**Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

**Board of Directors’ Conference Call**

**June 2, 2020**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via conference call on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at 2:00 PM CDT. Calling in were the following board members: Kathie Tierney, Shelby Potterfield, Erik McDaniel, Dan McDermott, Patrick O’Hagan, Carmen O’Hagan, Joyce Burkhalter, Vicki Messer, and Patty Henry. Also on the call was Dave Pestillo with Emendee Technologies and Judy Blevins, Administrative Assistant for the chamber.

(Please note that the chamber board had not meet since February 20, 2020 due to the restrictions necessary to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.)

President Kathie Tierney called the meeting to order and recognized those in attendance. Judy Blevins documented attendance via roll call.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Shelby Potterfied and seconded by Vicki Messer to accept the minutes from the February 20, 2020 board meeting. Copy of the minutes had been sent to board members prior to today’s call and is on file with the minutes. Motion carried without dissent.

**Financial Report:**

Judy Blevins presented the following financial reports, which had been emailed to board members prior to today’s call: “Banking Summary February 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020” and “Account Summary as of June 1, 2020”. Reports are on file with the minutes.

**Old Business:**

1. 2020 Emergency Small Business Grant Program

The chamber in partnership with the following contributors has presented $1,000 checks to twenty-one small businesses in Marion County: Tower Community Bank, Lodge Manufacturing, Marion County Partnership for Economic Development, Sequachee Valley Electric & TN Valley Authority, STH & Associates, and David Riley. The grant recipients represented businesses from every municipality in Marion County, all of whom had been adversely affected by restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. 2020 Spencer Wayne Memorial Golf Tournament

Originally scheduled for June, this year’s golf tournament has already been rescheduled for September 10, 2020. Because uncertainty about the future still looms large, the rescheduled date now may not be well advised. Today’s discussion included the fact that in order to have a successful event, sponsors would need to be secured and planning would need to begin soon. Also to consider is the current business climate which may eliminate the ability for potential sponsors to commit financially. Erik McDaniel made a motion to table a decision about the tournament until next month’s board meeting. Also included in the motion is to determine if the deposit is refundable or if it could be held by the course to apply to any future chamber tournament. Dan McDermott seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Kathie Tierney will speak to the manger of the golf course.

N**ew Business:**

1. Discussion of Scheduled Chamber Events
2. Monthly Board Meetings – Because Western Sizzlin is not available as a meeting place and with the continued need for social distancing, President Tierney asked for suggestions for ongoing board meetings (zoom, conference call, in-person) as well as the most convenient weekday, time, and place. Patty Henry offered SueBob’s Diner as a meeting place on a Monday or a Tuesday. Following group discussion, Erik McDaniel made a motion to have a July meeting via zoom. The motion was later amended with the following specifics: zoom meeting scheduled for Thursday July 16, 2020 at noon. Shelby Potterfield seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent. Kathie will send zoom meeting invitations to all board members.
3. Chamber Coffees – Two bi-monthly coffees have been canceled already (those scheduled for April and for June). The question is whether coffees can be safely held at some time in the future, given the continued need for social distancing. Decision was made to put a hold on all scheduled coffees until further notice.
4. Annual Banquet (referred to in the bylaws as “the annual meeting”) – The same concerns exist for the banquet this year as have been expressed regarding other chamber events. It appears that preparing for and presenting an event for 200 – 250 people in close quarters is not advisable for August. There is the possibility that a banquet could be held later in the fall. Even that is unknown at this time. It was explained that while it is not necessary to have a banquet, it is necessary to have a vote by the entire membership in order to elect new board members and to approve any bylaws revisions. This could be done, however, through mailing to all chamber members. Decision tabled until the July meeting.
5. Revision of By-Laws – The desire to amend by-laws has been discussed in the past. Most recently, the issue was brought before the executive board on November 5, 2019. As a result of discussion at that meeting, the following items were identified as needing revision: 1) evote protocol, 2) board member composition from 3 to 2 members representing South Pittsburg, Kimball, Jasper, Monteagle and Whitwell with 2 additional at-large members, 3) add president-elect to executive board, 4) signing of checks exceeding $400. Following the November 2019 meeting, President Tierney and Administrative Assistant Judy Blevins worked on wording to amend the by-laws to reflect the items identified by the executive board. The proposed amendments/revision was emailed to the entire board prior to today’s meeting. While any change in the by-laws would be subject to vote by the entire chamber membership, we would want the board of directors to be in support of proposed changes. Decision on by-laws revision was not determined today but will be included on the July 16th meeting agenda. This will give the board additional time to consider the revisions.
6. Membership Application:

The following membership applications have been received and reviewed by the Membership Committee: Gina Pannell, Realtor; Adoration Home Health & Hospice (formerly a member as Home Health Care of East TN & Hospice); and The Learning Center.

Vicki Messer made a motion to approve all three membership applications. Patty Henry seconded the motion. The motion was carried without dissent.

**Mayor’s Report:**

No mayors were present at today’s conference call.

**Miscellaneous**

1. Email Request for Assistance in Purchasing UTV/ATV for Marion County Sheriff’s Department – the chamber has received an email from Jennefer Lowe requesting a donation for the Marion County Sheriff’s Department to purchase a UTV/ATV. It was determined the request for donation in this case is not in line with the chamber’s goal and mission statement. Kathie Tierney agreed to speak with Sheriff Burnett or Gene Hargis about the request. The chamber will not forward the email until/unless more information is received.
2. Replacement of Chamber Board Secretary/Treasurer – Joy Gunter, current board secretary/treasurer, has asked to be replaced. Exercising her power of interim appointments, Kathie Tierney has asked Carmen O’Hagan if she would be willing to accept the position until a 20/21 board is installed. Carmen has agreed. Thank you, Carmen!

**Sharing from Community Partners**

Erik McDaniel asked for prayers for those affected by coronavirus and specifically for a member of the extended Grace Presbyterian Church family who was the first fatality attributed to COVID-19 in Tennessee.

Joyce Burkhalter announced that First Volunteer Bank branch lobbies are now open from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM CDT. Visitors are asked to wear a mask when entering the building.

Shelby Potterfield informed us that SVEC lobbies are now open to the public. SVEC was awarded a 1.6 million dollar matching grant to bring broadband to South Pittsburg Mountain, Orme and Battle Creek. Work is being done now.

Patty Henry reported that when the COVID-19 pandemic began in our area, SueBob’s Diner was approached by community leaders to partner with Southeast TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability. Patty agreed to work with the agency. SueBob’s is now into ten weeks of serving meals to several thousand people a week! The diner is now open to the public on W, TH, and F from 11 AM – 7 PM and on Saturday from 7:00 – 7:00. Schedule will be adjusted as the future unfolds.

Vicki Messer said that the radio station (WEPG, 910 AM/The River, 104.9 FM) will be glad to help anyone as they can. Call the station for additional information.

Kathie Tierney stated that “Marion Lifestyle” will not publish an edition this quarter due to the current economic situation many would-be advertising businesses are facing.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be via zoom on July 16, 2020 at noon.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins Reviewed by President Kathie Tierney