

Cherokee Council House
Cherokee, North Carolina
MAR 03 2016

Ordinance No. 155 (2016)

WHEREAS, Section 75-55 of the Cherokee Code, a section of the Free Press Act of 2006, deals with the creation of an Editorial Board; and

WHEREAS, Sec. 75-55 (a) states, "An Editorial Board is hereby created and shall consist of all members of the One Feather staff and the Tribal Director of Marketing and Public Relations,"; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Editorial Board feel that having the staff of the paper and their immediate supervisor comprise the Board does not lend itself to best practices and an environment of free expression; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Tribal Council Assembled, at which a quorum is present, that Cherokee Code Section 75-55 be amended as follows:

- (a) An Editorial Board shall consist of three voting individuals with the Editor of the Cherokee One Feather serving as a fourth non-voting member. Two of the Board members will have a background in journalism and the third member will be chosen from the community at large.
- (b) The first Board will be chosen by the existing Board within 30 days of the ratification of this legislation. Neither Tribal Council nor Executive Office approval is needed for these appointments. After that, Board members will serve in perpetuity or until they resign their position. New Board members will be selected by the sitting Board members.
- (c) All members of the Editorial Board certify that he or she will adhere to the standards of accepted ethics of journalism as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists and endorsed by the Native American Journalists Association.
- (d) The Editorial Board will meet quarterly, either in person or by conference call, to review guidelines and policies for the Cherokee One Feather.
- (e) The Editorial Board shall operate free from political influence from any Executive or Legislative Officials of any branch, division or department of the government of the Tribe.
- (f) No Board member shall directly or indirectly, solicit, receive or in any manner be concerned in soliciting or receiving any assessment, subscription or contribution for any political organization, candidacy or other political activity, except to exercise his or her right as a citizen to express his or her individual opinion and cast his or her right to vote.

Submitted by: One Feather Editorial Board