

President- Natalie Tsinnijinnie

Vice President- Brianna Black

Secretary- Laverne Tsosie

Coppermine Former Bennett Freeze Area Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 6:30 pm DST

Coppermine Chapter House

## MEETING MINUTES

*Thank you for attending.*

1. **Call to Order: 7:10 PM DST- by Vice President, Brianna Black**
2. **Invocation: Ronald Black**
3. **Guests:**
4. **Approval of previous Meeting Minutes of 2026 April 15: Vice President read the minutes.**

**Motion: Kee Black/Debora Saliego**

**Votes: 12-0-2**

5. **Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion: Debora Saliego/Colleen Mountain**

**Votes: 12-0-2**

6. **Leadership Reports:**

- a. **FBFA President (Natalie Tsinnijinnie): Not present.**
- b. **FBFA Vice President (Brianna Black):** presented a new, data-driven approach to organizing community assistance for the Former Bennett Freeze Area (FBFA). A development of a point system was created, a standardized spreadsheet to rate applicants as High, Medium, or Low priority. This system is designed to ensure funds are distributed fairly to those in greatest need. The list includes 61 families. Rankings were determined by specific criteria:
  - a. Family size and presence of children.
  - b. Elderly or disabled household members.
  - c. Current condition of the home.
  - d. Status of homesite leases and utility access.

The data was compiled to support a new official resolution for community assistance, and the completed spreadsheet has been submitted to Council Delegate Helena, Sara Slim, Tom Franklin, Milford, Natalie, and all Chapter officials and staff.

- c. **FBFA Secretary/Treasurer (Laverne Tsosie):** addressed the need for an updated assistance list and highlighted procedural concerns regarding previous resolutions.

Coordination with Connie revealed that the administration was still utilizing a list from a 2018 resolution. This nearly decade-old list requires updating because several individuals have since passed away, already received assistance, or relocated. Following an urgent request from Tom Franklin, the committee reviewed home assessment packets to generate a current, accurate list, which was then distributed to all relevant officials and stakeholders.

In February, a resolution was passed (40-00-20) regarding community assistance. However, the specific list of names (Exhibit A) was not attached or presented to the community during the vote. The resolution was brought to the floor by Natalie, but the sponsor, Floyd Stevens, was not present.

Sara Slim has since emailed the resolution and the attached list to the group for review.

Attempts to coordinate directly with Natalie have been unsuccessful. However, Council Delegate Helena, Sara Slim, and other officials are being kept informed. The committee's goal is to move forward with the new assessment list and rescind the outdated 2018 resolution to ensure the right individuals receive assistance under the new resolution. For community transparency, a meeting was held to inform constituents of their status on the new list and provide updates on the resolution process.

**d. Guest Speaker: None.**

- e. FBFA Members: Debora Saliego:** provided a detailed report regarding administrative transparency issues, fieldwork updates, and recommended procedural changes for community assistance. Debora and fellow official Kee confirmed they did not see the assistance list during the regular meeting or when signing the February resolution. Due to the lack of disclosure and the potential unauthorized addition of names after the fact, Debora has contacted the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Ethics and Rules Committee, and other officials. She recommended the removal of the Community Service Coordinator (CSC) for falsification of records and breach of trust.

Questions were raised regarding escrow assistance of \$7,000 per household for 30 families, as the specific list for these funds was also withheld from committee review.

Fieldwork and Assessment Updates of Debora, Laverne, and Kee conducted physical site visits, which included interviewing constituents, taking photographs, and collecting GPS locations for every structure. The current spreadsheet uses a color-coded system (e.g., Red for new home recommendations) and identifies specific infrastructure needs like woodstoves, ADA ramps, windows, and utility referrals (IHS/NTUA).

Debora noted that the previous "hidden" list included individuals who had already received help or had incorrect service descriptions (e.g., being listed for renovations when they need new homes).

For Legislative and Procedural Recommendations, Debora suggested rescinding both the outdated 2018 resolution and the flawed February resolution. The new resolution protocol:

- Laverne has been asked to draft a new resolution incorporating the updated assessment list.
- Approval must flow from the FBFA committee to the Planning meeting, then to the Regular meeting.
- The full resolution packet must be provided for review ahead of time, and the Secretary must read the entire document to the community to ensure transparency.

The strict adherence to these protocols is emphasized as essential for the upcoming Local Governance Act (LGA) certification.

With assistance programs and eligibility, based on guidance from Sara Slim, residents who have moved to Tuba City but remain within the FBFA boundaries may still qualify for assistance. Debora plans to invite a representative (Rachelle) to discuss special mortgage rates and scattered home loan

options available specifically for FBFA constituents. It was clarified that the bid for Mary Francis' company was pulled because they were the sole bidder; three bids are required to maintain a fair procurement process.

## 7. Old Business:

- a. **Resolution with Updated Names:** discussed and will resubmit with resolution.

## 8. New Business:

- a. **ARPA Rules (FBFA or ARPA Assistance):**
- b. **FBFA Plan of Operations:** will email FBFA members.
- c. **Invites:** Rachelle for the next meetings. Make sure to submit the agenda ahead of time for travel pay for Sara.

9. **Announcements:** Chapter Planning is on Friday (8<sup>th</sup>) at 4:00pm DST, and Regular meeting is on Friday (22<sup>nd</sup>) at 4:00pm DST.

10. **Action Items:** We need to get more details, update the resolution names, and have another meeting soon to update members.

11. **Next FBFA meeting: May 30, 2026 @ 12:00 PM DST.**

## 12. Adjournment: 9:20 PM DST

**Motion:** Debora Saliego/St Stanley Saliego

**Votes:** 10-00-02

### Notes: FBFA Home Repair(s)/ Renovation (s) list:

- |                                             |                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Jerilyn Yazzie - drywall, ADA ramp       | 11. Esther Yazzie - bath tub                          |
| 2. Etta Black - wood stove                  | 12. Slim Begay - toilet                               |
| 3. Priscilla Endishee - roof leaking        | 13. Billson Bigman - floor tiles, insulation          |
| 4. Janika Fowler - insulation, roofing      | 14. Wilson Bigman - ADA ramp, windows                 |
| 5. Wynette Hammond - electrical, roofing    | 15. Laveena Benally - flooring                        |
| 6. Susie Williams - doors                   | 16. Shawna Whitehat - windows, ceiling                |
| 7. Colleen Mountain - need kitchen addition | 17. Sallie Whitehat - roofing, insulation, doors, ADA |
| 8. Shirley Bahe - windows                   | 18. Paulette Lewis - drywall                          |
| 9. Maxine Addakai - ADA ramp                | 19. Alice Williams - flooring                         |
| 10. Heidi Herder - flooring, room addition  | 20. Tyler Endishee - flooring, insulation, drywall    |

### Added names:

- 21. Roger/Rosita Curley
- 22. Chee/Louis Begay
- 23. Jimmy Ray Begay JR
- 24. Monty Slim
- 25. Mae Sands
- 26. Jean Evans
- 27. Lewis Nez
- 28. Peggy Sands

29. Alvina Joe

30. Emil Benally