



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

## Meeting Minutes

### Community Services/Tribal Services Committee

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Tuesday, June 12, 2007

2:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

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Call To Order

Invocation

**Councilman Jack Baker gave the invocation.**

Roll Call

**Present** 11 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; Jackie Bob Martin; David Thornton Sr. ; Phyllis Yargee; Melvina Shotpouch; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Taylor Keen and Jack D. Baker

**Absent** 2 - Linda Hughes-O'Leary and John F. Keener

**Late Arrival** 2 - S. Joe Crittenden and Don Garvin

Approval of Minutes

**Councilman Anglen made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15th regular session. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Reports

1. Human Services Department  
Norma Merriman

*Ms. Penny Noiseworthy reported in the absence of Norma Merriman. She announced they received additional funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for the LIHEAP program to enable them to have a summer cooling program for the elderly. Each household should receive approximately \$200.00. On June 1st they held the Stand for Children event. She introduced the new director of the Child Support Enforcement Program, Jerry Sweet. Mr. Sweet stated the doors will open on July 9th next to the ICW office. The application process has already begun. The first year will create 26 jobs and increase to 56 in the second year. They will be assisting Cherokee children throughout the 14 counties, establishing and enforcing child support, establishing paternity, work to strengthen families, utilize the tribal courts and tribal codes. They will open the doors with 3000 cases and expect to receive an additional 2000 cases within 6 months. They estimate 8000 to 15,000 cases within 2 years. They anticipate collecting 75% of the cases they receive. Very little of these funds will go back to the state to recoup TANIF benefits. The children will receive 98% of the funds collected. Councilman Bill John Baker inquired how our child support enforcement works when the non custodial parent isn't native American. Mr. Sweet stated the codes allow them to take jurisdiction of the child. He stated they are going to work to strengthen the families by helping the parent find work if they are unemployed.*

2. Community Services

Charlie Soap

*Mr. Charlie Soap announced he was going to give his time to the program directors for an update. Mr. Billy Hix stated the water and sanitation department drilled 9 water wells, installed 11 rural water connections, installed 5 septic systems and 1 aerobic system in the month of May. To date they have been able to serve 124 families with the funds made available by this Council. As of today these funds have been depleted. The Ballew community water line project in Mayes County is approximately 80% complete. The Tailholt community water line project in Cherokee County is approximately 40% complete. The water line project in the Eldon community is being constructed by the water district. The following water line projects will begin before the end of the fiscal year: Drycreek in Cherokee County, Killabrew Williams in Cherokee County. Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to move \$150,000.00 for water and sanitation to Executive and Finance Committee this month. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Webster Corner extension in Mayes County and the storage tank in Lost City will be constructed by the water districts. The environmental health program conducted 24 facility inspections, investigated 9 complaints, handled 3 referrals, and trained 14 food handlers.*

*Mr. Rick Gassaway provided a handout with an update on the Compassion Capitol project. He stated this federally funded program is winding down as of July 31st. They are working toward a no cost extension for 2 months due to the ice storms. The ice storm has placed them behind in several areas. The handout provided a breakdown of the technical assistance provided each year. He stated with time left they have already exceeded the 9000 hours required. They held a leadership workshop at the Raddison Inn with almost 300 in attendance 70 of these being youth. He announced they received 6500 hits on their website last month.*

*Councilman Thornton inquired who was over the community buildings. Mr. Gassaway stated Mr. Don Greenfeather is over the community buildings. Councilman Thornton stated the air conditioning at the Marble City Community Building is in bad shape. Mr. Charlie Soap stated the Cherokee Nation owns the buildings but the community has control. He stated he would look into the situation.*

*Council member Yargee stated the Belfonte community building's roof is leaking really bad and has air conditioning problems. Mr. Soap suggested the community works program.*

4. Emergency Housing/Rehab

Sharon Lay

*Ms. Sharon Lay announced they have committed all of the 2005 funds for the IHP and are now calculating and processing 800 applications for the 2006 funds. She announced they are finishing with the disaster program. They had 536 disaster clients, completed 315 emergency repairs, processing 206 emergency applications, completed 6 HIP applications, processing 14 HIP applications, completed 28 housing accessibility applications, and processing 89 housing accessibility applications. She announced the Housing Authority has given them 10 trucks and 2 vans.*

*Chair Shotpouch requested Ms. Linda Vann present her resolution at this time then allow the Housing Authority report.*

Old Business

*None.*

New Business

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR YOUTH SHELTER SERVICES TO THE U.S. FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU, RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAM

**Ms. Linda Vann announced this is a continuation grant with a 10% cash match. Council member Cowan Watts made a motion to approve. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

3. Housing Authority

David Southerland

*Mr. David Southerland apologized for his late arrival stating he was called away. He requested input from the Council regarding the Mortgage Assistance Program. The program is for a first time home buyer which means they can't have interest in a home over the last 3 years. He announced there are instances where families by these terms wouldn't qualify but are living in sub standard housing. The committee members agreed that these families should be assisted in some way. Mr. Southerland stated he would go to the board for discussion. Mr. Charlie Soap announced they would like to set up a meeting with Sharon Lay and David Southerland to discuss housing issues. Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to form a Resolution concurring sub standards are an exception to the rules of the Mortgage Assistance Program. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Councilman Bill John Baker stated this would not be a resolution that goes through full Council it would be just a recommendation. Mr. Southerland stated he wouldn't present to the board until the presentation is ready. Motion carried with Council member Cowan Watts in opposition.*

*Council member Frailey inquired about the vacant homes at Cherokee Heights. Mr. Southerland stated there isn't a big waiting list and most of the homes are 3 bedrooms. He stated they cannot place a 1 bedroom family in a 3 bedroom home. The homes on the hill they are trying to determine if the houses will be disposed of or placed in rehab.*

Announcements

**Chair Shotpouch announced the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 17th of July.**

Adjournment

**Council member Cowan Watts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried at 2:34 p.m.**

Approval / Distribution

Minutes submitted by: **Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary**

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

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

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

Staff Present

**Charlie Soap  
Ben Phillips  
Velva Gifford  
Sharon Lay**

**Penny Noiseworthy  
Shay Smith  
Linda Vann  
Billy Gassaway**

**Darlene Foreman  
Jerry Sweet  
Billy Hix**

Visitors Present

**David Southerland**

**Charles Dry**

**Steve Earley**