



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes Community Services Committee

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

9:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buzzard called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Cobb gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Chuck Hoskin Jr. was present but not a member of the committee.

Present 9 - Bill John Baker; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Harley Buzzard; Chris Soap and Bradley Cobb

Absent 4 - Don Garvin; Buel Anglen; Janelle Fullbright and Curtis Snell

Late Arrival 3 - S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. and Julia Coates

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to amend the agenda to include a resolution authorizing submission of a grant application to the USDA for a housing preservation grant. Councilor Glory-Jordan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Buzzard announced this would be new business item #2.

Councilor Cobb made a motion to amend the agenda to include two resolutions 1) a grant application to HUD for ICDBG for the Nowata food distribution and elder nutrition building. 2) a resolution adopting a maintenance and operating policy for the same building. He further requested being listed as sponsor on both items. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Buzzard announced these would be new business items #3 and #4.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the May 12, 2009 regular session minutes. Councilor Soap seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Human Services Department - Norman Merriman

Ms. Merriman announced two members of the ICW staff received prestigious recognition through the National Resource Center for Youth Services. Professional Manager of the Year for the State of Oklahoma was awarded to Tammy Haley. Youth Worker of the Year for the State of Oklahoma was awarded to Juli Skinner. Chair Buzzard inquired as to what type of work they do. Ms. Haley is a manager at Indian Child Welfare and Ms. Skinner works primarily with the teens and prepares them with life skills. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired when the Bridges Out of Poverty workshop would be held. Ms. Merriman announced it will be held on the 14th and 15th of July at the Crescent Valley Baptist Church. She stated it is an all day one day event. Anyone interested in attending please contact either Norman or Diana Turtle. Chair Buzzard inquired why all training is in Cherokee County. Ms. Merriman stated they requested funding within this grant to train three Cherokee Nation employees as trainers so they can go out into the other districts and train. Chair Buzzard stated he has heard complaints that all trainings happen in Cherokee County and there are Cherokee's working in the other counties as well.

2. Community Services - Charlie Soap

Mr. Soap announced the projects are moving along well. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired about the policy changes on the emergency self-help program. Mr. Soap reported they increased the amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and also increased the income guidelines. Councilor Jack D. Baker inquired about the status of the Chewy Community Building. Mr. Soap stated this is one of the older self-help projects and is a fairly large building. He stated this building is having heating unit and electrical problems. They are considering holding a community meeting and attempt to assist with the building issues. Councilor Thornton inquired if a person could receive the emergency self-help program funds more than once. Mr. Soap stated at this time it is a one time only program. He stated they could review the policy.

5. Housing Services - David Southerland

Mr. Southerland gave out his office number as 453-5248. He announced in Delaware County they have two empty Mutual Help homes in Kenwood. They have gone through the waiting list and haven't found anyone interested so they will begin taking applications on July 6th at the Kenwood Senior Nutrition Center and will advertise in the local paper. In regard to the paving the housing additions contracts and agreements had been set up with the county commissioners. The commissioners were to provide the equipment and labor while the Nation provided the money for the materials. In the procurement of the materials the commissioners are not complying with the Indian Preference Regulations. The commissioners have been notified to place the projects on hold until a solution is in place. They are hoping for a solution and to proceed with bids this week. Mr. Southerland announced there were 5 new MAP foreclosures in the month of May.

6. Commerce Housing Report - Anna Knight

Ms. Knight offered to answer questions from her written report. Chair Buzzard inquired if she and Mr. Southerland are reporting the same numbers in regard Mortgage Assistance. Mr. Southerland stated his report reflects foreclosures. Ms. Knight stated her report reflects the number of families that have been assisted with

Mortgage Assistance. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if Ms. Knight would still be able to reach her goal of 300. Ms. Knight stated they do anticipate disbursing all of the MAP funds by the end of the fiscal year if not before.

