



P.O. Box 4720 Page, AZ 86040 P: (928)698-2805 F: (928)698-2803 E: lechee@navajochapters.org W: Lechee.navajochapters.org

LeChee Regular Chapter Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 5:30 pm Day Light Time

1. Meeting called to order at 5:50pm with quorum met [Irene Whitekiller](#)
2. Nominate Christina Gamble as interim secretary/treasurer for today's meeting
Motion: Orlinda Tsosie Second: Roberta Lyons
Renee Tsosie close the nomination Second: Sarah Black
Favor: 17 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 1
3. Invocation: [Irene Whitekiller](#)
4. Roll call: Interim Christina Gamble
Renee Tsosie stated to fix title of Resolution LC10142026B to correct verbage:
Approving and Adopting the amended "fiscal year 2026 into 2027 LeChee carryover budget" in the amount of \$623,531.06
5. Review and Adoption of the October 14, 2026 Regular Chapter Meeting Agenda with corrections
Sponsor: Holly Phillips
Motion: JoAnn Yazzie Pioche Second: Millie Chee
Favor : __19__ Oppose: __0__ Abstain: __1__
6. Review and Adoption of the September 14, 2026 Regular Chapter Meeting Minutes.
Sponsor: Holly Phillips
Motion: JoAnn Yazzie Pioche Second: Virgie Whitehorse
Favor : __21__ Oppose: __0__ Abstain: __1__
7. Review Financial Report: Month of September 2026. Read aloud by Renee Tsosie
Sponsor: Holly Phillips
Motion: JoAnn Yazzie Pioche Second: Roberta Lyons
Favor : __24__ Oppose: __0__ Abstain: __1__
JoAnn Yazzie Pioche has questions about housing discretionary funds. I see things around the chapter house are getting fixed, but are people's roofs getting fixed? The cold is coming and we need to make it a priority to get homes fixed. Renee stated the budget is set in October at the beginning of the new fiscal year. We announced that people need to come in to apply. With all the applications, we go on a point system and go by our annual allocation. I have to sit down with officials and go over budget with them. Laverne Tsosie stressed transparency. Do we have proof of where the money goes for projects? She said she called the ASC office in Window Rock and Tuba City and asked questions about finances and was told that big money projects should be on a resolution and community members need to know. We as community members need to know where big money goes to projects. Chapter officials shouldn't have first dibs on

everything. They should be here serving the people. Irene Whitekiller said some people have gotten assistance for major renovations, such as \$8,000 for major projects and down to minor projects costing \$2,000- \$3,000. Orlinda Tsosie feels Renee has been very transparent. She added people should go to the chapter to ask these questions instead of going to Tuba City. Irene responded there is a line that officials cannot cross, and can't interfere with administration. We can check on projects, Herman can check on projects. Irene reminded the chapter membership that the budget was approved by resolution. It is broken down and already in the plan. She added the officials and administration went over the budget with the young lady (Kristen, ASC) last week. In response she mentioned since becoming certified in 2012 there have been a lot of changes and if more changes are made to the FMS, there has to be a public hearing and changes require a new resolution. When we make changes to the scholarships and housing discretionary we have to go through that process. Lou Tso had a question about the personnel fund and chapter administration salary. She stated two years ago there was \$200,000.00 and now there's \$49,000 in the fund. What happened to the money? Renee responded that the chapter salaries come out of fund code 2. The personnel lapse fund is a grant fund account and is used for utilities only. Renee explained we had to pay back the 401k, health insurance, and retirement for all employees that hadn't been paid for years and had accumulated into a big debt we owed to the Navajo Nation. All that money was paid back to the Navajo Nation, now we pay quarterly. \$49,000 is the carryover and our budget will be passed in November and now we are waiting for money from the Navajo Nation again. Irene thanked everyone for their questions and response.

8. Reports and Presentation: (5 minutes time limit per subject):

- a. Council Delegate Helena Nez Begay/LDA Tom Franklin Jr.
 Tom Franklin briefly spoke about the council having a special session to amend legislation 0217-26. He added the delegate won't be here, she is on family leave today. She didn't attend the council. He met with IHS regarding the Horse Thief Mesa waterline project. It was just an update, waiting for engineers to put a stamp on it and waiting for NTUA's review. They will meet again. Friday they will meet at LeChee Chapter with APM, LeChee Officials, and DOJ. Most of the meeting will be in executive session. People are welcome to listen. Next week is the NN Fall Council Session. The delegate will be recognizing five individuals for their assistance in her region from Water Resource and Former Bennett Freeze. On the 28th there will be a work session hosted by DES. The Division of Aging Adult Services, the Governor's Office and HEHSC will be there. Tom requested we check on our elders, to bring them wood, and ensure they are warm. Irmadene Charley mentioned that she was never paid by the Navajo Nation elections office. Tom said he will let the delegate know and contact the elections office tomorrow. He added they have been helping Veterans in the area also and the other legislation they have been working on is to transfer ownership of the old NGS site parking lot and warehouse to LeChee Chapter. Lou Tso asked a question about the Antelope Point Marina meeting and



