



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Employment Committee

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

10:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

Special Session

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Councilman Crittenden gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; S. Joe Crittenden; Jackie Bob Martin; Don Garvin; John F. Keener; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Taylor Keen and Jack D. Baker

Absent 1 - Phyllis Yargee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Anglen made a motion to approve the December 12th regular session minutes. Council member Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF T.E.R.O. CERTIFICATIONS

Councilman Garvin made a motion to approve the TERO certifications as submitted. Council member Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried with Councilman Bill John Baker out of the room.

REPORTS

1. Career Services/Employment
Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley announced several of the field offices that were closed due to the weather are now open. They held a meeting with AERT to discuss recycling at the landfill in Adair County as well as the clean up needed at Brownfield on the hog farm. Hannah Candle is now Ozark Electronics in Westville. They have a job fair planned for Thursday the 12th of April in Muskogee and in Catoosa in August. She stated jobs are plentiful in Northeast Oklahoma at this time. She provided a handout for the Oklahoma Employment Outlook up through 2014. She stated they still lack identifying the Indian owned business in a few counties. They hope to complete the identification process before the summer activities begin. Ozark St. Francis National Forest Department gave the TERO office a partnership award for the fire fighting program. She commended Mike Weaver and Leroy Wolfe for their efforts with the fire fighting program. She announced the Cherokee Nation Legislative Day at the Capitol is scheduled for the 13th of March which is committee day. Job Corp legislative day is scheduled for the 9th of May. Council member Cowan Watts

recommended the Chair of this committee send a letter to the chairs of all other committees requesting the meetings scheduled for the 13th of March be moved to Thursday the 15th of March. Councilman Crittenden seconded the request. Request carried. Ms. Kelley requested the Council keep Roy Tidwell in their prayers. Mr. Tidwell is an employment training officer who has been diagnosed with cancer.

2. Commerce

Anna Knight

Ms. Anna Knight announced the SEED kickoff at Sequoyah High School will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the 6th of February. She handed out an article from the Daily Oklahoman regarding the SEED program. They currently have 150 clients in the self sufficiency counseling. Two clients have graduated from the program and have successfully got approved for a mortgage. There weren't any business plans submitted during the month of December. They are in the process of completing an application for additional IRP funding. They have been struggling to have people complete their business plans therefore they will be requesting an extension on the ICDGB grant. The traditional games are scheduled for the March 31st in Salina. The Cultural Tourism meeting will be held in Catoosa on the 8th of February from 2 to 4 p.m. in the CNE ballroom. She announced Heather Overacker has resigned and will be going back to the gaming commission. Ms. Overacker gave an overview and provided 3 handouts regarding TERO.

3. CNE T.E.R.O.

Shawn Slaton

Mr. Shawn Slaton provided a handout of the current projects. He stated the Tahlequah corporate offices remain closed due to a broken utility pole. They have had an emergency crew working with the aide of generators and electric heaters. They are continuing to process accounts payable and other critical functions. He stated this has been a good preparatory experience on disaster recovery. Their IT department is reviewing the corporate structure now and as a part of that they are looking to partner with the Cherokee Nation, CNI and some of the business entities. The barn at Will Rogers Downs collapsed. The track repair on the 3 soft spots is almost complete however they may find additional spots with this storm. They hope to have horses running by the 23rd of February. He stated they have contacted a consultant and are in the process of implementing his recommendations. He stated a report will be issued on WRD soon. Councilman Keen stated both the parking garage and West Siloam are doing well on Indian preference numbers. He inquired about the 13% for Roland with the project half complete. Mr. Slaton stated he would look at the numbers however it has been a challenge for a variety of reasons. Councilman Thornton requested notification if the Roland project is re-bid.

4. CNI T.E.R.O.

Bryan Collins

Mr. Bryan Collins provided a copy of the CNI TERO report. The Muskogee Health Center has 6 sub contractors on site with a total of 39 Native American employees. The Nowata Clinic is on schedule with 62% TERO vendors. Councilman Keen stated they are over 25% into the Muskogee project yet there is only a yield of only 2%. He asked if there is a reason for the low percentage. Mr. Collins stated the primary reason is the size of the project and the bonding requirements. TERO vendors are not bidding and there are time frame issues. Ms. Diane Kelley stated Mr. Collins response is accurate. Most TERO vendors have difficulty bidding large projects due to the bonding requirements. Council member Cowan Watts stated we as a tribe need to do more work up front due to the compacted schedule. The budget can not be deviated from because they are appropriations from Congress therefore we don't have the ability to break up the project to accommodate TERO vendors. Mr. Collins announced the Nowata clinic is scheduled to

be complete in May. The Sallisaw project will be complete in March. The appropriated budget is \$2.9ml and the total estimated cost is \$3.4ml. He and Melissa Gower have been reviewing the numbers and have determined the appropriated budget was based on estimates without some major pieces included along with an increase in the steel prices. The TERO vendors for this project are at 46%. They are in the process of punching out the Sequoyah gym. They have been trying to finalize the numbers and will begin an audit once the punch out is complete. The actual cost is at \$9.4ml with errors and omissions of \$220,000.00 to \$410,000.00 in back charges, deducts, credits. The audit will provide hard numbers. Councilman Anglen inquired if the errors and omissions will be written up to flag for future reference. Mr. Collins stated the findings will be submitted to the TERO office.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. AN ACT REPEALING AND SUPERSEDING CHEROKEE NATION LAW REGARDING LABOR AND THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Discussion)

Chair Conner inquired if these concerns had been addressed with the updated policies and procedures.

A motion was made by Councilor Cara Cowan Watts and seconded by Co Chair Buel Anglen, that this matter be Tabled. The motion carried with Councilor Keen opposing.

Yea: 10 - Bill John Baker; Audra Smoke-Conner; S. Joe Crittenden; Jackie Bob Martin; Don Garvin; John F. Keener; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen and Jack D. Baker

Nay: 1 - Taylor Keen

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Conner announced the next tentatively scheduled meeting will be on February 13th at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried at 11:03 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Todd Hembree</i>	<i>Ed Bighorse</i>	<i>Diane Kelley</i>
<i>Larry Ketcher</i>	<i>Anna Knight</i>	<i>Angela Cunningham</i>
<i>Nettie Dethridge</i>	<i>Gwen Shotpouch</i>	<i>Melanie Dodge</i>
<i>Heather Overacker</i>	<i>Ben Phillips</i>	<i>Mike Weaver</i>

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Jim Ketcher</i>	<i>Bryan Collins</i>	<i>Shawn Slaton</i>
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APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____