

April 2, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners met at 1:30 p.m., April 2, 2024 in a special meeting at the Garfield County Fairgrounds Pavilion. The advance public notice of the meeting was posted at 3:00 p.m., March 27, 2024 in prominent view in the office of the County Clerk, the office of the County Commissioners, the first-floor bulletin board in the Garfield County Courthouse, and the outside Bulletin Board, Enid, Oklahoma. Present: Reese Wedel, Chairman; Clarence Maly, Vice-Chairman; David Loesch, Member and Lorraine Legere, Garfield County Clerk, Secretary. Absent: None.

The Board met with members of the Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee Tribe regarding their proposal of building a casino within Garfield County.

Speaking for the tribe were Chief Joe Bunch and Assistant Chief Jeff Wacoche. Both men indicated that the tribe has been looking at a location consisting of 30 acres located north of the corner of State Highway 412 and Highway 132. This location does have the option of an additional 110 acres. The initial building for the casino would consist of approximately 10,000 to 20,000 square feet, which could potentially have up to 500 machines. Also, this project would possibly bring anywhere from 200 to 300 jobs to Garfield County.

Both men expressed their desire to build a relationship with Garfield County that would be beneficial to both the County and their Keetoowah Tribe. Some incentives the tribe could offer the County would be infrastructure improvements that would include road and bridge construction, law enforcement vehicles for the Sheriff's Department, a public storm shelter, and fire fighting equipment for the area rural fire departments.

At approximately 2:18 p.m., the group all drove out to the proposed site located north of Highway 412 and Highway 132 to further discuss their plans.

With no further business to conduct, at 3:02 p.m., Loesch made the motion for the Board to adjourn. Aye: Wedel, Maly and Loesch. Nay: None.
