



Cherokee Nation Tax Commission

P.O. Box 948 Tahlequah, OK 74465

Steve Wilson,
Tax Commissioner

Fan Robinson,
Tax Commissioner

Michael Doublehead,
Tax Commissioner

CNTC SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING
TELE-CONFERENCE
4-9-20

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairman Wilson, Commissioners Doublehead and Robinson

STAFF PRESENT: Sharon Swepston, Chelsea Fisher, Shelia Sawney, and Fonda Gritts

VISITORS: Chief Chuck Hoskin, Tina Jordon-Secretary of State, Chrissy Nemo-Attorney General Office, Joe Lane-smoke shop owner, Lee Levinson-smoke shop owner, Ms. Dowling-smoke shop owner, Sonja Glory and Todd Enlow.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilson. Quorum established with Commissioner's Robinson and Doublehead present.

The Commission began with agenda items #1 – Comments from the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation – Chief stated he appreciated the service that everyone provides to the Cherokee Nation. He said this is a difficult time and difficult decision needs to be made. He shared with the commissioner in separate phone calls yesterday evening. If he believed all the information and advice he receives, if shutting down the smoke shops for a short period of time would be the best interest of the public health in terms of the limiting the exposure of COVID-19. He would ask them to shut them down in a heartbeat. But, he doesn't think that's the case. He said the opposite effect would occur if we would shut down the smoke shops. You regulate a group of smoke shops that by in large voluntarily taken on very safe practices. The environment right now going to buy tobacco is safer position driving or walking through than going into a convenient or grocery store where people are allowed to come in and the safe guards just are not there. If we shut them down we would put people in a less safe environment. For that reason alone he will not be doing that.

The next path is to take the best practices the smoke shops that we regulate to adopt a uniform set of Standards for safety & sanitation. That will be walk up access, curbside access, and drive through. But no public access into the smoke shops. He stated he has tried to make every decision that he can throughout this COVID-19 crisis informed by three things.

#1 Medical Science, #2 Facts, #3 Compassion.

Commissioner Robinson ask the Chief regarding the Temporary Order it reads on 5a. All exterior doors must be locked and closed to the public. Has the RISK Management been consulted as to the issue if there were a fire or something would happen having the doors locked is that not an issue? Chief responded, #1 you could do nothing in terms of changing the wording and making it explicit and put on the record you anticipate that Risk Management has any changes that need to be made to ingress or digress that need to be made. #2 add a clause that would say a subject to all duplicable safety measures required by Cherokee Nation Risk Management.

Agenda #2 Discussion and possible action regarding safety measures at retail tobacco outlets during the Covid-19 Pandemic- Sharon Swepston read the temporary order and ask Chrissy Nemo if the added language needed to go under 5a? Chrissy stated to follow that sentence “as long as the locking of doors complies with all applicable rules and regulations;

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the temporary order dated May 1, 2020. Commissioner Doublehead second the motion. Motion carried.

There was a discussion on changing the wording on 5a. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Doublehead second the motion. Amendment and order has passed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Doublehead second the motion. Motion carried.



Commissioner Approval