

**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce
February 3, 2010 – CBDC Office – Noon**

Directors in Attendance: Virginia Harman, Gloria Taylor, Robert Carette, Dawn Barret, Josh Larson, Jeff Billman, Stephanie Browning, Carson Dunk, Treasure Berkram

Directors Missing/Excused: Scott Laird and Tippy Burtch

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Guests Attending: Jerilee Wilkerson and Tracy Puryear

The meeting was called to order by President Billman at 12:03 p.m.

The minutes from the Annual Meeting on January 20th were presented for approval with one change which was Josh Larson and Tippy Burtch (Directors) being excused from that meeting. Gloria moved to approve the change and Treasure seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The financial review was unavailable since Scott Laird was not at this meeting. The January financial report will be available to review at the March meeting.

Old Business:

Amy Overstreet talked about our website getting updated in January. The Annual Meeting went well at Charlie's Pizza as well as the Chamber Up After 5 Social at Frontline Ag. Jeff Billman thanked everyone who attended the Social. Amy reported on the membership drive and we are at 122 members currently and last year at this time we had 136 members. We really need to keep on moving with the drive and Jeff is going to send out letters again to those who haven't responded and asked us all to make a phone call or 2 to get people motivated.

Jeff Billman confirmed the Chamber Banquet date of Saturday, April 10th, 2010. We still need a speaker for the event but Elaine Mitchell is working on someone for us. The band will be Bar, Bed & Blue. The Fire Department will let us use their cooker even if they cannot cook for us. It was suggested that if we cannot find a speaker we should talk to Patrick Montalban as he might be willing to talk about the oil and gas industry. Jeff reminded us that we need to start looking for auction items and that every Director needs to have one good auction item.

The city park stage cover was discussed at length and Jeff thought it probably would not happen this year. Steph Browning said Larry Epstein had around \$12,000 in the Lewis & Clark Buckle Fund that could be used to help with the project. Jeff appointed Stephanie

to head up a committee to see if we can't get the cover on this year but reminded her that it needs to be approved through the Park & Recreation Board.

New Business:

The 2010 Budget was discussed at length. Jeff Billman brought up the Chamber Breakfast at Lewis & Clark Days and felt that both the Lewis & Clark Committee as well as the Chamber would be too exhausted by the time Sunday morning came around to put the breakfast on but that the Chamber would be willing to sponsor \$500 toward another group or committee running the breakfast this year. Josh Larson will contact Kim Butterworth of CBEFFA to let her know the Chamber's sponsorship of \$500 which does not include labor. Steve Bucher would be a good contact to order the food through.

Jeff tried not to "over budget" anything this year. For example the Christmas Lighting Fund went from around \$8k to \$5k as not as many lights will be needed next year.

Amy Overstreet explained that the City of Cut Bank budget is set for significantly more as the sprinkler system at the Visitor Center will use more water to sprinkle the lawn and trees/shrubs.

\$2500 will be put in the FY10 budget for District Basketball tournaments as part of the bid toward having the tournament in Cut Bank next year.

Gloria Taylor with Make a Difference Day is requesting \$700 added to the budget. She is hoping to have the 2010 Make A Difference Day project be for paint, etc. needed toward painting the Train Depot.

Robert Carette brought to our attention that the City may not compensate him for mileage when he travels to Glacier Country meetings. The Chamber thought his mileage could be added to the budget as well.

Treasure Berkram made a motion to accept the budget with the above mentioned items changed and Gloria Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Gift Certificate program was discussed at length. LeAnne Kavanagh is working with the Senior Class to get them involved and Glacier Electric would like around 400 certificates to hand out at their annual meeting. Signs need to be made for participating businesses to let people know they can use the certificate at that business. Jeff thought an article in the paper talking about the gift certificate program as well as the membership drive would be a good idea. We were reminded that in order for a business to participate in the program, they have to be a chamber member.

Jeff Billman would like us to start calling people to come to our Chamber Up After 5 socials as well as our Lunch N Learns to get the community more aware of what the Chamber is all about. A Chamber Calling Tree list was handed out to each Director.

A possible property acquisition was brought up by Jeff. The City, CBDC and the Chamber are all working together to try to keep businesses we have in town established while bringing new businesses in. The building they are working on now is the Myhre Jewelry building. Jeff sent a letter to Mrs. Myhre explaining the process of a possible 6 month or 1 year free lease for a new business coming into her existing business space. Mrs. Myhre was very willing to accommodate this idea. The idea is then to take that lease money and put it toward the “next” building/business.

Visitor Comments:

Treasure Berkram gave an update on NRMC. There are four providers in place now: Niall Atkinson FNP, Darryl Stock DO, Dr. Webb MD, and Michelle Hellwig FNP. Treasure talked about how NRMC has adopted the idea of telling 2 people something positive about NRMC and then they tell 2 people as well and keep the cycle going.

Jerilee Wilkerson and Linda Bruch are currently working on an article for the paper that will talk about the “Privileges” of the Clinic and Hospital.

Reminders:

Chamber Up After 5, Northern Vet Clinic, February 10th @ 5:30 p.m.
Lunch n’ Learn, February 17th @ Glacier Electric