

**COMMUNITY SERVICES / TRIBAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

July 17, 2007

2:13 P.M.

STANDING COMMITTEE: Community Services / Tribal Services

COMMITTEE PRESIDED BY: Melvina Shotpouch, Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill John Baker	Don Garvin	S. Joe Crittenden
Buel Anglen	Cara Cowan Watts	Johnny F. Keener
Jack D. Baker	Audra Smoke Conner	Melvina Shotpouch
David Thornton	Taylor Keen	Meredith Frailey
Phyllis Yargee	Linda Hughes O'Leary	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jackie Bob Martin

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT NOT SERVING ON COMMITTEE:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Charlie Soap	Penny Noiseworthy	Darlene Foreman
Ben Phillips	David Pruitt	Michael Lynn
Velva Gifford	Shay Smith	Billy Hix
Sharon Lay	Bryan Cooper	

VISITORS:

David Southerland	Raymond Vann	Marvin Jones
Peggy Farrar		

QUORUM ESTABLISHED: Yes

LEGISLATION: Yes

MINUTES: Attached

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2:13 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER / INVOCATION / ROLL CALL:

Chair Shotpouch called the meeting to order. Councilor Yargee gave the invocation. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilor Conner made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12th regular session. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Human Services:

No one present to report.

Community Services:

Mr. Charlie Soap announced the self help projects in Adair and Sequoyah counties are doing well. They have had trouble with a lot of rain in Delaware county. Community Works Projects are also going well. The Marble City community building is having air conditioning issues. They are attempting to locate the person who installed the system. They are receiving several different stories on the Belfonte community building. They are going to visit the site to examine the site. Councilor Thornton inquired if they are building the panel homes to capacity at this time. He stated the people working on the self help homes are working people who work on the panel homes at night and weekends. Councilor Thornton inquired if the panel homes were discretionary funds. Mr. Soap stated it was NAHASDA funds. Councilor Thornton asked how much funding would be needed to add additional homes. Mr. Soap stated he was unsure but would look into it. Councilor Crittenden inquired if there is a need for an additional plant site. Mr. Soap stated they are reviewing the situation at this time. They will need a larger space and possibly additional equipment.

Mr. Billy Hix announced they began the Drycreek water line project yesterday. The project is approximately 7 miles in Cherokee County. Councilor Thornton inquired if the water and sanitation department has available funds. Mr. Hix stated they have \$150,000.00 in tribal funding approved in Council last night that should carry over until the new fiscal year.

Housing Authority:

Mr. Southerland provided a handout regarding sub standard homes. He announced everyone in Cherokee, Adair, and Wagoner Counties in the Mutual Help or rural rental programs received a letter to mow there lawn. The \$300.00 is an incentive for the homeowner to mow themselves. Councilor Thornton inquired if there are contracts with people to mow. Mr. Southerland stated the only contract he is aware of is in Sallisaw. Councilor Thornton requested a copy of the

contract. Mr. Southerland stated he would get it from Sooner management and forward it. Mr. Southerland gave a review of the handout provided regarding the sub standard homes and stated he would discuss the situation with the board tonight.

Emergency Housing/Rehab:

Ms. Sharon Lay stated they continue to work the 2005 IHP obligated funds. They are processing the 800 applications for the 2006 and 2007 IHP funds. They have completed 85 preliminary assessments. They have completed the disaster relief efforts and are now assisting the Human Services and Health Departments to provide help to the flood victims in Nowata County. They have completed 293 and have 166 in process in the Emergency Housing program. The HIP program has 6 completed projects with 12 under construction. The Housing Accessibility program has 60 applications in process and they have completed 27. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired if the disaster in Nowata County has been affected by the rehabs in Cherokee County. Ms. Lay stated not much what is effecting the rehab is there are only a few cost estimators and inspectors. The workers are being stretched thin with doing both the rehabs and emergencies. Chair Shotpouch asked if there is a number or office to contact for flood victims needing assistance. Ms. Lay announced the lady in the Claremore office travels to Collinsville twice a week. She traveled to South Coffeerville and didn't receive much response. They are receiving phone calls for assistance from the area at this time however most of them are across the jurisdictional line. Chair Shotpouch stated they have waived the jurisdictional requirement in the past to assist during a disaster. Ms. Lay announced they have staff in Hope Arkansas at this time inspecting the FEMA trailers.

