



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes Community Services Committee

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

9:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Councilman Bill John Baker gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

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

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; Don Garvin; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell and Chris Soap

Absent 2 - Bradley Cobb and Julia Coates

Late Arrival 3 - S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. and Meredith Frailey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15th regular session. Councilor Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norman Merriman

Attachments: [Hum Serv Report May 08.pdf](#)

Ms. Norma Merriman provided handouts of their written report. She updated on hiring of 2 cooks in Marble City and Tailholt. The hiring date will be next Monday. Ms. Merriman stated the ICW staff took 1st place in the Strawberry Festival. They are currently in transition of the rental assistant program. The new staff hires seem to be dedicated in working hard. Councilor Soap questioned if she's noticed if the referrals are pretty much consistent or an increase due to the economy. Ms. Merriman stated she expects more clients coming in. Also, she's heard of people quitting their jobs, due to increase in gas prices. Councilor Bill John Baker questioned if the department was in transition for the 90 day vouchers. Ms. Merriman stated they are trying to work it out and trying to get a handle on it. They are looking at inspections, but not making any changes in the program. The changes will be coming later. Councilor Bill John Baker questioned where the new hires be housed at. She stated they are housed in the Human Services Department in Tahlequah, Sallisaw, Jay, and Catoosa. Councilor Snell inquired if the clients were able to receive propane this summer. Ms. Merriman stated Jerry Snell is determining if July or August is a better

price to get propane. It's not going to be as difficult to receive the propane because the clients aren't going to have to redo their application. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired about a transit system. She inquired about the program up and going to help clients with gas money. Ms. Merriman stated she believes it would be Charlie Soap's department. Councilor Buzzard stated Charlie's department had \$100,000 set aside to purchase vans with it. Ms. Merriman stated they are looking to do a proposal to SBC to do a Pilot Project to help with transportation. There has been a discussion about larger companies running bus routes. Councilor Glory-Jordan questioned if she ever determined about the Nutrition Program, and if so, did Peggs qualify. Ms. Merriman stated she didn't recall, but will send a follow-up email. Councilor Hoskin inquired if a client has applied for summer propane, if they weren't eligible for the winter. Ms. Merriman stated she would have Jerry look at the program, depending on the cost of propane, how many people apply, and depending on the funds they have available. Ms. Merriman stated she doesn't anticipate doing an overall funding. They will not be doing another application. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired about the clients that applied last year. Councilor Jack Baker inquired about where the checks will be sent. Ms. Merriman stated the checks will be mailed to the vendors.

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Attachments: [Comm Serv Group May 08 \(4\).pdf](#)

Mr. Brian Cooper provided handouts of their written report. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired about the Self-Help Housing, are they waiting to release the funds. Mr. Cooper stated the funding is there, they are waiting on the policy and procedures. They are in the final stages. They should start hearing something soon, and they have started doing evaluations. They will be starting with 10 site evaluations. Councilor Buzzard stated if the policy and procedures aren't out yet, if he could do a follow up where they are hung up at. He questioned about the structural panel on the report. Mr. Cooper stated they had different ideas about the panels being put up a little quicker with different techniques. Councilor Fishinghawk stated CNB is studying the project now.

3. Housing Services - David Southerland

Attachments: [Housing Serv report May 08.pdf](#)

Ms. Mary James handed out their written reports. She stated they are in the middle of transition. Councilor Buzzard requested a quick briefing over the handout. Councilor Hoskins inquired if the Warrant Act does not apply. Ms. James stated they would have to call David. Councilor Buzzard questioned about the \$750,000 for Non-Federal to use. Ms. James stated yes. They pay that premium. The premiums are due by March 1st. Councilor Fishinghawk questioned if they sent the legal opinion from last month. Ms. James stated no. Councilor Fishinghawk stated she would like the legal opinion forwarded to them. Diane Hammons stated she would like a copy. Councilor Buzzard stated to send out ASAP, before a month. Councilor Hoskin stated it needs to be crystal clear to Administration and not after the fact. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated it wouldn't be Administration, it would be the Housing Authority Board that acted. Councilor Hoskin stated administration wouldn't take the same leap without some reassurance of the Warren Act.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A FISCAL YEAR 2008 INDIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Sponsors: Councilor Buzzard

Mr. John Ross stated they have applied for ICW from HUD. They are asking for a tribal match of \$270,000. The total is \$800,000 for a Leach Waterline. 15% will be for public service, which is \$120,000 and \$680,000 for the waterline.

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Buzzard stated he received a call from Cherokee County Rural Water District #8 in Briggs. They are having a problem with them losing about 65% of water. The manager said there are leaks everywhere, due to imbedded incorrectly. He stated there is a lot of Indian people that live in the community. They have not asked for any money at this time. He stated he suggested they contact Charlie Soap and Billy Hix in the Community Service Department. Councilor Bill John Baker stated this was the 1st Cherokee Nation Self Help Waterline with the community helping. They failed to bed the pipe, which it sheared holes in the pipe. It is a traditionally and heavily populated community. Councilor Hoskin inquired how much it would cost to do this project. Councilor Buzzard stated it would be a little over \$2 million. Councilor Glory-Jordan questioned if this included Welling Community. Councilor Buzzard stated it was just Briggs. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated Welling is experiencing the same situation. She questioned if we help Briggs, do we help Welling. Councilor Buzzard stated looking for grants through the water and sanitation programs. He requested copies of the report from RWD#8 be provided to each Councilor. He requested Charlie Soap look into the situation and come back with recommendations on how to proceed.

Councilman Garvin asked everyone to put in a prayer for Shelli Brittain's dad.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilor Cowan Watts to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried at 9:41 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Norma Merriman</i>	<i>Mary James</i>	<i>Brian Cooper</i>
<i>Charlie Soap</i>	<i>Diane Hammons</i>	<i>Shay Smith</i>
<i>John Ross</i>		

VISITORS PRESENT:

Jim Ketcher

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Robbi Girdner, Legislative Clerk & Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____