



# 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, October 12, 2010

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

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

### INVOCATION

Councilor Soap gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 12 - Bill John Baker; Bradley Cobb; Chris Soap; Curtis Snell; David Thornton Sr. ; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Janelle Fullbright; Jodie Fishinghawk; Julia Coates; Meredith Frailey and Tina Glory Jordan

**Absent** 1 - Don Garvin

**Late Arrival** 3 - Buel Anglen; Cara Cowan Watts and S. Joe Crittenden

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to approve the September 14th regular session minutes. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilor Jack D. Baker moved to amend the agenda to include two resolutions for grant applications one for the administration on aging and the other is for a nationwide elder care needs assessment. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Buzzard requested the agenda also be amended to have discussion only about the application process for housing services. Councilor Bill John Baker moved to amend as requested. Councilor Fullbright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norma Merriman

*Mr. Jerry Snell announced item 10 in the reports needed to be corrected to refer to the Crisis Assistance program instead of the LIHEAP program. He reported the LIHEAP program has served 1,566 clients with the regular heating assistance and just over 1,200 elderly and disabled with the cooling assistance program. He reported the elderly and disabled LIHEAP application process will begin in mid November. The application process will open up to all other households on the first of December.*

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

*Mr. Soap offered to answer questions from his report. Councilor Soap inquired if the Community Youth Grant applications were being processed at this time. Mr. Soap stated there are several being processed now. Councilor Soap requested the status be updated on the web as it states they would not accept applications after September 2010. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired how many temporary employees were in the self-help housing program. Mr. Soap stated most of them are employed through the stimulus program and would be temporary although unsure of the exact number. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested consideration be given to offer the meeting the kids who receive the community youth grant must attend to be on a week night. She commented she has received numerous calls of kids being unable to attend the meetings on Saturday morning due to participating in the activities in which they applied for the funds. Councilor FISHINGHAWK commented they attend schools in her area to do the meeting for the kids during school hours. She requested an update on the Fairfield project. Mr. Soap stated it is going again and is on schedule. Councilor FISHINGHAWK inquired if employees in the rehab program were being laid off. Mr. Soap stated they are not laying anyone off.*

3. Roads & Transportation - Michael Lynn

*Mr. Michael Lynn announced in mid September they received notice of additional ARRA funding through the redistribution program. These redistribution funds in the amount of \$2ml will be programmed to the Honey Hill project in Adair County. Mr. Lynn reported they held a public meeting for the Pumpkin Hollow project and received a lot of opposition toward the project. Since the meeting they have prepared a letter which includes a comment section and they have taken it door to door plus a mail out in attempt to obtain written feedback. A community meeting was also held for the Honey Hill project in Adair County. It is out for construction and set to begin on October the 11th with A-Pak Central Construction. Chair Buzzard commented on a resident, Ben Duck, who was instrumental in getting this project considered had passed away about three years ago. Councilor Crittenden suggested signage on the Honey Hill road in memory of Ben Duck. Mr. Lynn provided a handout of information requested last month regarding completed IRR projects throughout the duration of the program. Projects in process are also included on the handout.*

4. Public Comments: Road Issues - Michael Lynn

5. Housing Services - David Southerland

*Mr. Southerland provided the public disclosures for the month. The Board meeting has been rescheduled for this Friday at noon. He offered to answer questions from his written report.*

6. Commerce Housing Report - Anna Knight

*Ms. Shay Smith offered to answer questions from their written report. Councilor Cowan Watts commented there have been issues with follow-up after people apply for small business assistance. Ms. Smith offered to meet with her after the meeting to discuss further. Chair Buzzard inquired about the re-tooling of the MAP program. Ms. Smith commented they recently changed from 2% above market rate to 1% above.*

OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING TITLE VI GRANT, PART 1 AND PART C

**Councilor Jack D. Baker moved to approve. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL PARTICIPATION IN NATION-WIDE ELDER NEEDS ASSESSMENT

**Councilor Jack D. Baker moved to approve. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

3. DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICE PROGRAM

*Councilor Cowan Watts questioned State recognized tribes being grandfathered in to HUD and why we would have to honor them. Mr. Southerland stated there were five State tribes that were grandfathered in when the law changed in 1998 and NAHASDA went into effect. He stated we give preference to Cherokees then any federally recognized tribe. He questioned if we have to treat those five State tribes the same as the federally recognized tribes. He stated he would research an update the application if needed. Councilor Cowan Watts requested a report of findings next month. Councilor Thornton asked if the income questionnaire for rehab was a federal form. Mr. Southerland stated it is part of regulations for NAHASDA to determine income and be able to verify. To make this determination they use the Section 8 income guidelines. Councilor Thornton commented he has been receiving complaints on the twelve page application from applicants who are very low income. Most of the application doesn't apply to the low income applicants. He inquired if portions of the application could be eliminated for certain applicants. Mr. Southerland stated the policy is both our policy and federal government policy. He stated they would review the application and see if there is an alternative. Chair Buzzard suggested standard applications for each program. Mr. Southerland stated HUD has*

*a difficult application process.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Jack D. Baker moved to adjourn. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*Jerry Snell  
Ashley Canoe  
Anna Knight*

*David Southerland  
Michael Lynn*

*Charlie Soap  
Paula Ragsdale*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Charles Dry*