



Potterville Area Chamber of Business

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Sycamore Creek Church

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: There are (13) in attendance today. 21st Century Plastics provides lunch from SUBWAY and donates the proceeds to the Chamber general fund. Thank you, 21st CPC!

Call to Order: Pennie calls the meeting to order at noon.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Mark Aupperlee offers an opening prayer.

Secretary Report: Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. Kathy Dobie summarizes the meeting minutes from the last regular meeting on February 5, and the minutes from the special meeting called on February 25 at Joe's Gizzard Café. In that meeting it was approved to support Gizzard Fest in 2020.

- Mark moves to approve the Secretary's report, Joe Bristol seconds. *Motion approved.*

Treasurers Report: Loren reports on the current financial status.

- Current General Fund balance: **\$1,562.44**. Loren reports that since the February 5 meeting, \$114.00 was paid out to County Journal, and (7) deposits had been received, for a total of \$380.00 received.
- Gizzard Fest Fund balance: **\$2,290.10** is unchanged.
- Loren also reports that he is working on getting information on the 501 C3 non-profit status, and hopes to have it for the next meeting. He will be out of town for the next meeting, but will pass the information on.
 - Kathy moves to approve the Treasurer's Report, Joe seconds. *Motion approved.*

Introductions / Chamber Reports / and local business updates:

City of Potterville: Mayor Bruce Kring reports:

- Gizzard Fest planning is in full swing.
- Maintenance at Lake Alliance is planned to clean up the dead tree branches. City is working with the Sheriff's department to make sure it is safe.
- The city has a new automated program for bill paying that makes it much easier, and requires few man hours.

Sycamore Creek Church: Pastor Mark Aupperlee reports:

- On Ash Wednesday the church gave away \$5.00 free gas at BP. 40-50 cars were served.
- SCC is working in partnership with the City of Potterville to host the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park this year, on Saturday, April 11, the day before Easter. There will be an egg hunt and prizes. The church hopes to get businesses involved in supporting the event.

Potterville Public Schools: Superintendent, Ken Robydek reports:

- March is Reading Month.
- The school is starting their own Facebook page to be run by the school administration. Plan to start this week.
- The school is planning to create a Hall of Fame at the school next year, to coincide with Basketball season. The wall would highlight people from PPS who has contributed in some way.
- Kindergarten Round Up is trying something new. They are offering an evening event, which will include a Taco Bar for students and parents.
- The school is planning to offer pre-school next school year. Program is being developed.
- The school is will be involved I Gizzard Fest in some way.
- Kevin introduces Stacy Carlstrom, the new Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. Stacy is married to Brad Carlstrom, who is the Athletic Director at PPS. Welcome, Stacy!

Potterville Masonic Lodge #367: Jim Robertson reports:

- The Lodge is planning a pancake breakfast at SCC on the Saturday of Gizzard Fest, July 11, from 7am – 11pm. There are several motorcycle clubs participating, included Just A Few in Potterville. Cost is \$8.00 adults, \$5.00 students and children under five are free. The proceeds will benefit the food pantry.
- The Lodge has (49) reconditioned children’s bicycles that they plan to give away to children in the community who are in need of a bike. They found out that the State of Michigan requires that each bike must also include a helmet, which is going to cost around \$1,200.00. So, they are trying to figure out how to make that happen.
- The annual antique auction at the school is set for Saturday, March 21. The mats to cover the gym floor are costing around \$3,000, but they should still raise enough money to provide PHS students with grant money for school.
- The Lodge is planning a celebration to honor one of their members who has been a member for seventy years.

21st Century Plastics Corp: Kathy Dobie reports:

- The new warehouse addition to the building is a bit behind schedule, but will hopefully be completed in April.

County Journal: Pennie Lake reports:

- Children’s Edition of the County Journal was a big success. Many children from schools in the area, including Potterville Public Schools, participated.
- Coming up is the Dining Page, Shop Locally, and St. Patrick’s Day specials.

Drake Shinaver Employment Services LLC: Dan Shinaver reports:

- Business is going well. He is excited about working with a women’s group in DeWitt called Women Lifting Women. A conference is being planned for Aril 18 in DeWitt.

Independent Bank: Dan Shanahan reports:

- 3% checking (when you have 46 swipes in a month on the debit card).
- Loan interest rates are low right now. Go see Dan...!

Joe’s Gizzard City: Joe Bristol reports:

- Joe’s will participate in the upcoming Gizzard Fest with Beer Tents and Gizzard eating contest.
- On St. Patrick’s Day, Joe’s becomes O’ Josephs and will feature corn beef menu items and green beer.
- New menu items include salt & vinegar fish sticks, pretzel dogs. C’mon down to Joe’s!

McDonald’s: Vicki Tamez reports:

- The Big Mac specials start on March 11. It includes Jr. Big Mac, regular Big Mac and the Double Big Mac, which has four beef patties!
- McDonalds is going to be phasing out the muffins.
- Chicken breakfast sandwich is going well.
- Potterville is using McHire as a way to add people to their team. People can apply for positions online using a QR code. Vicki brought some flyers with the information.

Old Business:

- **Gizzard Fest 2020 is on!** In the February 28 chamber meeting it was decided that the Chamber would work with the City of Potterville to sponsor Gizzard Fest in July.
 - There has been one community meeting held, Monday, March 2 at City Hall, to get ideas and input from the community for Gizzard Fest. It is hoped that this will a community event. The meeting was well attended, and more meetings are being planned. **The next community planning meeting is Wednesday, March 11, 6:00 pm at Sycamore Creek Church.** Brandy Hatt, Zoning Administrator for the City of Potterville and Mayor Bruce Kring are representing the City on the core committee for Gizzard Fest. They would like to add two Chamber members, and two community members to the core committee. Mark Aupperlee reports that he and Kathy Dobie have been asked to join the Gizzard Fest Core Committee as Chamber representatives.
 - Joe makes a motion to approve Mark and Kathy as the Chamber representatives on the Gizzard fest Cor Committee. Jim seconds the motion. Motion approved.

- There is some discussion on how the Chamber might participate and support Gizzard Fest. Joe Bristol has some t-shirts and koozies left that the Chamber could sell at a Welcome / Information booth to raise money for the Chamber.
 - Jim R moves that \$1,000.00 from the Gizzard Fest Fund be donated to City of Potterville to be used at their discretion for Gizzard Fest expenses. Kathy seconds. Motion is approved.

New Business:

- **Community Easter Egg Hunt:** City Park, Saturday, April 11.
 - Joe moves that the Chamber donate \$200.00 toward the community Easter Egg Hunt. Kathy seconds the motion. Motion is approved.
- **City Wide Clean Up:** Mo Storie reports that Potterville Gives Back will partner with SCC to oversee the annual event.
 - Kathy moves that the Chamber donate \$150.00 toward the City Wide Clean Up costs. Joe seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, April 1, 2020**, at noon, at Sycamore Creek Church. Alro Steel will provide lunch.

Adjournment: Mark moves to adjourn the meeting. Kathy seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 1:00 PM.

~ Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Dobie, Chamber of Business Secretary, 03/04/2020