**Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

**Board of Directors’ Meeting**

**December 19, 2019**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on December 19, 2019. Board members in attendance were Kathie Tierney, Shelby Potterfield, Mandy Finotti, Dan McDermott, and Carmen O’Hagan.

Others in attendance included Marion County Mayor David Jackson and David Pestillo with Emendee Technologies, LLC.

Please note that a quorum of board members was not present; therefore, an evote will be requested for all motions made during this meeting.

President Kathie Tierney called the meeting to order and recognized those in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Dan McDermott and seconded by Erik McDaniel to accept the minutes from the November 21, 2019 board meeting. An evote will be requested. Minutes are on file in the chamber office and will be posted on the chamber’s website. (Motion passed through evoting. See addendum to minutes.)

**Financial Report:**

Financial reports were presented and distributed to all present: “Banking Summary” for the month of November 2019 and “Account Balances as of 12/18/19”. Motion was made by Erik McDaniel and seconded by Dan McDermott to accept the financial report, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. An evote will be requested. (Motion passed through evoting. See addendum to minutes.)

**Old Business:**

1. Whitwell Middle School Career Day

Dave Pestillo reported that the career day program for eighth grade students at Whitwell Middle School (held on December 13th ) was a success. Mr. Pestillo expressed a desire to present similar programs to eighth graders at the other Marion County schools. Thanks to the following businesses/organizations/municipalities who assisted with WMS career day: Chattanooga State Community College, Lodge Mfg, TN River Gorge Trust, UT Extension, Hospice of Chattanooga, Marion County News, City of South Pittsburg, First Choice Storage, Fast Pace Urgent Care Clinic, Colonial Chemical, DuBose Conference Center and Emendee Technologies. A special thanks to WMS Principal Kim Headrick and her staff and Marion County Schools central office personnel who assisted in planning and presenting the career day program.

N**ew Business:**

1. Membership Applications

An application for membership from Jasper Memorial Funeral Home has been received and reviewed by the membership committee with a recommendation that the application be approved. A copy of the application was included in today’s meeting packet.

Erik McDaniel made a motion to approve membership for Jasper Memorial Funeral Home. Dan McDermott seconded the motion. An evote will be requested. (Motion passed through evoting. See addendum to minutes.)

1. Tennessee Driving Innovation Bus Tour

President Tierney explained that on January 28, 2020 the TN Driving Innovation Bus will be in Marion County, location to be determined. The chamber’s executive board included this event in their planning session last month. The target audience will be Marion County small businesses who wish to learn more about marketing and branding their individual businesses. The chamber has chosen to make this a “lunch and learn” event. The chamber will be responsible for advertising, promoting, planning, and providing lunch. The program will be presented by the tour personnel. Allyson Wolfe and Josh Brown are our contacts. More information will be available after the Christmas holidays.

1. Request for Donation

The chamber has received a request from Town of Kimball to support the Tennessee Bass Nation High School and Junior High Fishing Tournaments, four of which will be held at Marion County Park in 2020. When the events are at Marion County Park, the county and some local municipalities see tourism revenue increases.

Dan McDermott made a motion which was seconded by Mandy Finotti to donate $1,000 to TN Bass Nation Fishing Tournaments. An evote will be requested. (Motion passed through evoting. See addendum to minutes.)

**Mayor’s Report:**

Mayor Jackson reported the following activities in Marion County government:

* It was great to welcome Mueller to our community, providing 225 new jobs to Marion County.
* Valmont Industries has offered an apprenticeship program to eight students who will eventually become Valmont certified welders.
* The county has received a $66,000 Site Development Grant to be used for improvements to the Nickajack Port Authority, making that property more marketable to prospective businesses.
* The county has also received a two million dollar grant from TDOT for work on the rail spur with access to Colonial Chemical and the Nickajack Port Authority. Colonial Chemical has also added one million dollars to the project.
* The county is pleased to welcome TN Arts Council to Marion County for a three-day conference June 8 – 10, 2020. Participants will have sessions at Chattanooga State Kimball Site and Jasper Elementary School with a reception at The Princess Theater and a tour of the Children’s Holocaust Museum.
* A local business/industry is planning an expansion with 150 additional positions. More information will be forthcoming.
* Project Sunshine is interested in a possible site in Marion County. If that materializes, it could bring an additional 175 jobs to the county.
* The county is working with the tourism committee on wayfaring signs.
* Please be reminded that the 2020 US Census kicks off on April 1st. It is so important to have an accurate count as the census is only taken once every ten years. It is calculated that every person not counted in the census represents a revenue loss of $1,093 to local municipalities. Persons can be counted via online, paper form, telephone contact or personal contact from a census representative. Mayor Jackson encourages everyone to help spread the word that census forms are easy to complete and are confidential.

**Miscellaneous**

Shelby Potterfield gave an update on SVEConnect: Sequatchie Mountain is next!

Members were encouraged to review the announcement of upcoming events printed on the back page of today’s meeting agenda.

Next meeting would normally occur on January 16, 2020 but the Western Sizzlin will be closed for renovation. President Tierney suggested that we move the meeting from the 16th to the 23rd. All present agreed with that suggestion.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins Reviewed by President Kathie Tierney

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**Addendum to Minutes**

Result of evoting on all motions made during the December 19, 2019 Meeting of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors: **Voting to approve**: eight (Vicki Messer, Shelby Potterfield, Mandy Finotti, Joy Gunter, Patti Henry, Erik McDaniel, Patrick O’Hagan, and Kathie Tierney.) **Voting not to approve**: none. **Vote not received**: four (Brett DelBalso, Joyce Burkhalter, Meegan Burton and Donna Sartin). **All motions carried**. 1/9/20