



# Council of Cherokee Nation

## Meeting Minutes

### Community Services/Tribal Services Committee

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Tuesday, March 13, 2007

2:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

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#### Call To Order

Chair Shotpouch called the meeting to order.

#### Invocation

Councilman Martin gave the invocation.

#### Roll Call

**Present** 13 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; S. Joe Crittenden; Jackie Bob Martin; David Thornton Sr. ; Phyllis Yargee; Don Garvin; Linda Hughes-O'Leary; Melvina Shotpouch; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen and Jack D. Baker

**Absent** 3 - John F. Keener; Charles "Chuck" Hoskin and Taylor Keen

#### Approval of Minutes

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13th regular session. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Reports

1. Human Services Department  
Norma Merriman

Ms. Norma Merriman stated they are busy trying to finish processing the disaster checks. She stated so far to date they have written approximately 4400 checks. She stated it is a slow process all being done by hand. They have taken in approximately 5200 applications. They had 2 carpenters start work approximately a month ago installing the stoves. So far they have installed 8 pellet stoves through the REACH program, 6 with tribal funds some of which were pellet and some were wood. These carpenters will also be doing some weatherization. They have a full staff in the meth prevention program. They are in the process of hiring staff for the children's programs. She announced the disaster relief number is 453-5422.

2. Community Services

Charlie Soap

Mr. Charlie Soap provided an update on the ongoing self help housing projects. He announced a home in Sequoyah County would be complete today and two others are waiting on purchasing to award the contract to begin pouring the slabs. The four homes in England Hollow have begun. They have poured five slabs in Chelsea. They are in the survey process in the Kenwood, Euclaw, and Dry Creek areas. There will be a total of 27 homes. They have completed 3 miles of the Ballou water line project. There has been 2 miles of waterline installed in the 5 days worked on the Tailholt self help waterline project. The compassion capitol program is continuing to provide technical assistance to a lot of the Indian community organizations. Council member Yargee requested a list of the recipients of the community works projects.

3. Housing Authority

David Southerland

Mr. David Southerland announced they are looking at proposals for a new software system. They are looking for sites to develop rental housing in the Jay and Sallisaw areas. He stated at the end of January the mortgage assistance program 67 applications which generated approximately \$5.5ml. They could easily do 225 for the year. The community shield program has approximately 2200 families participating. There have been approximately 50 claims filed as a result from the ice storm. He announced they are working with community services on the Kenwood lift station. They are considering partnering with the Creek housing authority to blacktop a housing addition in Okay. Councilman Martin inquired about the property around the Stilwell senior housing project. Mr. Southerland stated the intentions were for a tax credit project. They are waiting on HUD and IRS to work out the wording on rental assistance. At this time the four tax credit projects are subsidized with rental assistance. They want to be able to use NAHASDA funds. The Section 8 funds specifically state they will not be considered federal funds if used in conjunction with a tax credit project.

Council member Conner made a motion to amend the agenda to include a Resolution regarding child care development as new business item 2. Councilman Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## Old Business

*None.*

## New Business

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES PROGRAM, FOR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Ms. Linda Vann announced this is a continuing grant for the youth shelter. Council member Yargee made a motion to approve. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OR THEIR CONTRACTED AGENCY FOR CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL**

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Announcements**

Chair Shotpouch announced the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 17th of April.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made by Councilman Thornton to adjourn the meeting. Council member O'Leary seconded the motion. Motion carried at 2:45 p.m.

### **Approval / Distribution**

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes attested and concurred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Staff Present**

Norma Merriman    Charlie Soap    David Pruitt    Linda Vann  
Ben Phillips      Lori Hand      Velva Gifford

### **Visitors Present**

David Southerland    Charles Dry    Jim Ketcher