



The Cherokee People needs to know, this is the way our nation is functioning as of today. This structure is not constitutional. The elected officials acting under Chief Smith's control is illegal! The only person that should be working under the Executive branch is Deputy Chief Grayson. Chief Smith should not have control over the majority of the Tribal Councilors or majority of our Judicial branch. But this is how it is working or not working for the Cherokee people. Under this structure we have a dictatorship. One person controlling our Nation, The creation of the 1975 Cherokee Constitution took the control of one man, to a three branch of government. But we have no checks & balances under our Constitution. When the Chief controls the Judicial branch and the majority of the Tribal Council. . . . We have a dictatorship and that is illegal under our Constitution. When the Cherokee people can rely on our three branches to work as their oath to follow our Constitution, then "OUR STATE OF THE NATION" is not what our Chief keeps telling us. The Chief keeps telling us every thing is great and nothing is wrong. We Cherokee have trouble. We have more money at the people have less services. They are using our money. The money belong to the Cherokee People, but this administration spend our money as if it was theirs. The Cherokee people need to wake up and get involved. Help stop these kinds of illegal actions. It is time again in our Cherokee History to rise up and protect the Cherokee Nation from corrupt elected officials or appointed officials & employees.

Tribal councilors to serve staggered terms Service Employees Bonuses Again Rejected

During February regular council meeting the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council approved an act, voting 13-3, that would stagger terms for councilors elected in 2007.

Jack D. Baker, at-large councilor, was the only one who commented on the act. Baker pointed out the act is being suggested very close to the candidate filing period and the upcoming election.

"This measure passed 6-4 in subcommittee and would provide either six- or four-year terms," said Baker. "I think it would be better to wait to consider this after the election."

Some may find the new legislation confusing, as the new districting plan required by the new Cherokee Constitution has yet to be determined.

According to District 1 Councilor Bill John Baker, elected terms in his district would be split, one position serving six years and the other four years. But if the redistricting plan is passed, it may create a third slot in District 1, which would provide a second, six-year slot for the district. Since staggered terms would alternate between six and four years beginning with district one, a third position in District 1 would also affect all the other districts down the line, as far as terms are concerned.

Principal Chief Chad Smith's veto of legislation that would provide the balance of the Cherokee Nation employees bonus was upheld, 10-6, following impassioned comments from councilors on both sides of the issue. This was the second time Smith has vetoed similar legislation to fund the remainder of the \$1,000 bonus to every employee within the service base of tribal operations. Initially after council appropriated money for the bonus, the administration chose to withhold operation and overhead costs shorting employees approximately \$300. Councilors argued this was not the intent of council and that overhead and indirect costs were already being covered by the normal salary expense.

Councilor Cara Cowan-Watts, one of Smith's political slate councilors representing Rogers County, argued in favor of sustaining the veto. Most tribal employees within Roger's County district are employees of Cherokee Nation Enterprises, (CNE).

"I understand this is an emotional, passionate issue," said Cowan-Watts. "But I believe we should balance providing services to citizens with providing attractive employment packages to employees. I have to support the veto."

Councilor Phyllis Yargee pointed out that services to citizens would not be affected, and that by providing the balance of the \$1,000 bonus promised to Cherokee Nation employees, they would be operating "within the true spirit of Gadugi."

During committee meeting discussion comparison was reviewed between bonuses to Cherokee Nation employees and employees of CNE.

Councilor Buel Anglen, of Tulsa, Washington area, stated during committee meeting discussion on

the Act, "Comparing employees working for the tribe to employees working in our casinos is like comparing apples to oranges. CNE is our cash cow and those people make money for the tribe," he said.

Linda O'Leary responded, "The main focus of operation for this tribe is providing services to the Cherokee people. These employees supplying gambling are more deserving of a bonus than the ones who provide services and that won't hold water," she said.

Bill John Baker, Co Chair of Executive and Finance, brought to light that last year the administration failed to spend nearly \$35 million dollars the Council had appropriated to be spent on services. "If the administration is not going to spend the money on services then let's get some of this into the hands of the Cherokee workers," Baker said. "The merit system for raises does not reach every employee and it allows the administration to pick and choose who will and won't get a bonus. I think since Cherokee employees did not get the cost of living raise last year that the state gave last year, we need to catch them up."

The average CNE hourly employee bonus in 2006 was \$1,700 while the average corporate salaried employee bonus was \$10,000. Many upper level salaried officials receive 80% to 100% of their salary as a bonus so an average is not a good representation of who bonuses reach. Bonuses for CNE employees totaled over \$10 million in 2006. (See the comparison of CNE and CN employee bonuses.)

