



# Council of Cherokee Nation

## Meeting Minutes

### Community Services/Tribal Services Committee

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Tuesday, January 23, 2007

2:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

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#### Special Session

#### Call To Order

Chair Crittenden called the meeting to order.

#### Invocation

Council member Conner gave the invocation.

#### Roll Call

- Present** 12 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; S. Joe Crittenden; Jackie Bob Martin; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; John F. Keener; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Charles "Chuck" Hoskin; Taylor Keen and Jack D. Baker
- Absent** 4 - Phyllis Yargee; Linda Hughes-O'Leary; Melvina Shotpouch and Meredith Frailey

#### Approval of Minutes

Councilman Garvin made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12th regular session. Council member Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Garvin made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4th special session. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Reports

1. Human Services Department  
Norma Merriman

Ms. Norma Merriman introduced Jerry Sweek as the new director of child support enforcement. In response to Councilman Martin's question regarding adoption she referred the Council to [www.cherokeekids.org](http://www.cherokeekids.org). She stated this site has information regarding Indian child welfare as well as adoption. She announced the Human Services staff worked nights and weekends to provide services during the ice storm. Their primary duties were to provide water and food. People needing to apply for assistance should go to the Human Services office. If they are unable to come in they will make home visits. The eligibility requirements have not changed at this time.

2. Community Services

Charlie Soap

Mr. Charlie Soap provided an update on the ongoing self help housing projects. They continue to go out into the communities to provide information regarding the Compassion Capitol grant. He stated the self help housing has slowed down.

They have completed 10 pads. All of the pads have been built in Chelsea, 3 pads are complete in Stilwell with the fourth complete this week, they are moving equipment in for the Kenwood pads this week. Eucla, Sequoyah county, and Cherokee county are lacking legal work. He announced they have received over 30 applications for the Community Works Program. The committee has reviewed and ranked them. The award letters will go out later this week.

3. Housing Authority

David Southerland

Mr. David Southerland announced rejected the house on the first assumable mortgage program. It has taken longer than anticipated to get the Section 184 documents necessary for HUD's approval. He stated there was an article in the paper in the Northern area regarding a Housing Authority employee. There has been an investigation and his employment has been terminated.

Councilman Garvin requested an update on the Oaks situation discussed last month. Mr. Southerland stated Section 3 is a fair housing program. This program is not administered by the Office of Native American Programs. We do not do fair housing. In 1998 when the NAHASDA regulations came into effect it states we do not have to worry with Section 3 unless the project is over \$200,000.00. Section 3 is for public housing where a preference could be applied. We do provide a Section 3 preference. He stated he doesn't understand how Oaks School is an Indian organization that is TERO certified however they have filed a complaint on the tribe, the housing authority, Stilwell housing authority, Muskogee housing authority and the Creek Nation housing authority.

## Old Business

*None.*

## New Business

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

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve. Councilman Hoskin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## Announcements

## Adjournment

Motion made by Council member Cowan Watts to adjourn the meeting.  
Councilman Keen seconded the motion. Motion carried at 2:48 p.m.