



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Resource Committee

Monday, July 16, 2007

4:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Martin called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Council member Yargee gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; Jackie Bob Martin; David Thornton Sr. ; Phyllis Yargee; Don Garvin; John F. Keener; Cara Cowan Watts; William G. "Bill" Johnson; Buel Anglen and Jack D. Baker

Absent 3 - Linda Hughes-O'Leary; Melvina Shotpouch and Taylor Keen

Late Arrival 2 - Audra Smoke-Conner and Meredith Frailey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11th regular session. Councilman Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Natural Resources
Angela Drewes

Ms. Angela Drewes announced they have completed the work at the orphan cemetery. She stated through research they have discovered there aren't any orphans in the cemetery it is actually it is the deaf, dumb, blind, and insane asylum kids. She stated the actual name of the cemetery is the "Cherokee Asylum Cemetery". She announced the communications department is developing a report of the findings. She announced the historical marker that was once placed at the site has been moved to another site and will be replaced. The Natural Resource department has taken the rocks from the original 3rd story of the Cherokee Jailhouse and used them as markers at the Orphan cemetery. There has been fencing placed and a pathway made. She announced the Natural Resource staff did this project as a special project. They held meetings this month with the Lessees in Cherokee, Adair, and Delaware counties to provide a review of the lease agreement and reiterate the rules. She announced they are working with facilities to do some tree trimming and pruning. They will be using a chipper and replacing the mulch back on the property. Councilman Keener inquired if the lease land went to the highest bidder. Ms. Drewes stated it does go to the highest bidder. She stated they do allow partnering but not sub leasing. Councilman Keener inquired why local people can't lease. Ms. Drewes stated the first lease term she was at the Cherokee Nation it was Indian preference and it has since changed to go to the highest bidder. She stated she was unsure as to why it changed however they are reviewing the leasing policy at this time. Chair Martin stated he receives similar complaints and would like a report provided to this

committee stating how the policy was changed and why. Ms. Drewes stated some of the highest lease payers in Adair and Delaware are tribal members. Ms. Billie Nave Masters commented she would prefer Cherokee preference and felt this Committee should make a stand. Councilman Thornton inquired as to how much of the land is prairie, grazing, hay and so forth along with how much per bail. Ms. Drewes stated they have a report containing this information and would ensure the committee is provided a copy.

2. Real Estate Services

Linda Donelson

Ms. Linda Donelson stated Real Estate Services has received and returned 888 phone calls, had 87 individual clients in the office, completed 34 site inspections, completed 3 probate inventories. They had 5 home visits, 17 jurisdictional calls, 11 quiet titles, and 3 will interviews.

Ms. Donelson provided a handout of an article regarding the SAFE house in Cherry Tree. She stated this is the home the Cherokee Nation bought back last year. She announced they discovered restricted land in foreclosure. She stated the mortgage on the property was invalid and the property will be protected. Councilors from District 8 inquired about the status of the Ramona property. Ms. Donelson stated they have finally reached an agreement with the land owner and are now waiting on an appraisal. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if we had title to the Claremore federal building. Ms. Donelson stated we do not there have been personnel issues in the DC office. She also stated we do not have title to the Sallisaw Creek property.

3. Roads & Transportation

Michael Lynn

Mr. Michael Lynn. He provided the following update of IRR roads:

- Cedar Crest Road and Bridge – Received a lengthy list of demands from a landowner. They are working on the response at this time.
- Daytown Dry Creek – Paragon Contractors from Tulsa won the bid. A pre construction meeting was held on the 10th with good attendance.
- Red Barn Road –progressing slowly, weather problems
- Fairview Euche phase II – 40-50% complete
- Honey Hill – 1 landowner has parcel of land in foreclosure. They have met with the new landowners who have signed the easement.
- Rice Woodard –They are redesigning a curb and gutter section North of Rice Road.
- Stick Ross Loop – Awarded to Apco Consturction
- Twin Oaks Bull Hollow – scheduled for a plan in hand meeting on the 30th of July.

Mr. Lynn announced there are several motor fuel/motor vehicle projects going to Executive and Finance Committee this month totaling approximately \$588,000.00:

- Adair County – Salem Road addition – Sponsored by Councilors Martin & Crittenden
- Cherokee County – W. Gideon – Sponsored by Councilors Baker & Conner
- Cherokee County – Grout Road – Sponsored by Councilors Baker & Conner
- Cherokee County – W. Clyde Maher Road – Sponsored by Councilors Baker & Conner
- Mayes County – Woodland Road – Sponsored by Councilor Keener
- Mayes County - Wickliffe Road – Sponsored by Councilor Keener
- Mayes County - Arnolds Bridge – Sponsored by Councilor Keener
- Mayes County - Lake Access – Sponsored by Councilor Keener
- Mayes County – Town of Strange – Sponsored by Councilor Frailey
- Sequoyah County – 2 City of Vian street repairs – Sponsored by Councilor Yargee

- *Sequoyah County – Evening Shade Road Extension – Sponsored by Councilor Yargee*

4. Public Comments: Road Issues
Michael Lynn

5. Facilities
David Roberts

Mr. David Roberts reported the facilities department has been doing roof repairs at the complex. The backup generator for the complex arrived today. With all the rain mowing is a constant. They are preparing for the holiday by doing electrical upgrades at the pow wow grounds. They are also working toward getting the scoreboard installed at the softball fields. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired about the bathrooms and concession stand at the pow wow grounds. Mr. Roberts stated he is only doing the electrical portion that Construction Management is doing the other portion.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION NO. 90-06 AND AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF A LEASE BETWEEN CHEROKEE NATION AND THE PARK HILL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION TO CONSTRUCT THE PARK HILL COMMUNITY BUILDING ON THE OWENS SCHOOL FEE PROPERTY

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion for approval. Council member Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS GROUP TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE PROJECT

Council member Yargee made a motion to approve. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Billie Nave Masters inquired if this committee did choose to take a position on Cherokee preference on lease land would there need to be action to pass it today then go into new business next time. Councilman Bill John Baker announced he has made notes with the intention to speak to Council Attorney Todd Hembree in regard to the draft and review of legislation to be placed on the agenda next month. Council member Cowan Watts stated she thought this had already been requested at an earlier Resource meeting. Ms. Masters stated years ago if land was improved during your lease cycle you were given extra consideration as a tribal member. Ms. Drewes stated she would review and provide a report.

Council member Conner inquired about who is responsible for grading Hilltop Circle road. Mr. Michael Lynn stated he is unsure who is responsible without research. This road maybe a possible project once Rice Woodard is complete. Councilman Bill John Baker stated they reviewed this road as a possible project and it was suggested to wait due to the severe grade of the road changing. Mr. Lynn stated he would speak to Mr. Hubbard and provide a report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried at 4:53 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Linda Donelson
Ben Phillips
Jerrod Diffie*

*Michael Lynn
Angela Drewes*

*David Roberts
Billy Hix*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Joan Johnson
Todd Hembree*

Billie Nave Masters

Charlie Masters

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____