During the regular meeting committee reports, Bryan Collins, CEO for Cherokee Nation Industries, reported \$5.7 million in revenue for CNI for 2006, with \$1.4 million in actual profit.

Councilor Bill John Baker asked Collins for breakdown in write-offs for CNI for 2006.

Collins said \$3.6 million had to be written off as losses in 2006, with the majority of the funds being attributed to the investment in Global Energy Group, (GEG) and Cherokee Idling Solutions.

Seven councilors filed a federal lawsuit alleging Smith and others were involved in securities fraud. Councilors hoped to recoup nearly \$6 million of tribal funds spent on what they called a worthless investment and mismanagement of funds. The case was dismissed on a technicality where the judge ruled councilors lacked the standing to file the case. All surrounding evidence has since been turned over to the CNI board and the Attorney General for investigation and or prosecution. The councilors say they will be watching to see if these entities do their duty.

"Surplus inventory played into that write off figure," said Collins. "We had some inventory that had been outdated and was obsolete."

Councilors concerned about the operations of CNI stood united in opposition during the board appointment agenda items Monday night. However, Williams continued on page 8

Raymond Vann announces his run for Deputy Chief in 2007 General Election, June 2007.

Raymond Vann, 4/4 Cherokee by blood.

I was born in 1943 near Watts, Oklahoma to Pete and Nannie (Gibson) Vann, Full blood Cherokee. I reside with my wife Sioux Nell Smith-Vann, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, in our rural Cherokee County home along the Illinois River.

I attended Oaks Indian School, high school in Collinsville, finished with a GED in Texas, I have a associate degree in arts & applied science from Mountain View College in Dallas Texas, and numerous awards and certificates in management from general Motors over my 31 years of employment there.

I retired in 1995 from General Motors, Corp., after thirty-one years. I have two sons, Daniel, who resides in Fort Worth, Texas, and Larry McIntyre, now deceased and three grandsons, one brother, and several sisters.

My Wife Sioux and I have always had a desire to help our Cherokee people in need of basic survival necessities of life, we decided in 2003 that we should create a non-profit so we could have an advantage to get out to more people and help in a larger and more frequent ways. So, Warpony Community Outreach, Inc. was started and got its status for a non-profit in just a few months. You can see a write up in the Cherokee Advocate in a 2003 edition, about our organization start up.

We have and are working, along with some of the Cherokee Nation Council Members, through our non-profit. They frequently help in case of emergency or with a particular difficult need.

We also work with the UKB and frequently donate any needed item for

their community family needs. We work with local food pantries and help with fundraisers so the money can go to them.

We even had the privilege of helping one of our Iraq warriors with money to come home on an emergency leave. That felt GOOD!

We have helped in these ways as well; Tuition's for Cherokee students to go to college, bought school supplies, clothing, etc.

Rent, utilities bills, propane and tanks, deposits Repairs on homes, roofing material, flooring, doors, cabinets Auto parts, gas money, and rides Household furniture, ranges, refrigerators Air conditioner, heaters, and wood stoves with free wood. Medicines, rides to doctor or hospital Help with getting wells, septic tanks and water lines. Food, baby formula and diapers. Teeth replacement or repair Eye tests and glasses Prosthesis (legs for community people)

Helped tribal members get legal representation when living out of fourteen counties and local tribal members get legal services and representation or clarification. Help with grants under our organization for local fire departments. Help with grants under our organization to get community gardens started. Helped purchase 2-way radios for local fire department and first responders Lawnmowers or mowed lawns for older tribal members Help with fundraising to local stomp grounds to help get started and to many other things to mention, these are some of the many ways we try to help.

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Notice

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Sources in Tahlequah say the travel reports are being held up by the chief's office..why? If in fact they are being held up by Chad then it is up to the council members to demand the administration publish these reports. Doesn't Cherokee law states the government must print all travel reports? We want to know where Chad Smith and the council members have been for the past 8 years. We want to know how much Cherokee money they spent while traveling all over the world while rank and file Cherokees beg for services.

Every Cherokee can help! Become a cwReporter for the Cherokee Observer.

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Attention Class Of 1967 Sequoyah High School

You are invited to participate in our **Class Reunion for May 4, 5, & 6, 2007 at the Annual Alumni Banquet.**

Please bring pictures of your families to share. Hope to see you. Call Betty Jack-Pulver at 1-918-227-1508 or LeRoy Adair 918-682-9916

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