



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Community Services

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

9:00 AM

Head Start Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Councilman Garvin gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; Don Garvin; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell and Chris Soap

Late Arrival 5 - S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Meredith Frailey; Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Cowan Watts made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16th regular session. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department
Norma Merriman

Ms. Norma Merriman provided handouts of their written report. She stated they had the Veteran's Day Parade last month. There have been 1,500 cases moved over from the Chickasaw Nation in Child Enforcement staff cases. The grand opening for Indian Child Welfare building will be in a next few months. The second unit will be opening soon. LIHEAP is going on now and there are more clients with less staff. Some of the staff from Family Assistance has transferred over to ICW. Ms. Merriman requested a little more patience with the staff in regard to response time to questions until they get the staff situation under control. Ms Merriman talked about opening a new child care facility due to limited space at the current facility.

2. Community Services
Charlie Soap

Mr. Charlie Soap gave an update on the self-help housing program. Mr. Soap stated his workers are putting in long days due to drive time to and from the job. Sequoyah County project has started on the walls and getting ready for heating and air to be installed. The sheet rock has been hung. England Hollow in Adair County project has completed the interior walls. When the cement is poured, it will be ready for heating and air conditioning. After the heating and air is installed, they can start on the drywall. Delaware county project hopefully will be ready today. Chelsea is ready for heating and air conditioning. Drycreek has materials on site. They should be ready to go next week.

3. Housing Authority

David Southerland

Mr. Gary Cooper reported they have closed 42 Mortgage Assistance Program Grants. The Assumable Mortgage Program Self Sufficiency Program seems to be successful. Mr. Cooper has stated David has attended a planning session in Oklahoma City for HUD Summit. Another planning session will be held at the Catoosa Casino in April. Mr. Cooper stated they are currently working on getting a new computer program system. Also, the Christmas dinner will be held December 14, 2007. All Council is invited to attend. He gave appreciation to Housing Program and Human Services for assistance.

Councilor Buzzard had a question regarding the status of the Section 8 program. Mr Gary Cooper stated Section 8 vouchers and Section 8 certificates went to a program known as NAHASDA. Under the Clinton administration, the program is called Welfare to Work program. It is now changed back to Section 8 voucher. Mr. Cooper states the state will be administrating the vouchers. Councilor Buzzard asked to be provided with a list of locations of agencies and email to Tribal Council Committee Members.

Councilor Fishinghawk inquired about the percentage of raises of the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation compared to Cherokee Nation. Mr. Cooper stated there was no raise this year.

Councilor Fishinghawk questioned about the employees worried about being laid off. Mr. Cooper stated he hasn't heard of any. Councilor Fishinghawk asked to check into that and get back with her on it. Mr. Cooper stated it was possibly depending on funding being cut. Also, it would affect Community Service Programs and Human Services.

Councilor Soap would like the income guidelines schedule for the rental unit. Mr. Cooper states it is based on 15% of the income. Councilor Curtis Snell inquired about the status of the sewer problem in the Leach area. Mr. Cooper will check and reply back. Councilor Garvin inquired on the Wheeler Estates in Porum on a couple of units burned. He questioned if they can be repaired. Councilor Snell notes that Oaks has 4 mutual help units that have a court order to be cleaned up in 6 months. He inquired if Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation has any funds to help with this clean up. Mr. Cooper stated he isn't aware of any Housing Authority program with the ability to help with clean up.

4. Emergency Housing/Rehab

Sharon Lay

Mr. Danny Dotson stated there is help for weatherization in getting the materials. The number to contact is (918) 458-7810. The Self Help Rehab Projects for lead base painting has 5 projects completed in Cherokee County. Craig County has one new project started. Delaware County has two new projects. Adair County has six new projects with two completed. Mayes County there is two projects. Muskogee County has one project. Nowata has one new project. Rogers County has three projects. Mc Intosh County 2 new projects. Councilor Soap inquired if inspectors are used on these projects and if a different inspector is assigned to certain areas. Mr. Dotson stated there is one inspector. Also, the materials will be here before Thanksgiving.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Sponsors: Councilor Buzzard

Ms. Merriman stated this is a renewal of a 5 year federal grant. This is for those young people who may not have finished high school, those without family, and those who are having difficulty making it in the world. This grant allows them the ability to help them find a place to live, and teach them life skills. The program is full at this time with 10 participants and 2 full time workers. They have a new office getting ready to open. She announced they are asking for \$150,000.00 grant with a 10% inkind match.

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Bill John Baker announced the books and candles before you are donations to the Headstart and the staff would be like to present these to the committee as a gift from them.

Councilman Garvin reminded everyone to be thinking about someone to recommend to the compensation committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilor Cowan Watts to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried at 9:55 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Norma Merriman</i>	<i>Darlene Foreman</i>	<i>Verna Thompson</i>
<i>Ginger Brown</i>	<i>Charlie Soap</i>	<i>Danny Dotson</i>

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Gary Cooper</i>	<i>Jim Ketcher</i>
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APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____