



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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Tuesday, June 15, 2010

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Councilor Snell gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; Buel Anglen; Curtis Snell; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Janelle Fullbright; Jodie Fishinghawk; S. Joe Crittenden and Tina Glory Jordan

Absent 2 - Bradley Cobb and Chris Soap

Late Arrival 3 - Cara Cowan Watts; Julia Coates and Meredith Frailey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the May 11, 2010 regular session minutes. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilor Fishinghawk made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion and possible action regarding funding for Water, Sewer and Handicapped Accessibility. Councilor Fullbright seconded the motion. Motion carried as new business item #6.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norma Merriman

Ms. Merriman offered to answer questions from the written report provided. Chair Buzzard applauded their efforts in child support collection. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired why the school clothing vouchers went from \$125 to \$100 per child. Ms.

Merriman stated they want to cover as many children as possible with the \$500,000 budget. They can cover 4,000 children at \$125 per child and if \$100 per child as in the past it allows for an additional 1,000 children. They will actually be able to serve approximately 5,322 when the reimbursement from State is included. This 10% received back from Stage allows them to serve the additional children and also allows for some administrative expenses. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired as to the number served last year. Mr. Dallas Pettigrew stated 6,338 children were served last year at \$100 per child. Councilor Thornton stated he agrees with the idea of dropping from \$125 to \$100 to serve more but voiced concern for not being able to serve as many this year as were served last year. Mr. Pettigrew stated they believe approximately 15% of those served last year should not have been served due to being over income, lived outside the jurisdictional area or were non public school students. This was a problem due to a lack of training however steps have been made this year to correct the problems from last year. Councilor Thornton voiced concern that the unemployment rate is up higher than last year and anticipate more to apply. Councilor Fishinghawk questioned who changed the amount per child from \$125 to \$100 since it was her motion to raise it to \$125 per child. Ms. Merriman stated it was a programmatic issue and it was basically her decision. Councilor Glory-Jordan agreed with Councilor Thornton in regard to the economy and stated it appears they need to plan to serve 6,000.

Councilor Fishinghawk made a motion to move an agenda item to Executive & Finance Committee to locate \$100,000 for school clothing vouchers. Councilor Glory-Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilor Jack D. Baker opposed.

Ms. Merriman announced they would have a summer cooling program for LIHEAP participants who received the winter assistance only.

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Mr. Soap offered to answer questions from his written report. Chair Buzzard requested a written report on the status of the Bradley waterline and the Ross Acre waterline. He inquired if they still anticipate on making additional family selections in June or July for the self-help building packages. Mr. Soap stated it is an ongoing process. Councilor Snell requested an update on the Leech waterline. Mr. Soap stated the materials are being delivered now.

3. Roads & Transportation - Michael Lynn

Mr. Lynn announced they have received all of the ARRA funding and it is officially considered to be obligated within the Federal Highway system. The last ARRA project, Nicutt South, is anticipated to be bid out within the next week. Chair Buzzard inquired if we were going to receive and re-distributed stimulus funding. Mr. Lynn they are trying to determine the amount of funds to be re-distributed at this time. He stated they have submitted two projects but do not know where they are on the priority list to receive those funds. Chair Buzzard stated NCAI is next week and issues regarding small land based tribes and large land based tribes is going to be discussed. He requested a position paper be drafted and provided to him and other Councilors for talking points.

4. Public Comments: Road Issues - Michael Lynn

5. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. Southerland read the disclosures for the month. He announced the board meeting is scheduled for noon today. He offered to answer questions from his written report.

6. Commerce Housing Report - Anna Knight

Ms. Shay Smith offered to answer questions from the written report provided.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT APPLICATION

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to approve. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2005 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Councilor Cowan Watts moved to approve items 2 through 5 in Toto. Councilor Jack D. Baker seconded the motion.

