



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

## Meeting Minutes Community Services Committee

---

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

9:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

---

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

### INVOCATION

Councilor Soap 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; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell and Chris Soap

**Late Arrival** 5 - S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Meredith Frailey; Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Anglen made a motion to approve the February 17, 2009 regular session minutes. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norman Merriman

*Ms. Merriman provided an update pertaining to the headstones. She stated Mr. Jerry Snell is having difficulty obtaining information about the headstone with the seal he referred to during the last meeting. He did determine they are \$95.00 each. She brought one of the bricks the Veteran's Office uses for the memorial. These bricks are \$25.00 each with the profit going to the Warriors Memorial. The bricks hold 15 characters per line and up to 3 lines. She stated they would need some type of concrete riser. She thought this is a very reasonable alternative. Councilor Jack D. Baker inquired as to the size of the \$95.00 stones. Councilor Snell stated the ones they have for their family are approximately 14 X 16 and 4in deep. Councilor Bill John Baker stated pavers are available in larger sizes. Ms. Merriman stated she has seen a 12 X 12 for \$39.00. Councilor Snell stated he would bring one of his family stones next month. Councilor Soap gave appreciation for the uplifting stories in the report. Ms. Merriman stated the young man referred to in the report that is going to be a page at the House of Representatives has been in custody since he was 8 years old. He is doing great and they are extremely proud of him and his accomplishments.*

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

*Mr. Soap offered to answer questions from the report. Chair Buzzard requested they keep the water line issues in mind when they receive the stimulus funds. Councilor Snell inquired about the status of the water tower at Terrasita. Mr. Soap stated they*

are looking into it and maybe able to use stimulus funds. Councilor Bill John Baker stated it was designed to serve Oakes as well. Chair Buzzard voiced concern for pipe being along the side of Steeley Hollow road for close to a year. Mr. Soap stated he would check into the status and go get the pipe if it is not going to be used. Councilor Bill John Baker stated they are having a great deal of difficulty crossing McSpadden Falls without doing damage. They almost came to resolution and are now working with the engineers. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated she believes they just bid the project.

3. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. Southerland reported Mr. Marvin Jones received notice yesterday confirming the stimulus amount for NAHASDA. They will receive instructions on how to access in 10 to 15 days. He stated in rehab, emergencies and housing accessibilities they have completed 185 as of the end of February. He announced his new phone number is 453-5348. He stated they are assisting Billy Hix with Gourd Lane and Mankiller Circle. Chair Buzzard inquired as to where the foreclosure is being assigned and the status. Mr. Southerland stated he has submitted a \$2.2ml budget that should be part of the mod package going to Executive and Finance this month. It will be a combination of working with Real Estate. Funds will be included to rehab the home if needed. He stated he will be the main contact for the program. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if people are notified about the Section 184 loans when they are over income for the Cherokee Nation programs. Mr. Southerland stated they are notified about 184 and given a list of lenders. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the status of section 3 funding. Mr. Southerland stated they need to be doing something with Section 3. He has a meeting following this on Section 3, they still do not have a ruling from HUD, they are in the process of getting their policy completed and implemented. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if the funds could be used for training. Mr. Southerland stated they could. Chair Buzzard inquired with the incoming stimulus funds if there are enough Indian owned contractors for the rehabs. Mr. Southerland stated if we can take advantage of all of them.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN INDIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR CHEROKEE ELDER CARE STILWELL  
**Sponsors:** Councilor Harley Buzzard, Councilor S. Joe Crittenden and Councilor Jodie Fishinghawk  
Chair Buzzard requested Councilors Crittenden and Fishinghawk as sponsors. Ms. Merriman stated this is an application for an ICDBG in the amount of \$800,000 to assist with building the PACE facility in Stilwell. In Stilwell they are in desperate need of a child care facility as well. The concept is to be half child care and half PACE and share the commercial kitchen and common area. This would allow both programs to use individually and give interaction time for the children and elders. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if back ground checks would be needed for the elders. Ms. Merriman stated it may be a requirement. Councilor Buzzard inquired as to the cost of the PACE center in Tahlequah. Ms. Merriman replied just over #1ml. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired as to the income guidelines for PACE. Ms. Merriman stated the average PACE person receives both Medicare and Medicaid. However if a person is above poverty level and receives Medicare. Medicare will pay part of the cost and the person would have to pay the Medicaid portion.

**Councilor Garvin made a motion to approve. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

2.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF TWENTY-NINE SONY PLAYSTATION GAMING CONSOLES TO CHEROKEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

**Sponsors:** Councilor Harley Buzzard

*Chair Buzzard stated he spoke to Ricky Gassaway and these are donations from the Jack Brown Center to be given to the community centers. Councilor Jack D. Baker stated this is for distribution within the fourteen counties and discriminates to the community organizations outside of the Cherokee Nation jurisdiction. For these reasons he stated he would be opposing the resolution.*

**Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion for approval. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried with Councilor Jack D. Baker opposed.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*None.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Bill John Baker moved for adjournment. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*Norma Merriman                      David Southerland                      Shay Smith*  
*Charlie Soap*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Charles Dry*

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

**Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator**

**Motion to approve minutes made by: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Minutes attested and concurred by: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_**