



Place: Romer's Banquet Room

Date: 6/12/2017

Members present: Karen Romer, Sharon Rindler, Matt Lammers, Nate Subler, Lisa Niekamp Urwin, Don Hess, Ron Rindler, Jeff Piper, John Yoder, Kelley Baker, Kim Heitkamp, Karl Gast, David Romer

Vice President, Nate Subler called the meeting to order.

Nate opened the meeting by welcoming special guest and potential new member Kim Heitkamp. Kim is the Event/Volunteer Coordinator and Marketing Representative for CHP Home Care and Hospice of Celina. She is interested in learning the needs of our area and staying connected to all of the communities that they serve.

In David's absence, Sharon reported the following account balances. Checking account - \$1,519.78 and Savings account - \$34,952.53.

No changes were requested to the **minutes** from the April 10th meeting. They were motioned for approval by Kelley Baker, and seconded by Ron Rindler. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

1) **Membership Dues:**

- a. Kelley reported that 2017 date plates and a thank you letter had been mailed to all of the members who renewed their membership for 2017. There are four businesses that have not renewed; one is no longer in business and the other three will be contacted by phone asking for their renewal.
- b. It was decided to send the 2018 membership renewal invoice by e-mail at the end of December. We will follow up with a paper invoice in January for businesses who do not respond to the e-mail. Going forward we hope to get date plates out to members in a more timely fashion.

2) **Picnic Raffle Ticket:** Through a motion made by Don Hess and a second by John Yoder, a unanimous vote carried the desire to donate \$500 in Village Cash for a door prize on the St Henry Picnic Raffle Ticket.

3) **Picnic Workers:** A schedule was passed around asking for volunteers to work at the Picnic in the Chamber's Booth.

4) **Chamber Banquet:** Held on May 8th – The entertainment was delightful. The food was delicious. The attendance was a little lower than in years past. Discussion pursued on ways to increase attendance; changing the date may make a big difference; also we entertained a suggestion to sell whole tables allowing more company persons to attend the Banquet. We agreed to table the discussion until early next year.

New Business:

Jeff Piper started discussion regarding his concerns in finding people to readily fill open positions for the store. He states, "*I believe that by far the **biggest challenge business(es)** in this area will have for the next 5 years will be finding qualified associates. I would say we are at the "urgent" level currently and by the time Dannon opens its new building we will be at*

"critical" level. We see current radio and social media solicitation from these large employers; Crown, Cooper Farms, Dannon (even Kroger St Marys employs about 250 people) and many other businesses on a smaller scale. In most cases those of us in the Chamber are smaller, family owned employers who can only compete and succeed because of our "customer service". Many business owners at the meeting concurred with his thoughts stating that they share his plight or have at one point experienced similar struggles. Matt Lammers suggested that we invite Jared Ebbing to a future meeting to discuss these thoughts to bring awareness of small business concerns and search of possible solutions. Matt will reach out to Jared Ebbing.

Lisa extended an invitation to all interested businesses to attend the **Tri Star 2.0 Building Presentation**. A copy of the invitation is attached for your interest

With the upcoming break from our regular monthly meetings, Don Hess asked now for approval of preliminary funds for advertisement of the **Holiday Open House**. Karen Romer made a motion to allow \$700 for advertising; Matt Lammers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In response to previous monetary donations, **thank you notes** were received from Alexis Heath (Miss Lake Festival Outstanding Teen), The St Henry After Prom Committee, and the Med Foundation.

Thank you to "**Beckman & Gast**" for hosting the stress relief – *Refreshing!!*

Matt Lammers was the winner of the **Pot of God!!** - \$24.00.

Kelley Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting; a second by John Yoder followed with a unanimous vote. Next meeting will be Monday, September 11, 2017.

Sincerely,

Sharon Rindler

Secretary