



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Employment Committee

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

Call To Order

Chair Conner called the meeting to order.

Invocation

Council member Frailey gave the invocation.

Roll Call

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; S. Joe Crittenden; Phyllis Yargee; Don Garvin; John F. Keener; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Taylor Keen and Jack D. Baker

Late Arrival 1 - Jackie Bob Martin

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the February 13th regular session minutes. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of T.E.R.O. Certifications

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the TERO certifications as submitted. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

1. Career Services/Employment
Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley announced she attended a Mid America meeting in Mayes County where they were requested to assist with a job fair. She stated they will be working with them to help recruit for the Gatorade plant. There were approximately 500 jobs available at the job fair with 17 different booths. Ms. Kelley introduced Darren Buzzard as an intern through Cherokee Nation Enterprises working with the TERO office. He will set up some training for some of the TERO businesses. May 17th in Muskogee at the Northeastern State University Synar Center a job fair will be held for the Muskogee clinic from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. A job fair will be held in June for the West Siloam Springs area and Catoosa in August. Last week they attended the Northeast Economic Summit where they are looking at the infrastructure for the areas to bring all of them together to be able to promote Northeast Oklahoma. She stated Gwen continues to work on getting the job bank up and going. Angela continues to work to complete the listing of the Indian owned business. Ms. Kim Carroll provided a handout on the Summer Youth Employment program. The application will be available on the website as well as in the all of the field locations. She announced they are going to provide a three week window where they will have as many counselors available as possible to take the applications and provide a mini job fair to determine where to place the youth. Council member Cowan Watts

inquired if there had been funds set aside for the slightly over income families. Ms. Kelley stated they have submitted for those funds through SBC. Councilman Gavin inquired about the status of the truck driving school. Ms. Kelley replied she would report on it in the Education committee. She introduced James Ballard as the director for Vocational Rehabilitation. This is vocational rehab month and they are planning a half day workshop on the 29th of March. They provided handouts for the workshop. She announced Waunita Sanders is on FMLA for 12 weeks her husband is undergoing cancer treatment. Kathleen Brown will take over Ms. Sanders responsibilities during the 12 week period.

2. Commerce

Anna Knight

Ms. Anna Knight announced the SEED participants finished their business "Rising Spirits" and netted approximately \$600.00. They closed on the first assumable mortgage loan through the Housing Authority last week in Sallisaw. The Housing Authority administers the program however the participants have to complete a financial education program. Three loans were approved in the Small Business Assistance Center last month. They are working with Blue Cross and Blue Shield to develop and hold health insurance workshops for TERO vendors. The Sequoyah, Adair, and Cherokee County Empowerment Zone Board is updating there community profiles. The Council gave appropriations to help fund the position of a part time executive director for this group. They are looking to invite the southern half of Delaware County to join the group.

Ms Alice Smith handed out of the TERO report for the one stop center and provided a brief update.

3. CNE T.E.R.O.

Shawn Slaton

Mr. Shawn Slaton provided a handout of the current projects. He stated TERO portion of the projects are moving along as planned. He gave appreciation to the TERO office for their assistance and efforts. The issues with the footings of the parking garage have been reviewed and discussed with a third party independent. They are hoping to be pumping gas and diesel at the travel plaza by Memorial Day. All of the site work may not be complete at this time. West Siloam is moving along well. They are in the design phase at Catoosa. They will relocate the south road. He announced ODOT has contacted them and stated they have sketched a right of way for the interchange to be done in the next two to three years.

4. CNI T.E.R.O.

Bryan Collins

Mr. Bryan Collins provided a copy of the CNI TERO report. He stated they will have a complete punch list for Sequoyah in approximately a week and a half. Councilman Bill John Baker stated the entire budget approval was \$8.7ml for the gym. He inquired how \$9.4ml was spent. Mr. Collins stated accounting and internal audit is reviewing all of the pay out and cost. The \$9.4ml reported is based on his knowledge today. The \$9.4ml includes CNI's 10% profit. They have hired an additional accountant to handle this situation on a full time basis. Councilman Keen gave his support for Mr. Collins and gave understanding that the project was inherited. The Muskogee clinic is on track to meet the completion date. The TERO vendors are at 2% due to the size of projects. The Nowata clinic is on budget and should be complete in June. The Sallisaw clinic is also on budget and should be complete in April.

Old Business

- 1. AN ACT REPEALING AND SUPERSEDING CHEROKEE NATION LAW REGARDING LABOR AND THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Discussion)

Chair Conner announced Council Attorney Todd Hembree has made a request for this item to be tabled at this time.

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to table to next month. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Chair Conner announced the next scheduled meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, April 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried at 11:03 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Ed Bighorse</i>	<i>Diane Kelley</i>	<i>Darren Buzzard</i>
<i>Larry Ketcher</i>	<i>Anna Knight</i>	<i>Ben Phillips</i>
<i>Mike Weaver</i>	<i>Alice Smith</i>	<i>Becky Mitchell</i>
<i>Melanie Dodge</i>	<i>Todd Hembree</i>	<i>Kim Carroll</i>
<i>James Ballard</i>		

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Bryan Collins</i>	<i>Shawn Slaton</i>	<i>Jim Ketcher</i>
----------------------	---------------------	--------------------

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION:

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____