



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Complex
17675 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Dick Lay, Chair

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain
Phone: 1-800-995-9465,
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Monday, January 16, 2017

2:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lay called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Buzzard gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 14 - Janees Taylor; Harley Buzzard; Frankie Hargis ; Don Garvin; David Thornton, Sr. ; Jack D. Baker; Joe Byrd; Victoria Vazquez; Dick Lay; Rex Jordan; Shawn Crittenden; Buel Anglen; Bryan Warner and Keith Austin

Absent 2 - Curtis Snell and Wanda Hatfield

Late Arrival 1 - David Walkingstick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Anglen moved to approve the December 12th regular session minutes. Councilor Hargis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Marsha Lamb

Ms. Foreman offered to answer questions from the report provided. She announced they served 193 elders with the Angel Tree within our fourteen counties. LIHEAP closed at the end of December however they will open the Crisis portion of the program very soon. Their Child Care Program was audited by the Department of Human Services. The Cherokee Parents Home Visiting Program will mail out a survey in Craig, Delaware and Nowata Counties. They are going to have a smoothie project with the First Nations Grant they received in Cherokee, Sequoyah and Adair Counties. She gave requirements to participate in the project.

2. Community Services - Ron Qualls

Mr. Michael Lynn reported for Mr. Qualls. He offered to field questions from the report.

4. Roads & Transportation - Michael Lynn

Mr. Lynn gave an update on the road projects including: Honey Hill, Dahlenegah South, Bell School Road, Grace Hudlin-Lost City, Tenkiller South, Kenwood-Jay, Leach Kenwood, and Whitewater Creek Bridge. He reported their survey crew has been working with Cultural Tourism in regard to a project at the Saline Courthouse. Councilor Buzzard inquired about a completion date for the Whitewater Bridge.

5. Public Comments: Road Issues - Michael Lynn

6. Commerce Housing Report - Anna Knight

Ms. Knight gave highlights from pages 2 and 3 of her report. She reported none of the long term counseling participants have filed foreclosure. Councilor Walkingstick inquired if the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace program is part of her department.

7. Indian Child Welfare - Nikki Baker Limore

Ms. Limore commented their report pretty much stays the same. She provided highlights on a recent management and supervisor training for social workers. She commented on the partnership grant with NSU which is to learn to better serve our communities. She announced she would like to highlight the different areas of the grant over the next several meetings. Councilor Buzzard requested clarification on the Tribal Court Advocacy and Permanency Services Program. Councilor Taylor requested information on the Oklahoma Legislator who is pushing to go back to federal ICWA standards instead of maintaining the standards that recently went into effect.

3. Housing Services - Gary Cooper

Mr. Cooper announced the Rehab Construction offices have completely moved now to their new location. He provided an update on the Negotiated Rules Making Sessions for NAHASDA. Councilor Crittenden inquired about the waiting list for Rental Assistance. He also inquired about the number of plumbers on staff. Councilor Crittenden inquired about the process for an employee who resigns their position then wants to retain their position. Additional discussion was held pertaining to plumbing issues. Councilor Thornton suggested re-creating the emergency housing subcommittee to deal with a lot of these issues. Chair Lay requested the Community Service committee be extended to an hour and a half to allow additional time for the housing issues. Councilor Byrd requested the emergency application be reviewed and possibly revised to make a shorter application. Councilor Hargis commented our Water and Sanitation Department also has plumbers.

OLD BUSINESS

1. [TMP-345](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: THE COAT AND CLOTHING PROGRAM

Councilor Walkingstick stated Stage Stores is currently getting all of the business for this program. The issue is there aren't Stage Stores convenient to all program participants. He requested our Human Service Department do a feasibility study of other options including the possibility of a money card with a clothing only restriction or Wal-Mart. Ms. Barbara Foreman from Human Services gave an overview of the feasibility study results. Councilor Taylor commended Angela Crow for her efforts on compiling the study. She also commented on the efforts and incentives the Stage Stores offer. Councilor Buzzard suggested giving the participants an option of two choices. Councilor Warner inquired about fees for the convenience cards and how that would reflect on the participants. Ms. Foreman commented they need direction on what the Council prefers. She stated the program starts in July which is fast approaching and would prefer any changes to be for the next fiscal year to allow time to adjust. Councilor Austin suggested offering additional funds for those who have to travel more than a set number of miles. Councilor Walkingstick inquired about an online process and mailing out the cards or vouchers to reduce the amount of staff time required. Councilor Vazquez inquired about a timeline as to when they would need to know if changes to the program were requested. Councilor Walkingstick stated he would poll the Council to inquire about their preferred option and bring that information back next month.

Councilor Walkingstick moved to table. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [17-001](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA) TO REVISE AND UPDATE THE CHEROKEE NATION'S INVENTORY OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Councilor Jordan moved to approve. Councilor Hargis seconded the motion. All Councilors present requested to be added as sponsors. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Hargis moved to adjourn. Councilor Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried at 3:38 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Nikki Limore</i>	<i>Barbara Foreman</i>	<i>Willard Mounce</i>
<i>Canaan Duncan</i>	<i>Michael Lynn</i>	<i>Billy Hix</i>
<i>Jami Murphy</i>	<i>Anna Knight</i>	<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>
<i>Tom Elkins</i>	<i>Angela King</i>	

VISITORS PRESENT:

Dianne Barker Harrold
Russell Sain

Teddy Snell
Brian Barlow

Gary Cooper