



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Council House
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jack D. Baker, Chair

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain
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Tuesday, November 23, 2010

10:30 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jack D. Baker called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Crittenden gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 14 - Bill John Baker; Bradley Cobb; Buel Anglen; Cara Cowan Watts; Chris Soap; Chuck Hoskin; Don Garvin; Jack D. Baker; Harley Buzzard; Janelle Fullbright; Jodie Fishinghawk; Julia Coates; S. Joe Crittenden and Tina Glory Jordan

Absent 2 - Curtis Snell and David Thornton Sr.

Late Arrival 1 - Meredith Frailey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to approve the October 28th regular session minutes. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Financial Report/Treasurer Report - Callie Catcher

Ms. Catcher apologized for her oversight during the budget hearings regarding LA-05-02 establishing the cash reserve. This Act requires 1.75% of the budget to be set aside in a cash reserve. We are short approximately \$1.7ml. She commented no action needs to be taken today but going forward we would need to look at ways to fund the shortage. She offered to answer questions from her written report. Councilor Fishinghawk questioned what areas the jobs were bid out in that didn't have any TERO vendors referred to in the report. Ms. Catcher stated she would pull the details and respond.

Cherokee Nation Businesses - David Stewart

Mr. Stewart reported CNE is about at the same point as last year on the net income basis. They are up approximately \$6ml from last year at CNB. All of the subsidiaries are doing well and are profitable. The Tahlequah project is now on the front burner to design and get moving. The infrastructure is already within the current Tahlequah casino to become the immersion school. Ramona is in the final stages of design. They are in the process of evaluating the property at Ft. Gibson. The indoor air quality project at Catoosa will replace all of the heat and air in the older sections of the casino. The remodel of casino 3 which is the original building at Catoosa is a complete remodel. The last remodel at Catoosa will be the Sprung structure. Councilor Fullbright inquired if there are any plans to update the Roland casino. Mr. Stewart stated it is in the plans to evaluate. Ms. Gina Olaya announced the hallway from the buffet area to the elevators has been designed to offer an art offering of display cases and interactive learning tools from the period right before the Trail of the Tears. They will also have digital displays that will tell Cherokee stories. They will have the project complete by the end of January at which time they will send out invitations for a small reception. Councilor Frailey inquired to the backlog at CNI in regard to federal contracts. Mr. Stewart stated their focus with CNI has been on the infrastructure and the shared services fully integrated. The second focus was getting the business units aligned so that they are more targeted in the responsibilities of what the people are doing. Thirdly they have evaluated their bidding, costing and sales process. He stated they now have a forecasting tool, good pricing for the bids and a mechanism to attack and be more aggressive and fill the backlog for the future. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired as to when they could anticipate work beginning on the property here in Tahlequah at the junction of Highway 62 and 82. Mr. Stewart stated the process has begun to determine what they will build. It will be at least what is here now but there is a possibility for amenities. Councilor Cowan Watts questioned the drop in the Cherokee employment percentage. She requested a plan be presented at the meeting next month on how to address the issue. Mr. Stewart stated they used the CDIB cards to calculate the percentage and have changed to calculating by blue card. The percentage dropped as a result of a change in practice it is not a declining trend. Councilor Cowan Watts requested additional discussion next month pertaining to Catoosa and the goals for bringing up the revenue. She also requested information regarding growth opportunities for CNI. Councilor Fishinghawk requested Cherokee employment numbers since the beginning of gaming. Mr. Stewart stated they have an acquisition which they are very close on and will notify as soon as possible with additional information. Councilor Buzzard inquired if the road construction had an effect on the numbers at Catoosa. Mr. Stewart stated the road construction significantly affects the customer's willingness to go to that facility. Councilor Crittenden commented there has been a lot of concern at CNI over the past several years and now that they are back to the core businesses they have a fighting chance. He gave appreciation to Mr. Stewart for all of their hard work. Councilor Cobb inquired if they monitor where the players are coming from by use of the Players Cards. Mr. Stewart stated they do monitor them and all casinos are on the same network with the exception of Will Rogers Downs.

Career Services/Employment - Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley handed out the report they provided at the TERO vendor fair. They recognized three pioneer businesses at the fair this year. There may be a machine shop type business coming to the Sallisaw industrial park area that would employ approximately 100 people. She said they continue to work with Schwan's and Facet. They will be placing 6 to 8 of the daily training participants in the Commerce Department where they will train to do silver smiting. She will be visiting with

Community Development to discuss concerns voiced during the last meeting regarding Day Work in Rogers and Nowata Counties. She announced Larry Ketcher will be certifying businesses that employ 50% or more Cherokees employed. They have several appeals going through the appeals process. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired about the Day Work program requiring a GED. Ms. Kelley stated they are requesting anyone without a GED to go through the program because most employers require a diploma or a GED. She stated the ones who test at a 2nd or third grade level actually qualify for Voc-rehab and they will work with some of them there. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired how many Voc-rehab slots will be available. Councilor Fishinghawk stated 50 year old men are not going to want to sit in a classroom to learn to read and write. Ms. Kelley commented they have reviewed the notes from last month and will be meeting to discuss options. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired about the response when the TERO vendors were asked to assist with the Veteran's center while at the vendor fair. Ms. Kelley commented the response was overwhelming. Ms. Kelley stated she would request Dana Espinol to provide a report next month. Councilor Fishinghawk gave appreciation for the chart and information regarding how the TERO businesses have grown. Councilor Buzzard requested the criteria for de-barring contractors and subcontractors. Ms. Kelley stated when the Executive Order was put into place it was requested of each entity and the government to review their policies and procedures. It was recommended at that time to have debarment specifications. She offered to have them for review next month. She stated she is aware of one recommendation for debarment at this time. Ms. Catcher stated they did add a section pertaining to debarment to the procurement policies. Councilor Hoskin Jr. requested policy information pertaining to violations of both federal or tribal employment labor laws and safety laws.

Commerce - Anna Knight

No one was present to report for the Commerce Department.

CONSENT ITEMS:

T.E.R.O. CERTIFICATIONS

Councilor Hoskin Jr. moved to approve. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CEMETERY RESTORATION ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS

Councilor Glory-Jordan moved to approve the amended list. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ROADS

Mr. Evans commented there aren't any roads to approve this month. He did announce a reprogramming in Mayes County by Councilor Soap. He stated the vehicle tax fund revenues should be firm enough next month to enable the calculation of apportionment. The preliminary numbers are showing approximately \$90,000 which is consistent with the levels in the past.

Councilor Cobb moved to approve. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT #29-10 AUTHORIZING THE COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 - MOD 2; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Councilor Garvin inquired about some of the Council members having \$20,000 in motor vehicle tax. Mr. Evans stated every Councilor within the jurisdictional boundaries has the \$20,000 in motor vehicle tax which is the reprogramming of \$300,000 of administration transferred into construction that occurred in the budget hearings. Mr. Evans gave an overview of Mod 2 and stated he found no technical issues.
Councilor Cobb moved to approve by acclamation. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Jack D. Baker announced lunch would be provided for the Council and staff at the Cherokee Heritage Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cowan Watts moved to adjourn. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried at 11:45 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Callie Catcher</i>	<i>Doug Evans</i>	<i>Pat Ragsdale</i>
<i>Jon Overacker</i>	<i>Diane Kelley</i>	

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Shawn Slaton</i>	<i>David Stewart</i>	<i>Gina Olaya</i>
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