Councilor Fishinghawk inquired why on the new construction building packages changed from 30 to 20. Mr. Jones stated the change is due to it being the number the program believes they can build in one year. The new construction building package is also often referred to as the self-help housing or the panel houses. Councilor Bill John Baker raised question as to the cost of the packages. Mr. Jones stated they are doing comparisons between what it cost to build including the indirect cost and bidding out the project. Chair Buzzard requested the comparisons be provided to the Council. Councilor Thornton inquired how many Cherokees work in this program. Councilor Fishinghawk requested the original 2005 Indian Housing Plan and the final to compare numbers and projections. Mr. Jones stated there will be a carry over from the 2009 IHP to the 2011 IHP. He also pointed out this doesn't include the Stimulus funds. Of the 2008 IHP approximately \$654,000 is un-earmarked and the use will be changed as discussed during the special meeting held yesterday. Councilor Glory-Jordan commented in the 2005 plan we were to do 20 housing packages at \$96,710 each, the 2006 plan we were to do 17 packages at \$120,000 and in the 2007 plan instead of building packages we are buying 265 sights for \$4.1ml. She inquired if families had been identified for the 265 sights. Mr. Jones stated the idea is to purchase the land so the mortgage assistance families have the option to build a home instead of purchasing a pre-existing home. He stated there are other programs available to be able to use the land purchased. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired how many of the Mortgage Assistance families didn't already have a home or land located. Mr. Jones commented the Commerce Department

conducted a survey discovered a majority of the families liked the option of new construction on tribally owned land. Ms. Shay Smith stated they informally surveyed approximately 200 Mortgage Assistance Self Sufficiency clients who have applied for assistance and are currently working with a credit coach. She stated they were surprised at the number of people who wanted a newly constructed home on land owned by the Cherokee Nation with only a lease hold to the property. Councilor Glory-Jordan voiced concern for when the people after making true mortgage payments were unable to sell their home because they don't own the land it sits on. Councilor Bill John stated mortgage companies and loan programs are going to be extremely reluctant to loan money to build when they are never going to own the land. Mr. Jones stated getting lenders will not be a problem with the Federal government guarantee of 100% if it is defaulted on. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired how many people are in the process of being able to do this now and how soon can this be done. Ms. Smith stated they do not have anyone mortgage ready at this time but have approximately 500 families currently working with credit coaches. It can be six months to two years before some of the families are mortgage ready.

The motion to approve in Toto carried with Councilors Fishinghawk, Glory-Jordan, Crittenden, Snell and Bill John Baker opposed.

3. A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2006 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The motion to approve in Toto carried with Councilors Fishinghawk, Glory-Jordan, Crittenden, Snell and Bill John Baker opposed.

4. A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The motion to approve in Toto carried with Councilors Fishinghawk, Glory-Jordan, Crittenden, Snell and Bill John Baker opposed.

5. A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The motion to approve in Toto carried with Councilors Fishinghawk, Glory-Jordan, Crittenden, Snell and Bill John Baker opposed.

6. WATER, SEWER AND HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY FUNDING REQUEST
(Discussion and Possible Action)

Chair Buzzard suggested due to timing that this item be discussed at a reconvened meeting on the 24th of June at noon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECESS

Councilor Anglen moved to recess until the 24th of June at noon. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RECONVENE

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Snell gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 10 - Bill John Baker; Buel Anglen; Chris Soap; Curtis Snell; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Jodie Fishinghawk; Julia Coates; Meredith Frailey and Tina Glory Jordan

Absent 6 - Bradley Cobb; Cara Cowan Watts; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Janelle Fullbright and S. Joe Crittenden

WATER, SEWER AND HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY FUNDING REQUEST
(Discussion and Possible Action)

Chair Buzzard announced there is a little over \$81,000 remaining in the handicapped accessibility program. Mr. Southerland stated they have families they are processing for these funds but he has the ability to access NAHASDA funds if additional funding is needed. He stated they are okay on this budget. Mr. Doug Evans provided handouts of reports for housing accessibility and the water and sanitation programs.

Chair Buzzard requested an overview of the funding status on the water and sanitation program. Mr. Billy Hix stated the current budget has approximately \$12,000 remaining after all encumbrances. They are currently working on a couple of journal entries that will move \$60,000 into this budget. They are estimating 20 applications between now and the end of the year and have the funding to serve 8 of those applications. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired if there was any opportunity within Community Services to transfer funds.

Chair Buzzard suggested Mr. Hix and Mr. Charlie Soap meet and attempt to locate funds within their department. He inquired if there were objections from the Committee. With no objections heard Councilor Soap moved to do so. Councilor Jack D. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Buzzard gave appreciation to everyone for coming in early.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to adjourn. Councilor Jack D. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried at 12:54 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Norma Merriman
Angela Drewes
Dallas Pettigrew*

*Shay Smith
Marvin Jones
Charlie Soap*

*David Southerland
Paula Ragsdale
Ashley Canoe*

*Michael Lynn
Billy Hix*

Doug Evans

Melissa Gower

VISITORS PRESENT:

Tommy Hearn

Ollie Starr