



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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Monday, December 13, 2010

1:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Chuck Hoskin Jr. was present but doesn't serve on this committee.

Present 10 - Bill John Baker; Bradley Cobb; Buel Anglen; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Harley Buzzard; Janelle Fullbright; Jodie Fishinghawk; Julia Coates and Tina Glory Jordan

Late Arrival 6 - Cara Cowan Watts; Chris Soap; Curtis Snell; Jack D. Baker; Meredith Frailey and S. Joe Crittenden

INVOCATION

Councilor Fullbright gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Thornton made a motion to approve the November 22nd regular session minutes. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norma Merriman

Ms. Merriman offered to answer questions from her report. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired about the availability of rental assistance. Ms. Merriman stated they have applications for rental assistance available and have another program similar to the old 90 day voucher program called the Temporary Assistance Program or TAP. Councilor Fishinghawk asked how many slots were available for each program. Ms. Merriman stated with the funds in those programs have to serve 1,471 families within a year. The housing assistance for college students of \$1,000 per semester is also included in this funding. Councilor Fishinghawk requested the number served for each program is sent to her by email as well as the number of slots for each remaining for the year. She further requested the information be broken down by

priority of elderly, disabled then families with small children. She stated she wants to look at the IHP and the large amount of money being held to purchase land when there are numerous calls needing housing. Chair Buzzard requested the report be sent to the entire committee. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired about the status of the Nowata Nutrition site. Ms. Merriman stated they should break ground at the end of January. Councilor Hoskin inquired about the Big Cabin Senior Nutrition site. Ms. Merriman stated the issue has been with the number of Native Americans served at the location. Councilor Hoskin Jr. stated he is aware when federal funds are used their hands are tied on how the funds can be used but expressed hope of as a tribe moving toward the realization that some people live where there is not a high concentration of Native Americans and they do still need assistance. Ms. Merriman stated the funding is limited and they certainly want it to be used where there is the highest number of Cherokees then Native Americans. Councilor Hoskin announced the Native American Fellowship organization is willing to assist with the driveway project he had referred to by email. Councilor Fullbright inquired about the Evening Shade and Flute Springs nutrition sites in her area receiving a stipend from the tribe. Ms. Merriman stated she would do some research and respond. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired about the food at the donated foods being close to their expiration. Ms. Merriman stated the food is supplied by USDA. She stated she would make contact and see if they can receive with better dates.

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Mr. Soap announced everything is moving along well and offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired about the adult community assistance grant not being tied to any education requirement although the application states it does have the education requirement. Ms. Ragsdale commented the application has been revised and sent out with the education requirement removed. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired if a dependent child away at school would be included in the calculation for household income for self-help housing. Mr. Soap stated students away from the home are typically not counted in the calculations. Councilor Hoskin inquired if this is policy to not count them. Mr. Soap stated it is policy but they can do a review. Chair Buzzard requested a report from water and sanitation showing the total amount of the Ross Acres waterline project, what has been spent and what is left to do. He voiced concern that this waterline may only be serving four Cherokees and that the funds are running short.

3. Roads & Transportation - Michael Lynn

Mr. Lynn provided a handout regarding the transit program and announced the three new transit buses have arrived. Chair Buzzard requested a Northern route to include Jay and Grove going to Tahlequah or West Siloam Springs.

4. Public Comments: Road Issues - Michael Lynn

5. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. Southerland gave the monthly disclosures. He announced the Board meeting on the 21st will be at 11:00 a.m. not noon.

6. Commerce Housing Report - Anna Knight

Ms. Shay Smith offered to answer questions for the Commerce Department.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHEROKEE NATION CHILD CARE PROGRAM TO DONATE SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO CHEROKEE NATION CONTRACTED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS
Councilor Jack D. Baker moved to approve. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Buzzard announced the FY10 NAHASDA performance plan is available. He stated he may be requesting the work group meet soon to discuss the FY11 NAHASDA information.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Garvin moved to adjourn. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried at 1:58 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Norma Merriman
Ashley Canoe
Paula Ragsdale*

*David Southerland
Charlie Soap*

*Shay Smith
Michael Lynn*

VISITORS PRESENT: