



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

## Meeting Minutes Community Services Committee

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Tuesday, March 11, 2008

9:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order.

### INVOCATION

Councilor Soap gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 15 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates

**Absent** 1 - Tina Glory Jordan

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7th special session. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilor Garvin made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12th regular session. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norman Merriman

**Attachments:** [Hum Serv Report March 08.pdf](#)

*Ms. Norma Merriman stated her written report had been provided and would answer any questions. She announced the USDA Regional Director's meeting will be held April 22 and 23 in Dallas. They are meeting with the Okay nutrition site director this week regarding the status and to discuss the Title VI regulations. She announced Marble City has been approved for nutritional site assistance. The site for Washington County is in process. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired as to the status of a community getting a nutrition site. Ms. Merriman stated they need to contact Lisa James as soon as possible so that she can inform the group of the requirements for the nutrition site. Chair Buzzard inquired about charges for non Indian's eating. Mr. Jerry Snell stated there is an overall meal charge of \$3.00 for everyone who is non Indian or under the age of 50. Title VI has a current policy that 51% of the individuals utilizing the nutrition site must be tribal members. Ms. Merriman stated it does cause problems when there are non eligible's not paying.*

## 2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

**Attachments:** [Comm Serv Group Mar 08](#)

*Mr. Charlie Soap submitted his written reports. He provided an update on the water line issue at Oaks by stating both equipment and manpower will be on site today. Mr. Soap announced the main Tailholt water line is finished. Over the past year they have completed the Tailholt, Drycreek, and Ballew waterlines.*

## 3. Housing Services - David Southerland

**Attachments:** [HACN report Mar 08](#)

*Mr. David Southerland provided a handout of previously requested information regarding mortgage assistance. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired about the NAHASDA Act stating the County would be given \$150 per home in lieu of taxes. Mr. Southerland stated it also states there would be cooperation agreements with each county in which they have. He stated if there isn't a coop agreement you could request the \$150 per unit however they do have agreements in place and follow the negotiated terms. Councilor Fishinghawk stated it is her understanding the County Commissioners are going to be asking for the \$150. She requested either Mr. Southerland or the Housing board write a letter to the commissioners explaining why they can not get the \$150 per home. Mr. Southerland suggested keeping in mind that if the County receives the \$150 per home the homeowner's payment will probably double. Councilor Fullbright inquired if there is funding available for the Cherokee Nation to give \$25,000 in Mortgage Assistance like the Choctaws. Mr. Southerland stated last fiscal year they did 311 at \$15,000. He stated the program is doing extremely well and additional funds would need to be located to raise it to \$25,000. He stated they are actually doing more mortgage assistance homes per year than required by HUD. Councilor Crittenden requested to be included in the letter to the commissioners. He further requested a breakdown by county or district of the coop agreements. Mr. Southerland stated Mayes and Delaware counties are \$35.00 per unit and everywhere else is \$14.40 per unit a year. Councilor Fishinghawk requested a matrix prepared on the IHPs of each year and the funds put into each program as well as the amount spent each year. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired if the schools get impact aide. Mr. Southerland stated the schools do get impact aide to make of the difference.*

## OLD BUSINESS

## LIHEAP PROGRAM (continued discussion and possible action)

*Mr. Jerry Snell provided a handout of information regarding the number of participants by area. He pointed out that to date they have served 598 clients with propane with approximately 500 of those being elderly or disabled. If the summer propane program is approved we would be serving approximately 500 elderly and disabled. He stated through research they have discovered the average propane price in July of 2007 was \$1.67 per gallon and in January the average price was \$2.30 per gallon. If the prices are close to the same this summer the proposed \$200,000 would supply an approximate 250 gallons to each elderly and disabled client.*

**Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to move \$200,000 to executive and Finance a supplemental appropriation to LIHEAP to serve the 500 elderly and disabled with summer propane. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion.**

Motion carried. Mr. Snell stated the \$200,000 would be used for leveraging. The Federal Government states for ever non federal dollar put into the LIHEAP program to supplement we get a portion back. The \$500,000 supplemented a couple of years ago provided enough leveraging funds to have a summer cooling program. Councilor Bill John Baker suggested tribally funding a program to assist the applicants who are \$6.00 or \$7.00 over the income limit for LIHEAP. Mr. Snell stated he would work up some numbers.

#### NEW BUSINESS

*None*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*None*

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilor Cowan Watts to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion at 9:58 a.m. Motion carried.

#### STAFF PRESENT:

*Charlie Soap  
Jerry Snell*

*Shay Smith  
Norma Merriman*

*David Southerland  
Ginger Brown*

#### VISITORS PRESENT:

*Ed McLemore*

#### APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

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

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

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