



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Community Services Committee

Monday, November 10, 2008

1:00 PM

Head Start Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Bill John Baker gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Chuck Hoskin Jr. is present but doesn't serve on this committee.

Present 16 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr.; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Jack Baker made a motion to approve the October 14th regular session minutes. Councilor Frailey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norman Merriman

Ms. Merriman announced Mr. Jerry Snell is providing a handout for the LIHEAP program and will be giving an update on the program. Mr. Snell announced we received a major increase in funding for the LIHEAP program from \$600,000 to \$2ml. He announced they changed the guidelines from poverty plus 10 to plus 50 which will allow them to serve a lot more individuals than they have been able to in the past. He stated they also increased the payment matrix by 50% of what it was last year. They will begin taking applications for everyone on December 1st and send out first payments the last week of December. They hope to give out supplemental payments to the elderly and disabled in January. Mr. Snell announced they made the propane purchase with the money the Council appropriated in August. He stated propane is cheaper now than it was in August. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired about changes to the burial program. Mr. Snell stated they have drafted a new burial contract and it has been approved by the Administration and has been forwarded to the Attorney General's office for their review. He stated the changes include a contract with the funeral homes of \$3,000 which includes going back to the traditional wood and cloth covered casket. There is a clause included to allow outside family members with resources to upgrade the service up to \$1,500.

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Mr. Soap announced they continue to work with RWD#8 at Briggs to get matching funds for a grant to repair their waterline.

3. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. Southerland stated at this time it doesn't look as though there will be an opportunity to get an additional FEMA trailers. He stated at this time they have only received 3 of the 12 awarded. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired as to what was going to be done for the families whose home was destroyed when approved for a FEMA trailer but haven't received the trailer. Mr. Sotuherland stated he plans to get with the staff and determine what to do. He stated he would provide a follow up. He provided information for 3 upcoming events from December to May.

Councilor Cowan Watts made a motion to amend the agenda to consider a resolution honoring Sheriff Jerry Prather who is retiring. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

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
Sponsors: Councilor Harley Buzzard
Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
2. A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Sponsors: Councilor Harley Buzzard
Chair Buzzard announced the housing work group has been a great experience and gave appreciation to Marvin Jones for attending and providing information. Mr. Marvin Jones gave appreciation for be able to participate in the work group and stated they were extremely beneficial. He stated the 2007 plan is essentially a reallocation of money for activities contained within the plan itself. He stated it would be revised again when the 2008 books close out.
Councilor Garvin made a motion for approval. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Sponsors: Councilor Harley Buzzard
Mr. Jones stated the 2008 IHP has more specific changes. He stated we have

essentially just began spending the funds. There is \$3ml in Title VI receipts that hasn't been expended which will be added to the IHP. Approximately \$300,00 will be repaid to HUD, \$2.2ml will be set aside to purchase foreclosed homes on the market, and the remaining \$500,000 will be used for improvements to the low rent project roads.

Councilor Cowan Watts made a motion to approve. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Sponsors: Councilor Harley Buzzard

Mr. Jones stated the FY 2009 IHP funds are not yet available and all numbers are based on estimated numbers. The estimated amounts from HUD are an approximate \$30ml. If compared to the three previous plans there are no major differences.

Councilor Anglen made a motion to approve. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Buzzard suggested keeping the work group going. Mr. Jones stated the deadlines are changing and agreed maintaining the work group would be a good idea. Chair Buzzard suggested scheduling a work group meeting sometime in January once all of the holidays are over.

5. A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SHERIFF JERRY PRATHER OF ROGERS COUNTY AS A CHEROKEE CITIZEN OF HONOR AND DISTINCTION

Sponsors: Councilor Cara Cowan Watts

Councilor Cowan Watts announced Sheriff Prather's retirement party is on the 5th of December and appreciated the consideration of this resolution to honor him.

Councilor Cowan Watts moved for the approval. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Jack Baker moved to adjourn at 1:52 p.m. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Charlie Soap</i>	<i>Doug Evans</i>	<i>Dr. Neil Morton</i>
<i>David Southerland</i>	<i>Jerry Snell</i>	<i>Norma Merriman</i>
<i>Melanie Knight</i>	<i>Chad Smith</i>	<i>Verna Thompson</i>
<i>Robbi Girdner</i>	<i>Gayle Miller</i>	<i>Gregg Simmons</i>
<i>Shay Smith</i>		

VISITORS PRESENT:

Charles Dry *Raymond Vann*

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: Bradley Cobb

Minutes attested and concurred by: [Signature]

Date: 12-15-08