



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Employment Committee

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

Call To Order

Chair Conner called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m..

Invocation

Councilman Martin gave the invocation.

Roll Call

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; S. Joe Crittenden; Jackie Bob Martin; Phyllis Yargee; Don Garvin; John F. Keener; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Taylor Keen and Jack D. Baker

Absent 1 - Meredith Frailey

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Anglen made a motion to approve the January 23rd regular session minutes. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of T.E.R.O. Certifications

Mr. Ed Bighorse introduced Darren Buzzard as an intern from CNE who will be helping out in the TERO office

Councilman Garvin made a motion to approve the TERO certifications as submitted. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried with an abstention from Councilman Bill John Baker.

Reports

1. Career Services/Employment
Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley announced she attended the Watts city council meeting where there was discussion regarding the annexing of the sewer capacity. She stated they expressed the support of the Cherokee Nation along with the support of the county. The Job Corp has had some students in Shreveport working for the Habitat for Humanity. Jerry Caviness the electrician for the Job Corp has been requested to return with additional students. The Job Corp graduation is this Friday at 2:00 p.m. with Judge Sheldon Spurling as speaker. If anyone is interested in attending the community relations luncheon at noon please RSVP. She and Gina Olaya were sworn for the Eastern Chapter of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce. Paul Bickford, president for the Eastern Chapter, and his wife's business has been recognized as one of the top 100 minority businesses in the United States. Taylor Keen will be the luncheon speaker at next Thursday's meeting at Northeastern State University in Muskogee. They will hold a meeting next week in regard to the trucking program at Job Corp. They are looking to moving the buildings trade program on the trucking program site. A job fair is planned in Muskogee on the 17th of

May at the NSU campus to recruit for the Muskogee Clinic. They have planned a job fair in the Stilwell area in June to recruit for approximately 350 jobs for CNE and an additional fair in August. She announced they have staff coming on board to help with the summer activities. Nettie Dethridge has been working with the Northern areas to help with employee placement in the area casinos. They will work with CNE to attempt to do more recruitment and to provide incentives for people to stay in the jobs.

Council member Yargee inquired about child care for employees at CNE. She expressed concern for people not taking jobs at the casino due to the hours not being compatible with daycares. She stated it would be a prime opportunity to teach the young children attending the daycare the Cherokee language. Ms. Kelley stated these are excellent points and she would follow up. She stated they are expanding the child care training certification program. Mr. Todd Enlow stated some of the questions were raised at the quarterly employee meetings. They are doing a feasibility study to determine the real need at CNE, CNI, CNB, and CN.

Ms. Kelley stated they have been invited to assist in the recruitment of jobs for a group in the Mayes County Industrial Park. She stated she had been requested to bring forward discussion regarding reporting and what needs to be reported in what committees. She provided an example of CNI and CNE providing reports not only to Full Council but also to several committees. Councilman Martin stated he doesn't agree with a person having to provide the same report to several committees. He suggested the committee selecting one committee for a report to be provided. Chair Conner inquired if he is suggesting they only report to executive and finance committee. Councilman Martin made a motion to have CNE and CNI TERO reports removed from the employment committee reports. Council member Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Council member Yargee voiced concern for getting answers to questions. Mr. Collins stated it isn't about not wanting to provide a report. CNI is not the owner of the budget. All of the information is provided to the owners, they are keeping up with the information. They are being held accountable for something that should be on someone else. Ms. Kelley inquired if the motion is to send TERO reports to executive and finance. She stated the financial information regarding projects should be given in executive and finance committee but if there are certain questions regarding TERO those should be asked here. Mr. Enlow provided clarification as follows. The concern is that CNI and Construction management has to report to executive and finance as far as the bottom line and the reported resources as far as construction projects. They are basically reporting the same information to 3 committees. They should report as a business entity of how they are doing to executive and finance, how they are performing with TERO utilization to employment, and then during the resource committee the owners should report the status of the contracts and construction projects. Councilman Martin requested Mr. Slaton provide his opinion. Mr. Slaton stated he lives in Tahlequah therefore there isn't an inconvenience for him to appear. He wanted to ensure the information wanted to be reported is being delivered. Chair Conner suggested keeping the report content narrowed down to only what pertains to TERO. Council member Cowan Watts withdrew her second. Councilman Martin withdrew his motion.

2. Commerce

Anna Knight

Ms. Anna Knight announced the SEED kickoff at Sequoyah High School was a success. She announced they have been asked by First Nations Development Institute to help organize a state wide Native American IDA coalition in the next year. They will be taking an IDA graduate to a conference in Denver next month. She announced the Cherokee Nation IDA program is a National model Indian program. They are working to try to develop a workplace financial education program to implement at the Cherokee Nation as

a part of a healthy workforce planning committee. Data supports financial education in the workforce increases productivity. She stated there are 106 families participating in the self sufficiency program. She stated they are going to begin working with the families in Title VI delinquency. All of the counseling positions are filled. There are 7 pending business loans in varying stages. There are 2 IRP's going to loan committee this month. There are 2 micro enterprise moving forward this month and 2 for March. They will be submitting a revised plan to HUD. They will provide a schedule of the traditional games once it is developed. The California games will be held in Bakersfield on March 25th and in San Diego on the 25th of March. The theme for the Holiday this year is "Common Values Common Ground".

Ms Alice Smith provided a TERO report for the one stop center.

Council member Yargee suggested addressing new business item 2 at this time.

A Resolution Authorizing Commerce Staff to Develop and Submit a Loan Application to USDA to Replenish Loan Funds Available for Small Businesses

Councilman Anglen moved for the approval of the Resolution. Council member Yargee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. CNE T.E.R.O.

Shawn Slaton

Mr. Shawn Slaton provided a handout of the current projects. He stated the parking garage footing is on unstable soil. The Roland travel plaza should be open by the first of May. He stated they have one more pay out pending at the Tahlequah casino project. The West Siloam project is moving along rapidly. Councilman Anglen inquired about the Ramona property. Mr. Slaton stated it is in negotiation.

4. CNI T.E.R.O.

Bryan Collins

Mr. Bryan Collins provided a copy of the CNI TERO report. He stated there isn't much change from the report provided last month.

Old Business

1. AN ACT REPEALING AND SUPERSEDING CHEROKEE NATION LAW REGARDING LABOR AND THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Discussion)

Council member Cowan Watts made a motion to table to next month. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

A Resolution Authorizing Commerce Staff to Develop and Submit a Loan Application to USDA to Replenish Loan Funds Available for Small Businesses

Taken care of in reports.

Announcements

Council member Cowan Watts made a motion for the March committee meeting to be held at the same time on Thursday the 15th instead of the regular date of March 13th. Councilman Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Councilman Crittenden made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried at 11:03 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Ed Bighorse</i>	<i>Diane Kelley</i>	<i>Darren Buzzard</i>
<i>Larry Ketcher</i>	<i>Anna Knight</i>	<i>Ben Phillips</i>
<i>Mike Weaver</i>	<i>Todd Enlow</i>	<i>Alice Smith</i>

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Bryan Collins</i>	<i>Shawn Slaton</i>
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APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION:

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____