

**Blissfield Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting 7/21/09**

The regular meeting of the Blissfield Chamber of Commerce Board was called to order at approximately 4:05pm at Blissfield State Bank. Members present: Frank, Beth, Barb M., Barb B., Jeff, Jim and Julie representing a quorum. Absent: Bill Warner.

May minutes were approved: Jim motioned, Beth supported – unanimous.

June minutes were approved: Beth motioned, Jim supported – unanimous.

Financial

The financial report was presented resulting in the following motions:

Beth moved, Jeff seconded – motion to hold golf registration funds until after the event before distributing – unanimous.

Beth moved, Julie seconded – motion to pay Computer Tutor the May bill of \$173.13 – unanimous.

Jeff moved, Jim seconded – motion to pay \$100 on amounts owed to Yeutter & Assoc. – unanimous.

Barb M. moved, Julie seconded – motion to pay Rummage sale ads to Advance and The Access totaling \$55.55 (monies had been collected specifically for Rummage sale) – unanimous.

Beth has been working at the Depot at various times and is discussing the printer/copier situation with de Lage Landen. The account has been turned over to collection, but attempts are being made to exchange for a smaller unit or cancellation – efforts will continue.

Scholarship recipients will be contacted to provide name and address of their school to mail the award directly – all recipients are to be contacted by Barb M.

Culinary tour funds were collected in full and distributed to participating eateries – many have expressed interest at joining the chamber.

Membership

Barb B. distributed the membership list with assignments given. All membership was reviewed with additional assignments -- board to contact former and past due members for renewal at half-price for the remainder of 2009.

Jim is meeting with Rochester Chamber director Sheri Henry on Wednesday (7/22) for networking and growth ideas. He will update us after the meeting.

Marty has offered to give a report regarding the insurance coverage and limits in a future board meeting.

Marketing

The website is featuring a July special for members – a free page. The marketing committee will meet (TBA) to consider future promotions.

Arts – upcoming event: August 22, 23 – Art at your feet – downtown

Infrastructure

Jim has informed members by email of the “Main Street” fall programming. U.S. 223 corridor improvements details should be available soon. The focus of the work will extend from the river/bridge to Elm St./Lena’s. A Blissfield Center for Sustainability is considered for a possible location yet to be confirmed. The center will feature “green” workshops and displays to encourage the community to consider renewable energy and “green” living.

Downtown Merchants Group – email received 7/23/09 states the next car/bike show on August 27th, 5:30pm to 8pm, downtown (S. Lane St.).

No regular report at board meeting – **email received on 7/23/09 stated a Yuletide Planning Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 6th at 5:30pm at Royal Expressions.**

Ag Services – upcoming event: Plow Day at Sammy Thompson's, August 8, 2009.

Downtown farm market on hold due to lack of vendors. Start-up in 2010 is a possibility.

Construction/Housing – no report

Community Events

Golf Outing on schedule for August 6 starting at 8:30am, Virg Diver – chair, Beth – board liaison. The golf outing needs workers, sponsorships, and teams. This event is the main opportunity to get back in the black! Register at 517-204-7335; Fall Rummage set for September 12; other items being considered: Railroading event and Outdoorsman event. Future events include Rotary Halloween, Yuletide Open House, and Breakfast with Santa.

Old Business

Chamber tax free foundation status is on hold for lack of funding. Issue to be revisited after golf outing. Frank would like the board to reconvene to review the strategic planning session --- TBA. WLEN weekly radio chamber news can be submitted to Dale Gaertner, Program Director/Public Service Director 517 263-1039. Finally, the possibility of a director (shared with DDA or otherwise) is also on hold pending funding.

Next meeting August 18th, 4pm, location TBA.

Motion to adjourn by Julie, second by Barb B., 6:05pm – unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Goll, Secretary