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added it shouldn't be in executive session. She said they want to do everything in secret. Our delegate and officials need to be over there checking on these things. These businesses are taking advantage of us. It's not okay. In response to Tom Franklin, Ray Dugi said he is a Veteran and has never once seen the delegate attend a local Veterans meeting. If she would come to our meetings she would know what issues we have and that includes our chapter meetings. Lou is right about what's going on over there. Our delegate should be advocating for LeChee that includes Zenni homes. The city of Page is always inviting us to their meetings. I attended their last meeting and they talked about the data center. Where are they getting their water? The state and city of Page were there. We have no input. What's going on with that, we don't know. JoAnn Yazzie Pioche added that Antelope Point Marina has not upheld their part of the deal and we should not renew their contract. The officials and delegate need to speak up on this matter. She does not want the Navajo Nation to buy it, but we should not renew the contract because they did not fulfill their contract. Irene mentioned a meeting the officials and economic development had with Jerry Moyes in 2025. It was mentioned he wanted to sell APM and was asked to give it to the Navajo Nation since he is in debt, but Joe Shirley reduced their debt from \$17 million to \$7 million during his presidency. The Navajo Nation was getting paid \$100,000 a month, and Coconino County was getting 1.3 million a month. They were supposed to be working on it and continually hold meetings, but staff left and Irene was told to stay out of it, but Irene assured her LeChee Chapter will continue to be a part of discussions. At the Western Agency Council meeting in Shonto last month Irene said there was a resolution for APM to extend their contract for another 25 years. She spoke up and tabled it for the reason LeChee Chapter was never a part of the discussions. She got support from other chapters, as well. Her concern is we are not being included in the discussions and they are going over our heads. She will continue working on this while she is in office. Ray Dugi spoke up about attending the Planning & Zoning meeting in Page. The majority of the people oppose the data center, but Mr. Kidman is for it. Ray asked where are they getting the water? He said one suggestion is to build it at the old NGS site and this is where the officials should be attending these meetings to voice their opposition because we do not want it. Laverne Tsosie added that the council delegate does not come to our meetings and it may be because the 24 council delegates may not be enough, we may need to increase the numbers to accommodate all chapters and representation. She may be overstretched with meetings and chapters she oversees.

- b. Tuba City Regional Hospital Board of Directors Lyonel Tso- not present
- c. PUSD Sharon Watson

Sharon from student support services briefly spoke about her program with social services to help kids and their families. They oversee Children Incorporated; it is a

sponsorship program for students who need extra help with food or clothing. Each student got some money to shop at Walmart and the majority of those kids bought food instead of what they wanted. This shows the need in our community. They met with the people who fund this program last week. She said they came to visit us, see the program and families they help. There are families who live in poverty. One family in our district needs a new home, she lives in a shack now with her four kids. With the sponsor's donation of \$5,000 they are looking for a travel trailer and if anyone is selling a trailer please contact her. There are more families in a similar situation. We have nothing in our community to assist with shelter. We do not have Catholic Charities to help us anymore. We started a new program where the funders provide us with brand new bikes for mentors who work with 5th and 6th graders after school. They are looking for mentors and can pass a fingerprint clearance card.

d. Our Body Our Life Our Culture

Roberta Lyons

September recap- started reading night due to low literacy scores. Low participation, but hopefully may increase. Giving out reading logs to build a reading routine. She had her first sobriety night last week. The talking circle was the choice. It's meant for people who are lonely or have anxiety to meet with others. Four families came. She wants to encompass anything and everything. She started her office hours with community assistance with applications, and medical appointments. The next event is reading night and sobriety night next week and will have office hours tomorrow. The walking program will hopefully start again tomorrow if it is not too cold. Still encouraged to exercise 30 minutes a day. Build healthy habits now with kids. Just added on a personal trainer to their staff to work with elders on mobility.

