



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes Community Services Committee

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

9:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Snell 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; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap and Julia Coates

Absent 2 - David Thornton Sr. and Janelle Fullbright

Late Arrival 3 - S. Joe Crittenden; Meredith Frailey and Bradley Cobb

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the June 17th regular session minutes. Councilor Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norman Merriman

Ms. Norma Merriman announced an increase in food distribution services. She suggested everyone keep in mind an alternate resource of Angel Food Ministries. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired how the program is funded. Ms. Merriman stated it is funded through USDA. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired how they adjust to the increase. Mr. Jerry Snell stated the funds received for the program are strictly for administrative purposes. The food is provided by USDA. We order food every month. The average now is 9,200 individuals or 3,700 households monthly.

Councilor Fishinghawk inquired if there is a program to assist with air conditioners. Ms. Merriman stated there is a program but they are out of units at this time. She stated to qualify you must be LIHEAP eligible and must have a doctors statement of need. She stated they can provide fans if needed.

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to move \$2,500 to Executive and Finance Committee to supplement the air conditioning program. Councilor Fishinghawk seconded the motion. Councilor Soap inquired if the units would all be purchased at the same time or on an as needed basis. Mr. Snell stated they will purchase as many as they can at one time to get a better deal. He stated in the past they have purchased 10,000 btu units. Councilor Bill John Baker amended his motion to \$5,000 to purchase the 10,000 btu units. Motion carried.

Ms. Merriman announced they are in the second week of the school clothing voucher program. The vouchers this year are for Stage Department Store. She stated they partnered with the Registration Department this year to assist in verifying tribal citizenship. Councilor Cobb inquired as to Stage's reaction to the process. Ms. Merriman stated they have a meeting scheduled after the event is over. Ms. Merriman stated they will be in Jay today, Tahlequah tomorrow and Stilwell Thursday. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested the number of vouchers given at each site be emailed to Shelli for distribution to the Council.

Chair Buzzard requested an update of the burial program. Ms. Merriman stated they have received notice from almost all of the funeral homes stating they are losing money and asking for \$3,000 for a funeral service. Mr. Jerry Snell stated they are in the process of revising the burial policies now but he is unsure if they will be able to increase the amount. He stated the existing contract with the funeral home is \$2,400 with \$100 for a wake. He stated the new proposed modification will incorporate some tribal funds. He stated before it was just a resources guideline with tribal funds used there will be income guidelines as well.

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Mr. Charlie Soap stated they have a lot of projects moving along. Councilor Cobb inquired about the bilingual signage. Mr. Soap stated the first bilingual sign will go up on Red Barn Road. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired about the status of the self-help housing policy. Mr. Soap stated the Chief is reviewing them now then they will move forward to the Commerce Department.

3. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. David Southerland stated the Chief has requested a special legislative conference to go over the revisions to the rehab policy. The stated the Housing Authority Board meets tonight. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested Mr. Southerland attend the housing work group meetings. Mr. Southerland stated any program receiving NAHASDA funding has been requested by the Administration to attend the meetings. Councilor FISHINGHAWK inquired about the status of the COBRA request. Mr. Southerland stated it is on the board agenda tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

1. WATER NEEDS FOR RURAL WATER DISTRICTS (STATUS UPDATE)

Mr. Soap stated it was his understanding to obtain the engineering reports and determine the real need. Mr. Soap stated one of the major concerns is where are the major leaks. He stated one of the reports suggests some of the valves were improperly installed and they are reviewing this as well. Councilor Bill John Baker stated the Oklahoma Circuit Writer came by with an update stating it would cost more in time and repair than it would for replacement. Chair Buzzard proposed over the next month to review the reports and determine where to begin and the possibility of funds. He requested a breakdown of the funds spent on this rural water district over the last three years. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if assistance had been requested from Stillwater. Mr. Dick DeGeorge stated they have requested assistance from the USDA in Stillwater and they are willing but have requested some in-kind assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHEROKEE NATION CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE STATEWIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD PILOT PROJECT
Councilor Glory-Jordan made a motion for approval. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- 2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Councilor Glory-Jordan made a motion to approve. Councilor Cobb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- 3. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FAMILY ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FOR FY 2009 FUNDING FOR LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)
Councilor Cowan Watts made a motion to approve. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Snell announced he and Councilor Buzzard are going to have a community meeting in Kansas in August. He stated they will provide the details once they become available. He requested the programs participate.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cowan Watts made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

STAFF PRESENT:

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| <i>Norma Merriman</i> | <i>Jerry Snell</i> | <i>David Southerland</i> |
| <i>Shay Smith</i> | <i>Lita Maupin</i> | <i>Charlie Soap</i> |
| <i>Jackie Boston</i> | | |

VISITORS PRESENT:

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| <i>Dick DeGeorge</i> | <i>Jim Ketcher</i> |
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APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____