Human Services:

Ms. Penny Noiseworthy provided the report in the absence of Norma Merriman. She announced the child support office opened July 9th. The phone number for the Child support office is 453-5444 and is located by the ICW office. A grand opening will be scheduled once all renovations are complete. The family advocates are partnering with Health and Housing Rehab to assist the flood victims. Assistance is being provided through the regular assistance programs as well as the BIA emergency assistance. She provided flyers for the vouchers for school clothing. Council member Cowan Watts inquired if the flyers were being provided to the JOM directors. Ms. Noiseworthy stated she would look in to it and if not would see that they were provided with copies. She announced the vouchers are for \$75.00 at Wal-Mart and gave a list of the guidelines. Last year 1000 children were served this year they have the capacity to serve 2665 with the \$200,000.00 budgeted. So far they have given out 35 in Bartlesville, 74 in Vinita, 62 in Catoosa, and 4 in Jay. The annual Child care conference will be held on August 4th at the NSU ballroom. She announced Dr. Young began at the PACE facility on the 9th of July. The LIHEAP cooling program has sent out 50% of the payments to its 1091 participants. Councilor Conner inquired as to why the vouchers for clothing were dropped to \$75.00. She stated when the funds were set aside it was the intent for each voucher to be in the amount of \$100.00. Ms. Noiseworhty said she would pass along Councilor Conner's concerns.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A Resolution Authorizing the Family Assistance Department to Submit an Application to the United States Department of Health & Human Services for FY 2008 Funding for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Councilor Yargee made a motion to approve. 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 Thornton made a motion to approve. Councilor O'Leary seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Submission of Amendment Number Four to the Fiscal Year 2006 Indian Housing Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Marvin Jones stated this is from the 2006 Indian Housing Plan and that the Indian Housing Plan stays open until all of the money is expended. There are basically 2 changes. The changes we want are to add a model housing project and that would be consistent of warehousing and storage space for the programs that Charlie just mentioned. The building package program and also for the self help new construction programs. Community Services wants to create additional space over in Cherry Tree at the Red Barn and also in Tahlequah. They want to add 15,000 square feet of space in each place to store the building packages and the materials for the structural insulated panels. This requires HUD approval because it is a so called model housing project. The other change is we are going to add to the Indian Housing Plan \$200,000.00 worth of income. That income is the money the Cherokee Nation has invested from the housing funds so that will pay for the \$200,000.00 of warehouse and storage material and that is the only changes to the Indian Housing Plan are those 2 things. Increasing by \$200,000.00 the program income or investment income and then to use that money for the warehouse and storage space. We actually have un allocated program income and investment income of about \$1.3ml that is above and beyond the Indian Housing Plan and that is above and beyond everything that is funded, Sharon's rehab and Human Services and all of the different Housing Authority's funding. And so even if we approve this and spend \$200,000.00 for that we will still have about \$1.1ml in program income to use here in the next few months. In addition to that at the end of the fiscal year we expect to reallocate about \$1.5ml from its current use that won't be used for its original purpose that will essentially become un earmarked and un encumbered so to summarize that it will basically going to mean that there will be \$2.5ml in that area that is going to unallocated that could be used for housing purposes that is attributable to the 2006 Indian housing plan. So as you have suggestions as to what possible uses that could go, before you use tribal funds on those kinds of things remember we have this amount of money and over the next month or two I know the administration is going to be looking at possible uses of that funding and I'm sure if you want to convey any thoughts or uses on that money priorities they, we would be welcome to have those. Councilman Garvin made a motion to approve. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Shotpouch announced she has enjoyed Chairing this committee and wished everyone well.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council member O'Leary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried at 2:45 p.m.

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION:

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: Councilor Buel Anglen

Minutes attested and concurred by: Harley J. Byrd

Date: _____