e. Coconino County Workforce Development Board Joann Yazzie-Pioche

JoAnn Yazzie Pioche introduced herself and talked about her new position on the board of Coconino County Workforce Development Board. Lena Fowler nominated her for this two year position and it's on a volunteer basis. She attends board meetings every two months. The first meeting she attended, the state was present and mentioned federal money needs to be used to re-industrialize the workforce system due to AI replacing many positions, such as engineers. They will do an apprenticeship program for two years through community colleges. The most demanding jobs are in healthcare. Another high demand job is elevator repair. CCWD Serves Page, Fredonia, Kaibeto, Tonalea, and Tuba City.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION LC06082026A; RESOLUTION OF THE LECHEE CHAPTER APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE LECHEE CHAPTER UPDATED AND REVISED COMMUNITY-BASED LAND USE PLAN AND REQUESTING THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO GRANT CERTIFICATION OF THE COMMUNITY LAND USE PLAN PURSUANT TO N.N.C. TITLE 26 LOCAL GOVERNANCE ACT.

Sponsor: Michelle Alex/Jessica Tso

Motion: JoAnn Yazzie Pioche

Second: Damon Nockideneh

Favor : __24__

Oppose: _0__

Abstain: _1__



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10. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. RESOLUTION LC10122026A: APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 "GENERAL FUND CARRYOVER FUNDS" BUDGET INTO THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,009.00. Sponsor: Renee Tsosie
Motion: Irmadene Charley Second: JoAnn Yazzie Pioche
Favor : _30___ Oppose: _0___ Abstain: _1___

- B. RESOLUTION LC10122026B: APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2026 "GENERAL FUND CARRYOVER FUNDS" BUDGET INTO THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$623,531.06. **CORRECTION OF RESOLUTION TITLE: APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2026 "GENERAL FUND CARRYOVER FUND" BUDGET INTO THE FISCAL YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$623,531.06.**
Sponsor: Renee Tsosie
Motion: Irmadene Charley Second: JoAnn Yazzie Pioche
Favor : _30___ Oppose: _0___ Abstain: __1___

11. LeChee Chapter Staff and Officials report: (4 mins allotment time per request)

- a. President Irene Nez Whitekiller
September 19th was the Western Agency Meeting in Shonto. I mentioned the APM resolution earlier and there was another resolution about health studies by NAU. October 2nd, the Echo Cliffs Clinic opened. October 7th I attended the Children Incorporated meeting. They paid for 45 students and staff to attend the Western Agency Fair. Next Wednesday representatives from Medicare will visit my work at Zions Way. They want to study the daily life of Navajos.
- b. Vice-President Herman Pioche
Herman wrote a report. Monthly safety messages; check wood stoves to make sure it's clean and in good working condition. Have Fire extinguishers. He demonstrated how to use a fire extinguisher. ABC means you can use it for anything. Check every month. I attended the Page Attainment and the goal is to encourage reading with your children, make it a habit twenty minutes a day. The Superintendent reported students are coming to school in dirty clothes due to no money for laundry. NHA homeowners can apply for a homesite lease once they pay off their mortgage. The homes are not for resale, but make sure documents are in place if you pass it down to someone else. When it comes to land probate, make sure plans are in place and clearly identify who will receive your land. The Tribal Wills clinic is a good resource to avoid paying a lawyer out of pocket. I attended the Western Agency Meeting and they stressed working together. Coconino County installed cameras in Cameron, Horseshoe Bend, and Big Lake Trading Post and it has reported 170 arrests were made for illegal activity. The

LeChee Water Project is 30% complete. The bathroom addition is 80% complete, waiting for water supply. I also attended the Echo Cliffs opening ceremony and learned about the extensive work it took to build it. Ray Dugi asked how many homes have fire extinguishers? Have we done a study? Maybe the chapter can do a study and training on this. Irene mentioned Holly is not here with us. If you have an issue or question, come to the person and ask. Respect one another. The meeting time is also an issue. I put the time for 5:30(referring to chapter meeting time). Don't just think about yourself, think about others. Some people don't stay the whole meeting time.

