



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
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Monday, November 22, 2010

1:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Garvin gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Chuck Hoskin Jr. was present but not a member of this committee.

Present 9 - Bill John Baker; Buel Anglen; Chris Soap; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Janelle Fullbright and Jodie Fishinghawk

Absent 4 - Bradley Cobb; Curtis Snell; Meredith Frailey and Tina Glory Jordan

Late Arrival 3 - Cara Cowan Watts; Julia Coates and S. Joe Crittenden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Jack D. Baker moved to approve the October 12th regular session minutes. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilor Soap moved to amend the agenda to include a resolution for the Boys and Girls Clubs. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried as new business item #1.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norma Merriman

Ms. Merriman announced they are full swing into LIHEAP for the elderly and disabled. The Angel Tree kickoff is set for tomorrow at 4:00 in the complex. The application process is complete and no additional applications will be taken. Chair

Buzzard voiced concern for not enough notice being given for the Angel Tree applications. Ms. Merriman commented she would check into the time line given and will try to do better. Chair Buzzard inquired about the increase in the alleged sexual abuse and child abuse cases. Ms. Merriman stated they work with the families as much as they can. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if the juvenile court opportunities would be available in Rogers County as they are in Mayes County. Ms. Merriman stated they aren't able to go to Rogers County at this time. Currently the Tahlequah staff has to assist in the process in Mayes County while they determine what additional staff Mayes County needs for the service. They do not have the staff to assist additional counties at this time. She commented she would be glad to speak with Rogers County. Councilor Cowan Watts commented Rogers County has a child care shortage. She inquired if they are doing any type of outreach for child care certification. Ms. Merriman stated this is an ongoing process and she would review the list and provide the information. Councilor Hoskin Jr. requested an update on the driveway projects. Ms. Merriman stated she had emailed information pertaining to the first request to him this morning. Councilor Hoskin Jr. requested a breakdown of the procedure. Ms. Merriman commented with this being the first project they have experienced problems internally as it is a multiple department project. They are looking for volunteers to assist in these projects. Councilor FISHINGHAWK inquired if we received the Harlem Children's Zone grant. Ms. Merriman stated we didn't get the grant that they didn't want to fund a government they wanted to fund a 501C3. She announced they would try again in the spring as the tribe falls under a category that would take the place of a 501C3. She stated they are moving forward non funded as they do have the resources to move into that direction.

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Mr. Soap offered to answer questions from the written report. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about completion dates for the ARRA projects. Ms. Ashley Canoe announced they have waterlines, roads and the Redbird Fairfield projects that are ARRA projects and all within the deadline timeline. Councilor Hoskin Jr. gave appreciation for the assistance provided at the Nowata event.

3. Roads & Transportation - Michael Lynn

Mr. Lynn offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Cowan Watts requested a simplified flow chart of the process for Roads and talking points. She requested Phillip Manus to be a part of the committee going to NCAI as roads is an ongoing issue. Chair Buzzard requested Mr. Lynn or a representative attend the future NCAI meetings. Mr. Lynn announced of the 6 ARRA projects they have some are complete, some are under way and all of them are under contract. Councilor FISHINGHAWK requested an update on the Pumpkin Hollow project. Mr. Lynn stated the project is under review. They have received approximately 95% of the mail-out form and door to door surveys and are currently reviewing the responses. By looking at the number of surveys returned it is approximately 50% each way in regard to those who want the road and those who don't. The large land owners are the ones who are against the project.

4. Public Comments: Road Issues - Michael Lynn

5. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. Southerland reported on the disclosures for the month. The next board meeting will be held on the 21st of December. During the November board meeting two new Community Shield policies was approved for \$110,000 and \$130,000. Community

meetings were held for low rent housing in Bartlesville and Vinita with Warner and Porum scheduled tomorrow. Councilor Cowan Watts gave appreciation for the Claremore Senior Center event participation. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the low rehab numbers for Tulsa, Rogers and Washington counties. Mr. Southerland stated they will continue to process the applications. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired about the status of the property the City of Nowata transferred to the Cherokee Nation. Mr. Southerland stated he is scheduled to attend a meeting later this week pertaining to the criteria and plans for that property. Chair Buzzard inquired about an item on the board agenda regarding the purchase of foreclosed homes. Mr. Southerland stated they have a program for about one year through NAHASDA but instead of tying up the federal dollars would like to use Housing Authority funds. He stated they have attempted to purchase foreclosed homes but the lenders seem to be just as interested so they have been unsuccessful so far.

6. Commerce Housing Report - Anna Knight

Ms. Knight offered to answer questions from her written report. Councilor Anglen announced the sign at the Collinsville building is down. Ms. Knight stated she would look into it and get it fixed. Chair Buzzard inquired if the clients who stop participating in self-sufficiency counseling are followed up with to determine why they stop. Ms. Knight commented these are people who are in the middle of foreclosure and they don't follow up as it is usually hard to maintain contact with them. Chair Buzzard inquired when the MAP program began. Ms. Knight stated two years ago in May.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF TAHLEQUAH, INC., THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREEN COUNTRY, THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SEQUOYAH COUNTY, THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NOWATA, THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DELAWARE COUNTY AND THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CHELSEA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MENTORING PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK TRIBAL YOUTH AND TO ACCEPT FUNDING ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT THE MENTORING PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK TRIBAL YOUTH

Councilor Soap announced he was bringing forward this resolution at the request of Speaker Frailey. He moved to approve and requested it be forwarded to the Council meeting this evening. He inquired if any additional Council members would like to sponsor. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. All Council members requested to be added as sponsors. Motion to approve and forward to the Council meeting carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cowan Watts moved to adjourn. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried at 1:53 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Norma Merriman
David Southerland
Anna Knight*

*Charlie Soap
Paula Ragsdale*

*Ashley Canoe
Michael Lynn*

VISITORS PRESENT:

Ollie Starr

Todd Hembree