



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, August 17, 2010

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Councilor Cobb gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 13 - Bill John Baker; Bradley Cobb; Buel Anglen; Curtis Snell; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Janelle Fullbright; Jodie Fishinghawk; Julia Coates; S. Joe Crittenden and Tina Glory Jordan

Absent 1 - Cara Cowan Watts

Late Arrival 2 - Chris Soap and Meredith Frailey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Anglen moved to approve the July 13, 2010 regular session minutes.
Councilor Coates seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norma Merriman

Ms. Merriman announced this Friday at 10:00 a.m. is the ground breaking for the new Nowata building funded by ICDGB. The building will house a food distribution center, senior nutrition sight and offices. She gave an approximate number of 5,900 clothing vouchers given out. She talked about the fantastic experience at the Harlem Children's Zone in New York. She inquired if everyone received a copy of the "Whatever It Takes" book and if not to please let her know and copies would be provided. She commented several of the services groups would be moving in that direction. Ms. Merriman announced they have been able to give start up grants through the child care ARRA funds which has provided five additional child care centers. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired if the speakers program had been cut. Ms.

Merriman stated they are out of funding for this program. Councilor Cobb suggested employees change verbiage from "we are out of money" to "the allocated funds for this fiscal year has been expended".

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Mr. Soap reported the housing projects and water lines are all going well. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested consideration be given to change the 75% completion on water and sanitation to 50%. She stated either the families are being delayed to move in or they are moving in without water and sanitation. Mr. Soap stated they would review the requirements. Councilor Snell inquired about the possibility of a waterline at Blackfox Hollow. Mr. Soap stated they would look at it and perform a survey.

3. Roads & Transportation - Michael Lynn

Mr. Lynn reported they have all six of the ARRA funded projects bid out, under construction or near completion. Once all six were under contract they realized they had excess funds available and have added the Honey Hill project. This project is currently being advertised for construction with bids opening next Tuesday. Chair Buzzard voiced concern for the one lane bridge on the road to the Vinita clinic sight. He inquired if there are plans to widen the bridge. Mr. Lynn stated they didn't know about the bridge prior to purchase but have been working on the situation since notification. It is not on inventory but will be placed on the list during the next update. Mr. Lynn reminded everyone of the consultation meetings in Oklahoma City on the 21st of September regarding Question 10.

4. Public Comments: Road Issues - Michael Lynn

5. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. Gary Cooper reported in the absence of Mr. Southerland. He offered to answer questions from the report provided. He announced the Board meeting is scheduled for this Friday at 12:00 noon. He gave the public disclosures for the month. Councilor Garvin inquired if there is a limit to the number of bids a contractor can bid on at one time. Mr. Cooper stated he was unsure and will need to research. He agreed it is becoming an issue. Councilor Glory-Jordan suggested Councilors attend the next Board meeting due to discussion on the agenda regarding raising the exit cost for low rent tenants and the increase in insurance for homeowners. Mr. Cooper provided a handout of information previously requested pertaining to the cost of constructing replacement homes.

6. Commerce Housing Report - Anna Knight

Ms. Knight offered to answer questions from her report. In response to a question from Councilor Hoskin Jr. during Executive & Finance Committee, regarding the number of MAP applicants going for Multi-Disciplinary Review Team for criminal background issues, she stated they have reviewed 47 and have approved 16 of those. Councilor Glory-Jordan voiced concern that this policy also includes pending charges.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION/UPDATE OF THE WATER AND SANITATION POLICIES

Chair Buzzard inquired about the policy changes and requested clarification. The policy was changed to require the homeowner to purchase the parts necessary then we would do the repairs. These changes are now under review. Mr. Soap stated if someone has an issue today they will do what they can to assist them. The changes are currently with the Administration for approval. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if the homeowners would still be required to purchase the parts. Mr. Soap commented he couldn't speak for the Administration that this is the portion of the policy change that is currently under review. Chair Buzzard voiced concern for sulfur wells and not providing assistance to these homeowners. Mr. Soap agreed it is a problem and they have been installing aerators when possible.

2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR A FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Councilor Coates moved to approve. Councilor Soap seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FOR FY2011 FUNDING FOR A LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Councilor Glory-Jordan moved to approve. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Buzzard announced the next meeting is scheduled for September 14th at 10:00 a.m. He provided a handout of the Community Service budget prepared by Mr. Evans for review prior to the budget hearings.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Thornton moved to adjourn. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried at 11:13 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Norma Merriman</i>	<i>Anna Knight</i>	<i>Ashley Canoe</i>
<i>Paula Ragsdale</i>	<i>Gary Cooper</i>	<i>Michael Lynn</i>
<i>Charlie Soap</i>	<i>Charlie Barr</i>	<i>Doug Evans</i>
<i>Melissa Gower</i>		

VISITORS PRESENT:

Tommy Hearn

