



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Council House
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Harley Buzzard, Chair

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain
Phone: 1-800-995-9465,
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Tuesday, April 13, 2010

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Soap gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 12 - Bill John Baker; Buel Anglen; Cara Cowan Watts; Chris Soap; Curtis Snell; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Janelle Fullbright; Julia Coates and Tina Glory Jordan

Absent 2 - Bradley Cobb and Jodie FISHINGHAWK

Late Arrival 2 - Meredith Frailey and S. Joe Crittenden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Jack D. Baker made a motion to approve the March 16th regular session minutes. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norma Merriman

Ms. Merriman announced they are in the process of having a new drive in cooler constructed at the food distribution warehouse. They will also begin renovations at the food distribution sights in Sallisaw and Stilwell. She stated once the mod package from the March Council meeting is signed off on they will bid out for the Nowata food distribution sight. This sight will begin with two days and will eliminate the tailgate sight.

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Ms. Ashley Canoe offered to answer questions from the written report provided. She announced the Veterans Appreciation dinner will be held on April 17th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Sequoyah's The Place Where They Play. Chair Buzzard inquired about a projected date to bid additional Self-Help housing building packages. He requested the information be emailed to Shelli or the Council.

3. Roads & Transportation - Michael Lynn

Mr. Barry Hood offered to answer questions from the Roads report provided.

4. Public Comments: Road Issues - Michael Lynn

5. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. Southerland read into the record the disclosures for the month. He reported the board meeting had been changed to this Friday at noon. He will be out of the office all next week at an Ameron board meeting. He stated he would still be available by cell phone and email. Councilor Glory-Jordan announced the advisory board members will not be able to attend the board meeting this Friday due to the Joint Council meeting with the Eastern Band of Cherokees in Catoosa. Mr. Southerland commented the board agenda is very light.

6. Commerce Housing Report - Anna Knight

Ms. Knight offered to answer any questions from her report.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES TO THE U.S. DHHS, FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES PROGRAM, FOR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Councilor Jack D. Baker moved to approve. Councilor Coates seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR YOUTH SHELTER SERVICES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES TO THE U.S. FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU, RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAM

Ms. Merriman announced this resolution has a \$7,000 match requirement.

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to approve. Councilor Jack D. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. A RESOLUTION OF CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR A RURAL TRANSIT PROGRAM

Councilor Soap moved to approve. Councilor Jack D. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2010 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Councilor Snell moved to approve. Councilor Soap seconded the motion. Councilor Bill John Baker commented less than 6% is going toward building homes and buying almost this much in raw land. We currently have approximately 1,000 acres for housing. He stated he would be unable to support this Indian Housing Plan. Councilor Glory-Jordan commented on the favorable ruling on law enforcement. She requested the Marshal Service reports from this point forward incorporate monthly logs of law enforcement activities related to NAHASDA assisted housing units showing how approximately \$100,000 is spent per month on the approximate 900 homes we have. She further inquired why it has to be either Mortgage Assistance or building houses. Why can't we have a complement of programs to provide housing for our lowest income families and the upper income families. She stated we have abandoned the lower income families and it is unacceptable. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated she would also not be able to support. Chair Buzzard echoed the concern for the Marshal Service reporting. Councilor Thornton stated he may not be able to support at this time. He inquired of the \$4.4ml how much goes into administration costs. Mr. Marvin Jones comment none of the \$4.4ml goes to administration costs they are included in the housing management services. The MAP management for this plan is \$638,461 plus IDC. Councilor Thornton commented more should go into housing, building homes creates jobs. He voiced concern for giving MAP funds for trailers. Councilor Crittenden suggested a percentage system across the housing programs and agreed with the need for additional self-help homes. Councilor Soap requested information regarding the graph provided by Mr. Jones. With the explanation of the graph Mr. Jones stated the Mortgage Assistance is the people who can qualify for home loans. Counseling services are available for those who don't qualify to decrease debt and raise their credit scores so they can qualify for a home loan. He stated people are excluded from the program if they choose to be excluded. Councilor Fullbright stated we do receive criticism for not building homes but in the past people were put into homes that couldn't maintain them. She stated she does like the Mortgage Assistance Program and the counseling services. She commented she still would like to see the funding amount raised to \$25,000. Councilor Bill John Baker commented he isn't opposed to the MAP program but if the people loose the home the Cherokee Nation looses where in the old system if the people couldn't maintain the Cherokee Nation still maintained the asset. Mr. Jones commented the Marshal Service wording has been provided and is due to HUD. In consideration of this IHP he requested this wording be included. Councilors Snell and Soap accepted. Councilor Jack D. Baker called for the question.

The motion to approve carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 10 - Buel Anglen; Cara Cowan Watts; Chris Soap; Curtis Snell; Don Garvin; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Janelle Fullbright; Julia Coates and Meredith Frailey

Nay: 4 - Bill John Baker; David Thornton Sr. ; S. Joe Crittenden and Tina Glory Jordan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Glory-Jordan requested all of the departments consider providing a booth at 6:00 p.m. at the Hulbert School Auditorium for the Cherokee County community meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cowan Watts made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried at 11:03 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Norma Merriman
Barry Hood
Ashley Canoe*

*Anna Knight
Paula Ragsdale
Jon Overacker*

*David Southerland
Marvin Jones*

VISITORS PRESENT:

Charles Dry