with it anymore. Forget the issue.

President James, thank you for your efforts. Throughout this entire ordeal, Zane was the only one responding to my requests.

President James: The Central Navajo government states that while there are laws, statutes, codes, policies, procedures, etc; all Navajo people should adhere fundamental law as superseding all other laws, because the law is holy and divine, that takes precedence over all matters, where all our efforts should be through k'e.

At that time, Ms. Marjorie Johnson, lost her nephew, and such an event can affect the minds of family members in an upsetting manner. So, our efforts must include an inclusive approach in collaborative, collective effort.

Additionally, the policy states that for good cause. The law on non-involvement of chapter officials in administrative matters is accurate, but the laws hinder us in our efforts – both laws and policy conflict.

Victoria Notah: Make sure you return all your reports (addressing Grazing Official).

Verna Jim: You need to let the people know what the procedures are, need to tell them what is expected of them. While individuals travel on their own funds, and wait for reimbursements, there is a potential loss out-of-pocket funds.

Vice President Begay: Clarification: The Chapter has always provided travel advances, because the chapter is aware that travelers need travel advances – meals and lodging.

Verna Jim: What type of reimbursement is being requested for pay-out.

Vice President Begay: Mileage reimbursement is being requested for pay-out.

President James: Travel policy does state that late Travel reimbursement claims are not to be paid-out. But it can be overruled, and I continue to believe that we should get an opinion of DOJ. Additionally, that the people are in-charged, and the community can. Do we all truly believe that the people are in-charge and may decide the final outcome.

If a decision was made, a ruling was given, an opinion from DOJ...that is all it is...an opinion. To me, that is all DOJ is, an opinion, because the laws do not support each other and are inconsistent.

I, myself, have so much work and responsibilities, that I lose and forget things. Especially, if there are extenuating circumstances that hinder our focus, and should be considered.

Victoria Notah: Is it possible to just pay-out the travel claim? Will Window Rock have a problem with the chapter's decision to just pay-out the travel claim?

President James: Per Delegate BeGaye's advice, let us wait for DOJ to deliver their opinion. If the opinion is favorable, we could continue at the November 2017 Chapter Meeting. However, Ms. Marjorie Johnson mention that she does not wish to continue for TA reimbursement efforts.

Marjorie Johnson: I wish to detail my justification for the community. I stated that I would go on travel if it did not conflict with my nephews funeral, and it did not, so I was able to travel on behalf of the chapter.

Around that time, shortly after completing my travel...I am a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother, my grandson went missing. Spent three weeks looking for my grandson, I went to all the shelters, police departments, his mother was living on the streets, and I had things I had to take care-of, I wrote that in my justification. They (Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer) do not take my hardships into account. But, obviously, it does not matter to them or

concern them on problems. I leave the final decision in the hands of the community.

I just want the people to know that I did follow procedures, according to the policies and procedures. And they (Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer) are the ones running to Window Rock, and they are purposefully blocking efforts for TA Reimbursement pay-out. If it is in the policies and procedures, they are suppose to follow the policies and procedures. Shima (Vice President) told me that I have my MBA, and she spoke that to me twice now, it has nothing to do with my TA reimbursement. I wanted my reasons to be known by the community, that is all.

Just let it go.

President James: We are at the conclusion of our meeting. We are reminded of our prayer at the beginning of the meeting.

So, we will allow DOJ to fully conduct their investigation on the matter.

We are recovering and progressing as a chapter. We are being watched by our youth. Our elder leaders continue to work with the laws of the holy people.

We are reminded that k'e is to help. Our ceremonies are helpful.

Annette Blackhorse: My daughter Marjorie, you explained in detail. However, there are multiple sides to every story, situation. The recent Audit brought out many details, and you, yourself stated that certain areas of the financial that were no audited should not be considered in the audit mix. Our current situation is not stable, and every aspect of our chapter must be thoroughly monitored, and these efforts are constantly being questions.

When the officials were campaigning, the resounding acceptance of fiduciary responsibility was stated as paramount, and shall be exercised without hesitation. I am speaking as a constituent, based on my vote, not as a mother. The officials and the CSC are committed to ethical compliance and accountability. The CSC followed the policies and procedures, and based her decision on the law.

There are many life complications that we all cannot avoid, and the laws are expected to understand these complications. Yes, chapter officials are to not engage in administrative matters, yet, there is a contingency that say chapter officials can become involved in administrative matters.

Because of check and balance, there cannot be a way for cross-involvement between duties, yet, earlier administrations did participate in cross-involvement between duties – chapter officials and administrative staff, resulting in our audit.

Our chapter is in a critical situation, where great leniency is a fragile process that should be avoided. We must adhere and comply with policies and procedures.

I feel that you went through a lot, as does everyone, and we each face so many personal and emotional trials on a daily basis that consideration was not purposefully absent or voided in consideration on your justification letter.

The reference of your MBA speaks volumes on your accomplishment, and comes with a high responsibility that other MBA holders protectively defend to avoid any situation that would denigrate the MBA title.

We will wait for the response from DOJ to affirm or not affirm. There are so many instances where non-compliance and unaccountability can occur, and once an individual is no longer in compliance or accountable, they trap themselves in a vicious cycle that they can never recover from, and be restored in the eyes of the law.

President James: As the policy says “for good cause,” and the entire situation is elevated beyond what it needs to be, we will resolve it.

IV. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Chapter Planning Meeting - November 6, 2017 @ 9 am

V. ADJOURNMENT:

**Motion to Adjourn) Willis Becenti
Adjournment at _4:35 pm__**

Second) Marjorie Johnson Vote: All Vote Yes