- c. Secretary/Treasurer Holly Phillips- no report, not present
- d. Grazing Official Tyler Manson- no report, not present
- e. Chapter Manager Renee Tsosie

Renee announced we just got the land use plan approved. The general elections is on November 3rd, distinguishing between Coconino County and Navajo Nation election locations at the chapter house. The last day to walk in and vote in Tuba City is October 30th. The office will be closed on election day. Registration opens on November 13th. JoAnn and I are registrars. We got our one ton truck. We finished our underexposure report summary and listed everything on our compound. We only have liability insurance on the chapter compound, we don't cover the senior center and clinic because they have their own lease. We are working with NTUA to get water to our warehouse. Our PEP are working on two bathroom additions right now. Mae Betoney needed help with her windows and our PEP went over and temporarily worked on it. A family near Kaibeto needs a home. We have received 25 applications for financial assistance. The projects are broken up through the fiscal year. We have coal and it is open to the public. We don't know if we are going to get wood this year due to driver costs. I will meet with chapter officials to go over the budget and anyone is welcome to sit in. . Allen has been going around helping residents with the backhoe. The question is how are they going to maintain it? Brenda delivers water on her days off, and we have two carpenters. Herman Riggs is our main carpenter. Sarah is our PEP and helps here and the senior center. Thankful for the support of the staff. We were in the parade with our new truck. Ray Dugi asked a question on land use plan. Being on the planning and zoning committee I was supposed to give a report but wasn't here on Monday for the first meeting. Why do we even get together if a lot of projects aren't happening? We are volunteers, we are here on our own time. We need to get together with the officials and the chapter manager to work on one project, not all at the same time. Why can't we move forward? It never gets to the chapter level. Let's focus on projects and get together.

Irene replied that we need a schedule so the community can come and listen. Right now the land use plan is finally going through after so many years. It should've been done 5 years ago.



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Renee stated that the officials have a schedule and planning and zoning can attend to discuss with all present as a committee. In November we will decide our meeting schedule, voice a time and day so we can work together to come up with a solid date.

f. Delegate Helena Nez Begay

Delegate Helena Nez Begay stated Mondays are my HEHSC meeting. Sometimes we adjourn late at 5 or 6pm. I've committed myself to committee meetings; MMIW, Hopi Land Commission, AZ Water Rights, and Gaming Committee. That's why I don't really come out here. We budget in April, we have to pass it by October 1st. I don't come on Mondays, because if I don't attend those meetings I can be removed from the committee. I work with Renee. If I need her help I contact her. I am working on the water line from Kaibeto to LeChee. We had meetings with IHS. We are forgotten out there. Think about us people. Old leaders use to honor those living out there, now it's not like that. Young people are moving out there. My vote was really low here in LeChee. Navajo Nation is going through a 164 process from NN to deposit into IHS so they can work on the water line extension from Kaibeto. So far it's funded for half way, but it's moving forward. We need funding for the other half and might push forward with left over ARPA to fund the rest of the way. I need your help to push for Coppermine to get their water too. The water line has been sitting there for so long I can't let it continue to sit there. We need to amend the legislation to increase the money. We ran out of funding. Sihasin funding going to extend it. Renee has a map of who is getting running water. We worked with BIA to demolish the old clinic in Tonalea, it cost \$90,000 to demolish the building to the ground. It got cleaned up and the land was given back to the chapter. The plan at this time is to use it as a safety building for first responders. We are working with Coconino County to pave 23 miles of road from Kaibeto To first windmill. I've got projects going. I've helped a lot of constituents here with their homesite lease, some waiting 30 years. HEHSC has been working with the veterans. Two veterans got homes here in LeChee. It's up to you who to vote for. I'm not going to tell you who to vote for. Kaibeto is the first region for rural addressing.

Sponsor: Holly Phillips

Motion: JoAnn Yazzie Pioche

Favor : __20__

Oppose: _0__

Second: Irmadene Charley

Abstain:1__

12. Announcements: (are subject to change)

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. | Indigenous People's Day | 10/12/2026 |
| b. | Regular Chapter Meeting | 10/12/2026 5:00 PM |
| c. | Food Demo NN Special Diabetes Program | 10/15/2026 5-6:30 PM |
| d. | Justin Jones Meet and Greet | 10/19/2026 4:00-8:00 PM |

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------------|
| e. | It's Story Time | 10/20 6:30 PM |
| f. | Good Vibes Night | 10/22 5-6:30 PM |
| g. | Fall Bazaar | 10/24/2026 10-2pm |
| h. | St. Mary's Food Distribution
(Volunteers Needed) | 10/26/2026 TBD |
| i. | Community Baby Shower | 10/28/2026 5:30-7:30pm |
| j. | Trunk or Treat | 10/29/2026 6pm |

13. Adjournment: 8:20pm DST

Sponsor: [Irene Whitekiller](#)

Motion: JoAnn Yazzie Pioche

Favor : _24_____ Oppose: __0__

Second: Jeannette Dugi

Abstain: __1__

Completed by: _____

Christina Gamble 10/15/2026