

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

October 15, 2020

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Zoom on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 12 noon CT. Logging into the meeting were the following board members: Kathie Tierney, Shelby Potterfield, Erik McDaniel, Travis Hickman, Patty Henry, Mandy Finotti, and Dave Pestillo. Also on the call was Judy Blevins, Administrative Assistant for the chamber.

President Shelby Potterfield called the meeting to order and recognized those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Patty Henry and seconded by Erik McDaniel to accept the minutes from the September 17, 2020 Zoom board meeting. Copy of the minutes was sent to board members prior to today's call and is on file. Motion carried without dissent from those present. (Note: Eight members are required for a quorum. Those members not in attendance will be given an opportunity to be counted via e-vote.)*

Financial Report:

Judy Blevins presented the following financial reports, which had been emailed to board members prior to today's meeting: "Banking Summary September 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020" and "Account Balances as of October 14, 2020".

The following expense details were outlined:

- Advertising - \$500 (annual "Living Here" publication, previously voted by the board)
- Sponsorship - \$2,500 (ODBA Championship at Marion County Park, previously approved by the board)
- COVID-19 Small Business Grant - \$1,000 (to replace WEPG check which was lost and for which stop payment was initiated)
- Plaques - \$137.19 (for BOTY and COTY recipients)
- Wages & Payroll Fee – \$1,443.53/\$3.30 (represented three pay periods)

The following income details were outlined:

- Interest - \$316.32 (annual interest on CD) Note that the bank statement for September arrived after the report was generated. Interest on checking account for September was \$0.33 but not reflected in the report.

The following account balance detail was explained:

- Grant Account - \$30,000 (this is a new account opened with the Lodge donation in order to keep grant transactions separate from the general checking account)

During discussion, Dave Pestillo asked about the negative balance reflected in the banking summary for September. This is a common thread on most monthly banking summaries. Other than membership dues and a quarterly reimbursement from Marion County Partnership for Economic Development, the chamber has no ongoing monthly income. Expenses, however, do continue to accrue. Mr. Pestillo will work with the chamber to look at budgeting issues.

Erik McDaniel asked what the chamber receives as a result of the \$2,500 sponsorship for the boat races. What does a lane sponsorship entail? Judy Blevins will inquire and report back. Patty Henry added that proceeds from the annual boat race are designated for the Marion County Children's Fund.

Motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Dave Pestillo and seconded by Erik McDaniel. Motion carried unanimously by those present. (Note: Eight members are required for a quorum. Those members not in attendance will be given an opportunity to be counted via e-vote.)* Reports are on file with the minutes.

Mayor's Report:

County Mayor David Jackson was unable to meet with us today. No other mayors were present.

Old Business:

A. Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year 2020

The 2020 Businesses of the Year and Citizens of the Year were selected by committee from nominations submitted to the chamber. The winners were announced via chamber email ("Chamber Chatter"), on the chamber's facebook page, and in "Marion News" this week. Congratulations to the following: Large Business of the Year (101 + employees) – Lodge Cast Iron; Medium Business of the Year (26 – 100 employees) – Tower Community Bank; Small Business of the Year (1 – 25 employees) – WEPG/The River; Co-Citizens of the Year – Gene Hargis and David Berry. For additional information about each selection see "October Chamber Chatter".

B. Emergency Small Business Grants (Community Care Grants)

Made possible through a donation from Lodge Cast Iron, the chamber is currently accepting applications from Marion County small businesses (less than 10 employees) adversely affected by COVID-19 restrictions. (See September minutes for additional information). To date, eight applications have been received in the chamber office. Deadline to submit an application is October 30th. Twenty thousand dollars of the Lodge donation has been devoted to the emergency grants. After these grants have been awarded, the remaining \$10,000 will be designated for the Spencer Wayne Small Business Grants which are for chamber members only.

New Business:

No new business was brought before the board.

Miscellaneous

President Potterfield reminded everyone that early voting began yesterday and will continue until October 29th. Early voting in Marion County is done at the election commission office behind that annex building in Jasper.

Dave Pestillo asked our thoughts on when we might resume in-person board meetings and coffees and if monthly coffees might be an option when we feel comfortable to have coffees again. President Potterfield said that due to the rise in COVID cases she felt Zoom board meetings are the safer option through the end of this year. We do recognize that businesses previously signed up for hosting coffees should have priority when coffees are able to resume. We can consider monthly rather than bi-monthly coffees when the time comes, probably not until after the first of next year.

Sharing from Community Partners

SVEC will not be having a Christmas Silent Auction fundraiser this year due to the economic downturn many businesses have experienced, but they have secured a TVA matching grant that will allow them to donate funds to the Multi-County Cancer Network as well as to several other organizations in the county.

Patty Henry reported that funding for the senior meals which she has been serving will end on October 30th. There is an attempt to secure additional funding. Mrs. Henry also stated that SueBob's Diner will deliver for large orders.

Judy Blevins reminded folks that the chamber is currently accepting membership renewal dues.

Kathie Tierney reported that the recent fundraising event for the Children's Advocacy Center in Marion County was a great success and brought in approximately \$50,000 for the center.

Judy Blevins reminded the board that Covenant Allergy and Asthma Care is moving from their Kimball location to Parkridge West in Jasper. Ribbon cutting is on Friday, October 30th, at 10:00 AM.

Mandy Finotti added that Chattanooga Skin and Cancer Center has opened an office at Parkridge West as well. She also shared that Nicole Rogers has opened a law office in South Pittsburg.

SVEConnect has expanded into Orme and South Pittsburg Mountain. They are working to connect Battle Creek, Mullins Cove and East Valley Road in Jasper. The goal is to have fiber optic availability to the entire county by the end of this year, if possible.

SVEC had to close the Dunlap office temporarily due to a positive COVID test from one of the employees. President Potterfield took this opportunity to remind everyone to follow CDC guidelines regarding hand washing, socially distancing, etc.

Meeting adjourned. Next scheduled board meeting is November 19th and will be via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Shelby Potterfield

* 10/19/20 – Board members not at the meeting but voting “Yes” on approval of minutes and approval of financial reports:

- Patrick O’Hagan
- Carmen O’Hagan
- Joyce Burkhalter
- Dan McDermott
- Vicki Messer

Both motions carried without dissent.