



Cherokee Nation Tax Commission

P.O. Box 948 Tahlequah, OK 74465

Jim Hummingbird,
Tax Commissioner

Sam Hart,
Tax Commissioner

Scott Gregory,
Tax Commissioner

CHEROKEE NATION TAX COMMISSION MEETING Cherokee Nation Tax Commission Conference Room December 14, 2011 4:30 PM

Commissioners Present – Chairman Hummingbird, Commissioners Gregory and Hart

Staff Present – Sharon Swepston, Shelia Sawney, Karen Walls, and Fonda Gritts

Visitors – none

Meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m. Quorum established with Chairman Hummingbird, and Commissioner Gregory and Hart present.

The Commission began with agenda item #1 – Approval of Minutes - September 14, 2011 – Commissioner Sam Hart made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sharon Swepston made a request to the commission to amend the agenda for a smoke shop application for retail license that was submitted earlier this week. She stated she would like to move it to agenda items #5. And move monthly reports down to agenda item #6.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda #2- Recording a Security Interest- Karen Walls explain the new style of lien entry forms to the commission. She stated we will be using the

new forms starting January 2012. We will still use the original lien form for a while.

The original lien form number is #2.11, and the new form is #69-01. There was a brief discussion on the forms and discussing the Rules and Regulation that pertain to the lien forms. There will be changes that will be made in the Rules and Regulations for the new form.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the new form and the Rules and Regulations for the Recording a Security Interest. Commissioner Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda #3 – Granny’s Smoke Shop Retail Sales License Application-

Shelia Sawney stated the smoke shop is located in Peggs, all documents have been submitted. Cherokee Nation Realty department has verified that they are the land owners and it is restricted land. Commissioner Gregory had a question regarding the names Katherine Sanders and Carol Goforth. Shelia will check to see if Carol is going to be a partner or just a worker at the smoke shop.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to tentative approve based on corrections. Commissioner Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda #4 – Cherokee Prison and Interpretive Center Retail Sales License Application - Shelia Sawney stated this application for retail sales license is with Cherokee Nation Entertainment. They will be opening a gift shop and have submitted an application for a retail license. Shelia stated all documents are in order.

Commissioner Gregory made a motion to approve the retail license. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda #5 – Warrior Tobacco – Shelia Sawney stated this was previously “Two Turtles” smoke shop in Adair and it burned the owner at that time was Wayne Stall he has decided not to reopen the smoke shop.

Ricky Condit is the owner of two other smoke shops, one in Peggs and the other in Salina he has submitted an application to re open the smoke shop in Adair. He and Wayne Stull have agreed upon a lease assignment, and our realty department has sent over a letter stating the BIA has approved the assignment. All of Mr. Condit documents are in order. Shelia recommends approval for the license.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the retail license for "Warrior Tobacco". Commissioner Gregory seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Agenda Item # 6 – Monthly Reports – Sharon reported for October and November for motor vehicle, compared to last year we are up 1.85%, and November we were up 6.72%. Year to date overall 4.14 increase compared to last year.

For Tobacco, Sharon stated the percentage is 15.24 % of October of last year. The largest majority of that percentage is retail sales, and this includes the hotel rooms at 6.0% fees.

There was a brief discussion regarding our personalized tags.

Sharon stated our citizen's tags need to be made more available to our Cherokee Citizens. We do not sell very many of them and have reviewed the cost to the Tax Commission. They are now \$25.00; Sharon would like to lower the price to \$10.00 beginning the first of the year.

Sharon stated a council member requested approximately 2 years ago for the Tahlequah Tag office to stay open late two nights per week. We have been staying open Tuesday and Thursday evenings until 6:00 p.m. Due to the low volume of business on those two evenings, Sharon has discussed with the council person of that request regarding closing those two evenings at regular time. The council person ask Sharon to show her economically that we are not having enough business to continue staying open those two evenings. She stated she would consider the tag office not staying open two nights, but she would like for us to be open at least one night a week.

Sharon stated she was notifying the commission that the first of the year we will stay open until 6:00 on Thursday nights only. She stated we will advertise the new changes on the radio and in the local newspapers.

Commissioner Gregory made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment 5:08.


Commission Approval