



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

## Meeting Minutes

### Executive and Finance Sub Committee

#### - PAC

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Monday, August 11, 2008

2:30 PM

Legislative Conference Room

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#### CALL TO ORDER

**Councilor Cowan Watts called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.**

#### INVOCATION

**Councilor Buzzard gave the invocation.**

#### ROLL CALL

**Present** 8 - Bill John Baker; Don Garvin; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Janelle Fullbright and Harley Buzzard

**Absent** 1 - Bradley Cobb

**Late Arrival** 1 - Jodie Fishinghawk

*Chair Cowan Watts requested the agenda be amended to allow a report of the process of this committee, how monies are given and the compliance with campaign finance laws.*

**Councilor Jack Baker made a motion to amend the agenda to allow this report. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

*Chief Chad Smith stated there aren't any recommendations for contributions at this time. Chair Cowan Watts requested an update on the request for a contribution of \$25,000 for Hilary Clinton's Presidential bid and assistance with debt. Chief Smith announced they had been advised by Mr. Brad Carson that there isn't a mechanism to contribute money to retire this debt. The only option is to contribute to her senatorial campaign. Chair Cowan Watts requested a recommendation for Clinton's senatorial campaign be made during the next funding cycle. Chief Smith agreed.*

*Councilor Jack Baker made a recommendation for Aaron Carlson who is running for District 34 Representative out of Stillwater in the amount of \$5,000. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired who is running against him. Chief Smith responded Corey Williams. Chief Smith stated Mr. Carlson participated in our Government Relations Retreat several years ago and has taken our Cherokee History Course. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if he is Cherokee. Chief Smith responded no. Councilor Jack Baker stated he is likely Cherokee but is unable to apply for citizenship. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired if the Chief concurred with this recommendation. Chief Smith replied it is this body's recommendation and he would consider it that he does not have an objection but does want to evaluate the amount. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired about supporting the opponent as well to keep from the possibility of creating enemies. Chair Cowan Watts suggested splitting the money between to two candidates. Chief Smith stated Mr. Carlson has proven to*

*be an open ear and is familiar with us, the other candidate has not approached us and if there is to be an investment in that race he would invest in Mr. Carlson. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired as to why the funds aren't given to the winner to clear campaign debts. Chief Smith stated the recommendations they make are based on leadership capacity, tribal affiliation and shown support for the Cherokee Nation. Chair Cowan Watts suggested the motion be modified to say up to \$5,000. Councilor Jack Baker modified his motion for Mr. Carlson to be up to \$5,000. Councilor Anglen agreed with the modified motion as second. Motion carried.*

COMPLIANCE REPORTING

*Chair Cowan Watts stated last month questions were asked as to how this PAC committee works, how the donations are checked for compliance and who is responsible for this. Chief Smith stated internally it is a joint process. He stated if this committee makes a recommendation in which he doesn't support he can veto. If he makes a recommendation and this committee doesn't support then they can veto. He stated this is budgeted each year and this sub committee approves those expenditures. He provided a handout of Federal Election Commission contribution limits. This table shows how much each candidate is eligible for in each election cycle. Under Federal laws the Cherokee Nation is deemed a person instead of a corporation. Ginger Brown monitors our contributions and keeps track of the funding. Attorney Casey Ross Pethrick works part time to provide research and input. Mr. Brad Carson is also consulted from time to time.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*None.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Jack Baker made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried at 2:50 p.m.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT BUT NOT SERVING:

*Julia Coates                                  Curtis Snell                                  Meredith Frailey  
David Thornton*

STAFF PRESENT:

*Ginger Brown                                  Chief Chad Smith                                  Nason Morton  
Mike Miller*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Jim Ketcher                                  Jack Girty                                  Todd Hembree*

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

**Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator**

**Motion to approve minutes made by: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Minutes attested and concurred by: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_**