Mr. Charlie Soap announced the ICDGB stimulus funds for the Kenwood system will be in the amount of \$370,000 if awarded. These funds will replace the man holes, repair and replace existing line, and reline the lagoons. Mr. Marvin Jones announced on May 27th HUD issued the competitive notices of funding for NAHASDA and ICDBG. With the publications the criteria was announced as a first come first serve basis. He announced their applications are in. With the NAHASDA part they are eligible to submit any number of \$5ml applications however your first application is the only one considered until all of the other tribes are able to submit an application. He stated their first \$5ml application is to develop infrastructure on the Redbird and Guthrie properties as well as construct 15 houses on the Redbird site. He stated Anna Knight and the Commerce Department is working on a second application to bump up the mortgage assistance amount to \$35,000 for new construction only. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired as to how long before the application on the MAP would be submitted. Mr. Jones stated possibly next week.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A RURAL HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR RENOVATION OF THE JOHN A. KETCHER YOUTH SHELTER AND THE ADDITION OF THREE SINGLE RESIDENT OCCUPANCY UNITS

Sponsors: Councilor Harley Buzzard

Ms. Linda Vann announced this is a HUD proposal for a rural housing economic development project for the John A. Ketcher Youth Services Center. This proposal would provide 3 single occupancy units for 18 to 21 year olds to help with transitional living needs. This proposal also allows for some refurbishing to the existing center.

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to approve. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE USDA FOR A HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT

Sponsors: Councilor Harley Buzzard

Mr. Southerland stated this is a \$40,650 grant to be used in conjunction with the HIP program.

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to approve. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FOR AN INDIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (ICDBG) APPLICATION FOR THE NOWATA FOOD DISTRIBUTION/ELDERLY NUTRITION BUILDING

Sponsors: Councilor Bradley Cobb and Councilor Chuck Hoskin,

Councilor Hoskin Jr. stated this is for the construction of a food distribution building in Nowata. He requested Councilor Cobb add him as a sponsor at Full Council.

Councilor Cobb moved to approve. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING POLICY FOR THE HUD ICDBG APPLICATION FOR THE NOWATA FOOD DISTRIBUTION/ELDERLY NUTRITION BUILDING

Sponsors: Councilor Bradley Cobb and Councilor Chuck Hoskin,

Councilor Cobb stated this is the operating policy for the same building in Nowata.

Councilor Cobb moved to approve. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired if Chair Buzzard would consider moving this meeting to Monday on a trial basis. He stated he would also be asking Chairman Cobb to do the same for the Health committee. Chair Buzzard stated is is flexible. Councilor Coates requested to postpone the discussion due to a number of Councilors being absent at this time. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated provisions had been made in the past for Council members and feels this request should be embraced to allow Councilor Hoskin to attend the meetings. Councilor Coates voiced concern that moving all of the meetings to Monday would create a hardship for the At Large Councilors. She stated at times the At Large Councilors have weekend events in various places. At times it is difficult for them to attend meetings on Monday even at 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. She stated with the sub committee meetings and others as we have had the last couple of days it would become burdensome for one day. She stated at this time she would be opposed to moving all of the meetings to Monday. Councilor Hoskin Jr. suggested trying everything on Monday and time will tell if it is too burdensome for the Council members and staff. He stated if it does remain the same he will not be able to participate on the Tuesday meetings on a regular basis. Chair Buzzard stated no action would be taken today but suggested the Chairs get together and try to work out an equitable solution. Speaker Frailey inquired from a business standpoint and a expense standpoint which is better? Councilor Glory-Jordan stated there is an expense for overnight stay on Monday nights. She stated approximately \$3,000 would be saved by having the meetings all in one day.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cowan Watts moved to adjourn. Councilor Jack D. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried at 10:00 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Norma Merriman
David Southerland
Charlie Soap*

*Dallis Pettigrew
Linda Vann
Darlene Foreman*

*Anna Knight
Marvin Jones*

VISITORS PRESENT:

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____