

**CITY OF CHEROKEE VILLAGE, ARKANSAS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 24, 2011**

Mayor Lloyd Hefley called the Special Meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM, Thursday, February 24, 2011.

Clerk Hamilton call roll. Present were Jerry Adams, Lynn Maxedon, Curtis Bratcher, Ray Torbit and Tom Thone. Absent were Kent Viers, Verna Mae Newman and Russ Stokes. City Attorney Jon Abele was also present.

Mayor Lloyd Hefley read the guidelines for the Special Meeting.

Wendell Lane was asked to take the floor. Lane said, in his defense that he had been with the Cherokee Village Police Department for ten (10) years and had a very good record, before this incident. He also said he had a letter from his Attorney, Larry Kissee, and a letter from the Pharmacist explaining what anti-depressant drug he had been taking. Lane explained that he had gone off the medication because he thought he had no need at that time to be taking them. He also said he was not aware of dangerous side effects when he suddenly stopped taking the drug. He asked the Council to consider the service he had provided to our community for the past ten (10) years.

Mayor Hefley asked if there were any questions from the City Council.

Maxedon asked if Lane had notified Chief Crook that he was taking anti-depressants. Lane answered yes. Chief Crook was asked if he had been notified that Lane was on anti-depressants and if he was aware that Lane had stopped taking them. Chief Crook answered yes to both questions. Crook also stated that he too, was not aware of the side effects that could happen after Lane stopped taking the drug. Chief Crook went on to say that when Lane was on the anti-depressants he was very calm and handled his job quite well. Additionally, he stated that he did notice a difference in Lane, after he stopped taking the drug.

Adams asked Lane if he had asked for a continuance from the Special Meeting scheduled on January 27, 2001, upon the advice of his attorney. Lane explained that he had been talking to several Lawyers in Little Rock at the time.

Bratcher stated that he understood that he did not have an attorney at that time. Lane again stated that he had been talking to several lawyers but he had retained Larry Kissee. He further explained that Kissee had other obligations and could not attend this meeting.

At that time, Mr. Hobie Weisman asked to take the floor in Lanes defense. Weisman told Council that he is on the Safety Committee and they met monthly. Weisman said that on February 2, 2011 is when he found out that Lane had been terminated. He wondered why he wasn't informed earlier, since the incident happened in December. He went on to state that he felt this was a harsh treatment for a medical side effect. He also praised

Lane for his ability to handle rough situations in his position. At that time, Weisman asked the Council to consider putting Lane back on the force to fill the vacancy with a veteran Police Officer. Weisman suggested in doing so, Council could give him a one (1) year probationary period. Weisman stated that Chief Crook is willing to take him back.

Torbit then asked Chief Crook if he had publicly stated he wanted Lane back. Crook stated he had related that to Lane. However, to consider that, he would want Lane to take a medical examination and a psychiatric evaluation to determine if he was able to take his position back. Torbit also asked Chief Crook, if there would be any problems with the other Officers, should Lane be reinstated. Crook answered no.

Maxedon asked Chief Crook if he would consider having Lane reapply for a position. If he successfully got through the vetting process and there was a vacancy, Lane would need to go through the process just like any new hire.

Chief Crook responded by saying, the position he would need for Lane to take is the position he left, as Crook needed someone with extensive experience. Crook also explained that this position was a large responsibility and carries a lot of stress. Crook felt it would be unfair for him to reapply because Lane knows the job as he has been working the job. He added that Lane would still need a psychiatric evaluation to see if Lane is fit for duty.

Adams asked if Lane was in a City Vehicle. Crook answered yes, but went on to say that Lane was not under the influence in the vehicle, but added he was not there at the time.

Thone stated that the report indicated that he was in a City Vehicle intoxicated.

Bratcher asked how he was going to get home, since he only had the City Vehicle. Chief Crook stated he was not divorced at that time and his house was still his place of residence. It was undetermined if he would have stayed at the residence.

Mayor Hefley asked for any other questions before the vote was taken.

Weisman took the floor and asked Maxedon about the vetting process. Weisman asked if Lane would have to go back through the Academy. Maxedon replied it would be just like any new hire. Weisman said this would be a complete waste of time as Lane is already qualified.

Mayor Hefley called for a roll call vote and explained that a Yes voted would mean that Lane would remain terminated, a No vote would overturn the termination.

Clerk Hamilton took the roll call vote. There were (4) yeas, and one (1) no. Therefore the termination will stand.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Hefley motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:00PM, seconded by Thone and unanimously passed.

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lloyd Hefley, Mayor**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lana Hamilton, Clerk/Treasurer**

These minutes have NOT been approved.