



Potterville Area Chamber of Business

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Downtown Potterville – Pavilion (and via ZOOM)

Chamber Officers: Pennie Lake (President), Mark Aupperlee (Vice President), Loren Smalley (Treasurer), Kathy Dobie (Secretary)

Mission Statement: *To build the bridges between area businesses, local government, the schools, and churches, to create a very inviting place to live, educate, and have fun.*

Meeting Attendance: The (4) chamber officers are in attendance in person today, and (1) person has joined via ZOOM.

Call to Order: Pennie calls the meeting to order at 12:05.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Mark Aupperlee offers an opening prayer.

Secretary Report: Minutes from the August previous meeting were taken by Pennie and distributed via email prior to the meeting.

Treasurers Report: Loren provides an excel spreadsheet with the current financial status.

- Current General Fund balance: **\$1,372.44**. Loren reports that \$60.00 was received from Davis Auto Mart for dues. There are two bills due. One to County Journal for 40.00. One for the chamber mailbox for \$42.00. There is also a bill for the website coming due. Loren is waiting for the invoice from Wicks.
 - **ACTION:** Loren will get the checks issued for County Journal and the mail box, and contact Kathryn Schmidt about the website. Also, check with Kathryn on potential dates for training on the website.
- Gizzardfest Fund balance: **\$2,290.10** is unchanged.

Introductions / Chamber Reports / and local business updates:

Sycamore Creek Church: Pastor Mark Aupperlee report on the food ministries of SCC:

- Food Pantry: Church food pantry continues to serve the community. The pantry is currently well-stocked and in good shape due to some generous donations during the pandemic. Also, SCC has partnered again with Meijer's Simply Give program to benefit the food pantry. Between now and Oct 24, every dollar donated through Simply Give in Grand Ledge will be matched by Meijer. On 09/11-/09/12 Meijer will double match donations. In 2018, the food bank received over \$16,500.00 through this program. SHOP MEIJER and simply give!
- Bread Drop: They were able to do a curbside bread drop in August after being down due to the pandemic. The church distributed 3,800 lbs. of baked goods, and 600 lbs. of apples and oranges to 87 families. Next bread drop is September 3.
- Back-to-school Backpacks: Sixty backpacks were distributed by SCC in August, filled with school supplies. The program is supported by 21st CPC, Meijer and other local businesses. Good job, Potterville!

Potterville - Benton Township Library: LuAnn Stachnik, Librarian reports (via ZOOM):

- The library has been up and running since mid-June, although things have been slow. The fax and copy services are available. The summer Reading program was on-line, and there were a number of participants. They are hoping to have the story time book club outdoors this fall, during the day.
- Jan Morey, who has been working at the library for some years, has retired. She will be missed.

21st Century Plastics Corp: Kathy Dobie reports:

- The building addition for racks and warehouse is complete. Landscaping is being finished up. Business is steady, and 21st CPC is looking to add a new engineering center to the current building in the next few months.

County Journal: Pennie Lake reports:

- The paper has been back in print for a while now. There is limited delivery, primarily to the city and some rural mailboxes. Pennie reports that before the pandemic, the online views were around 300, but during the pandemic when the paper was not being printed, the views were as much as 11,000. Wow!

Old Business:

- Loren follows up on the letter about the domain registry that he mentioned in the last meeting, saying we can disregard it.

New Business:

Loren suggests the chamber support SCC in the Simply Give program. LuAnn inquires about the amount of money in the general fund and the chambers financial situation. As reported above, we currently have \$1,372.44 in the general account, and there is nothing coming due between now and the end of the year, except possibly the Christmas baskets. In January, new membership dues should be received, which is really the main source of income right now.

- **Motion:** LuAnn moves that \$150.00 be donated to SCC to use toward the Simply Give program. Kathy seconds. *Motion carries.*

There is some discussion regarding the current state of the chamber, and how to regenerate some interest and involvement from the community. It is more challenging due to the pandemic, but it is suggested that we may be able to schedule some ribbon-cutting events for new businesses or re-opening or under-new-management celebrations.

- **ACTION:** Loren volunteers to investigate possible events with his chamber contacts and report in the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2020, at noon (tentatively location is downtown pavilion, depending on weather)

Adjournment: Kathy moves to adjourn the meeting at 12:45. Mark seconds. Meeting is adjourned.

~ Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Dobie, Chamber of Business Secretary, 09/03/2020