



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes Community Services Committee

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

9:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Bill John Baker gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 12 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell and Chris Soap

Absent 1 - Jodie Fishinghawk

Late Arrival 3 - Janelle Fullbright; Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the March 16th special session and the March 17th regular session minutes. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norman Merriman

Mr. Jerry Snell offered to answer questions from the written report submitted. Chair Buzzard inquired who the contractor is on the Jay renovation site. Mr. Snell responded they are serving as the general contractor and will end up with three or four different contracts. Lin Dan Construction from Stilwell will be doing the drop ceilings. There are bids out for the painting and the flooring. They have contract with a company in Grove for general maintenance. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired as to the status of the air conditioner and heat stove program. Mr. Snell stated with the supplemental funds received from DHHS they haven't had to use the funds the tribe appropriated. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired about the food situation at Wisdom Keepers. Mr. Snell stated we have a nutrition program on site and are in the process of hiring a cook. In the interim they have provided frozen and ready to eat meals. He stated on of the boxes of food had some out dated food and they are now in the process of going through each box to check dates.

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Mr. Soap provided a handout with information pertaining to the community work projects. Chair Buzzard gave appreciation for the additional information. Councilor Snell inquired as to the start date of the Leach waterline. Mr. Soap stated the project is still in the works but will hopefully begin in late fall.

3. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. Southerland provided a schedule for new income limits for NAHASDA funding. The MAP foreclosures are included on the report this month. He inquired if any additional information was requested for the report. He stated an environmental review must be performed before purchasing one of the homes in foreclosure. Councilor Bill John Baker spoke of a situation where a foreclosure participant who had a high interest rate. Due to the stimulus funding the mortgage company has told the participant if \$1,600 is paid they would lower the interest rate to 4.25% and remain in the home. He stated the participant is capable of getting \$800 but can't raise the entire amount. Councilor Bill John Baker suggested they look into these types of situations to see if it would benefit us to spend the little amount of money to get them out of foreclosure and keep our Cherokee families in their homes. Mr. Southerland stated he hasn't heard of the situation but would agree it would be something to look into. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired about the policy on the Mortgage Assistance Program interest rates. She inquired as to why they are requesting fixed rates. She asked if there would be a problem if a policy change was suggested to review each application on case by case situation and not require a fixed mortgage. Ms. Knight stated the reason for the fixed rate is that a lot of the mortgage problems are caused by adjustable rate mortgages. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated there should be some flexibility given within the program for the people who have no credit and aren't able to obtain a fixed rate mortgage. She requested a review of the policy be on the agenda next month. Ms. Knight stated they have programs available to help families obtain a fixed rate loan through counseling. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated the reports provided show a goal to reach 350 families with MAP this year. At the end of six months the reports show only 70 MAP loans have been given. Ms. Knight responded there may be some confusion on the report. She stated six months into the fiscal year they have given out 233 MAP loans. The 70 referred to should be the people who have gone through self-sufficiency or received some type of counseling. She stated she would look at the report. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated she would like to work with Ms. Knight on the policy changes and stated she has asked Mr. Todd Hembree the Council Attorney to write legislation to this effect. Chair Buzzard requested more updated information at the Executive and Finance Committee where Ms. Knight normally reports. Ms. Knight provided a handout of mortgage delinquencies per county in the State. An invitation was extended to Ms. Knight to attend the housing work group sessions. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated due to the economy they need to be more flexible. Councilor Cowan Watts voiced concern for changes in the MAP policies. She stated she has witnessed the program fundamentally changing the lives of participants by investing in them by teaching them how to repair their credit. Councilor Cobb agreed that the policies should be reviewed from time to time. He stated he wants to make sure that Commerce and Housing in a situation where they are playing in the same arena as a bank. He stressed it is important that we are investing in these families future and not just trying to get them in a house. Councilor Glory-Jordan replied Councilor Cobb and Cowan Watts are very well taken she stated one of the reasons Oklahoma has one of the most solid banking industries in the Country right now is than none of the local banks will make a fixed rate mortgage.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR YOUTH SHELTER SERVICES TO THE U.S. FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU, RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAM

Sponsors: Councilor Harley Buzzard

Ms. Linda Vann announced this is a resolution for the continued funding of the John A. Ketcher youth shelter. The total project cost is \$70,000 with a 10% cash match.

Councilor Jack D. Baker made a motion for approval. Councilor Glory-Jordan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Jack D. Baker made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried at 9:50 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Jerry Snell
Charlie Soap*

*David Southerland
Linda Vann*

*Billy Hix
Anna Knight*

VISITORS PRESENT:

None present.

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____