

**RESOURCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

January 22, 2007

4:06 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER / INVOCATION / ROLL CALL:

Chair Martin called the meeting to order. Councilman Johnson gave the invocation. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11th regular session. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Natural Resources:

Ms. Angela Drewes announced Natural Resources has been working under the direction of Todd Enlow in some of the emergency management efforts. One of their key roles has been to clear roadways with chainsaws to allow emergency vehicles, propane trucks, and delivery of food. She read a letter received from a constituent giving appreciation to the Cherokee Nation for their efforts during the storm. She stated the Natural Resource department has miles of down fence to repair in Delaware County. The lessees are responsible for fence repair however with the damage being cause by a natural disaster they will work with them on the repairs. In Delaware County they are in the process of assessing the damage to the pine trees. They are nearing completion on the Yellow Road Company project at Job Corp. There has been a request for an extension of the road at this project. Natural Resources is working on preparing a new brochure. The housing association is holding off at this time on the Spunky Creek site. Natural Resources has provided them with the name of an archeologist. They continue to work with CNE in regard to the wind energy grant on the Chilocco property. They received a biological opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are now conducting the amendment as requested. They have met with the Elm Grove community group regarding a river cane protection and restoration project. She announced at this time they do not have the funds or the manpower to remove timber from individuals yards due to the storm. She stated they have been disappointed with FEMA. David Rabon has put together a saw team. They have requested from FEMA 4 additional 10 fire crews. They were told by FEMA they needed to go through the State. The State said they will not honor the request they are not the correct place for the request to be made. She stated she is unsure if FEMA will reimburse the crew that has been out for their portion. Council member Shotpouch announced there are some church crews from out of state coming in this week to assist in clean up. Councilman Bill John Baker stated he had read in the newspaper that the fire crews will be reimbursed 25% from the city, 25% from the state, and 50% from FEMA. He inquired if we were on the same level as the city. Mr. Todd Enlow stated we are, he spoke to FEMA this morning and the staff will be reimbursed. Councilman Bill John Baker inquired if funds needed to be appropriated to send out additional crews to alleviate the disaster. Mr. Enlow stated he has been frustrated with FEMA saying to go to the State and the State says go to FEMA. He reached the tribal liaison at FEMA and explained the situation, a form was completed, they waited approximately 36 hours, and then requested the status at which time they were told it was being

reviewed by the state. Mr. Enlow expressed his frustration and concern with the State and FEMA and has requested a meeting to discuss how to move forward. Councilman Bill John Baker inquired if there is anticipation to work with FEMA and the State when there isn't a disaster to develop lines of communication so we know where we stand. Mr. Enlow stated they are in the process now. He stated they have a phone call in now stating we will pay the States portion if FEMA will kick in. Mr. Enlow stated in most cases the Cherokee Nation has responded faster than the State and County. Councilman Bill John Baker stated there are electric meters being pulled away from homes. Upon contact to the electric company the homeowners' electric is cut off until repaired. He further stated homeowners without electricity for extended periods of time have lost all food and do not have the funds to replenish all that were lost. He inquired if there are any plans for remedial services to help in these situations. Mr. Enlow reminded everyone that the emergency management crews are made up of part time employees from all areas. Requests are being taken as they come in and distributed to the appropriate department. Councilman Bill John Baker inquired if funds were going to be depleted that were for an entire years services to provide for this disaster or is there a plan to ask for special funds to address this particular situation. Mr. Enlow stated the Chief will be asking for an appropriation on the floor of the Council meeting tonight. Councilman Bill John Baker asked for the amount. Mr. Enlow stated he was unsure they are in the process of determining an amount at this time. Mr. Enlow stated through the process they have developed good community partners through out the areas. Councilman Thornton stated during the last budget hearing he suggested appropriating \$700,000.00 for this type of situation and was told there were already emergency funds set aside. It was brought up at that time because of the recent tornado. It was a good idea then and continues to be a good idea. Councilman Bill John Baker provided a flyer to the Council and visitors and invited them to attend a meeting on the 29th of January at the Tahlequah Community with representatives from the fire department, city, state, concerned citizens and Cherokee Nation to discuss and pull resources to pre-plan and prepare for future disasters in the future.

Real Estate Services:

Ms. Linda Donelson stated Real Estate Services has received and returned 709 phone calls, had 61 individual clients in the office, completed 49 site inspections, and completed 2 probate inventories. They have 7 hunting leases pending with the BIA, 5 agricultural leases have been returned, 20 right of way appraisals, 1 right of way on restricted tract of land, 5 home visits, 8 jurisdictional calls, and responded to 2 quiet title. They are currently working on a quiet title action in Mayes County which will be litigated. The homeowner thought he bought 10 acres, the contract states 1 acre, the house is on a restricted acre of land that is not his. She stated there is another situation in Delaware County where the UKB filled a probate and left out the heirs who happens to be a member of the Cherokee Nation. She announced they are scheduled to attend a NSPE Expedition next week in Houston. She stated they attended 1 will interview, performed 15 county researches, and indexed over 1500 tracts of land.

Roads & Transportation:

Mr. Michael Lynn. He provided the following update of IRR roads:

- Cedar Crest Road and Bridge – they are preparing the right of way information. He stated they will more than likely end up in condemnation proceedings with a landowner.
- Daytown Dry Creek – ready for bid.
- Red Barn Road – 2 of the 6 miles has agbase.
- Fairview Eucler phase II – just getting started

- Honey Hill – still in condemnation hearings.
- Rice Woodard – lack 5-7% of the total right of way parcels
- Saline Creek Bridge – beams are up and are ready to pour the deck
- Kenwood/Jay – 50% complete on the design

Mr. Lynn announced there are not any projects going to Executive and Finance this month. He announced there are 4 staff members working on the IRR inventory update. In the past they have added approximately 300 miles per year this year they look to add approximately 500 miles. The deadline is March 15th therefore he requested to submit the Resolution to Resource committee on March 12th and forward to Full Council that night. Councilman Johnson made a motion to honor Mr. Lynn's request. Council member Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. John Masters inquired about the status of Stan Watie road. Mr. Lynn stated he needed to follow up with the new commissioner.

Facilities:

Mr. David Roberts announced his staff has been working on disaster relief efforts. They are in the process of remodeling the warehouse for Human Resources and they have been hauling water for emergency management. They are working on the handicapped accessibility, new lighting, and hanging art work at the complex.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **A Resolution Authorizing the Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Programs to Submit a Formal Grant Application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Related to Methamphetamine Contaminated Brownfield Sites in Indian Country Grant.** Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve both resolution 1 and 2. Council member Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **A Resolution Authorizing the Environmental Programs Group to Submit an Application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Community Air Toxics Pollution Study.** (See New Business item 1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Martin announced the next regular scheduled meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 12th of February at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried at 5:05 p.m.

APPROVAL/ DISTRIBUTION:

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Comments: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by:  _____

Date: _____