

**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes**  
**January 6, 2010**  
**Cut Bank Development Center – Noon**

**Directors in Attendance:** Mike Bruch, Stephanie Browning, LeAnne Kavanagh, Gloria Taylor, Virginia Harman, Scott Laird, Jeff Billman, Josh Larson, Robert Carette, Dawn Barrett, Carson Dunk, Treasure Berkram

**Executive Director:** Amy Overstreet

**Directors Absent:** Tippy Burtch

**Guests Attending:** Tracy Puryear, Tom Shock, Jerilee Wilkerson,

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman at 12:00. Jeff welcomed the newly elected Chamber directors to the meeting: Treasure Berkram, Carson Dunk, and incumbent Stephanie Browning.

The minutes from the December 2, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. LeAnne Kavanagh moved to approve the minutes as presented and Mike Bruch seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The monthly financial report for November 2009 was given by Treasurer Scott Laird. Mike Bruch moved to accept the financial report for November. It was seconded by LeAnne Kavanagh and passed unanimously. The December 2009 financial report was also given by Treasurer Laird. He noted that the Hospital Auxiliary has yet to be paid approximately \$7455 for their split with the Festival Trees & Keys. The Bonneville rebate of \$6830 for the Christmas lights had been received. Gloria Taylor moved to accept the report as presented. Mike Bruch seconded. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved. The Cut Bank Chamber also has a \$20,000 Certificate of Deposit which had a maturity date August 27, 2009 and rolled over for another year.

**Old Business:**

Amy's report for December was concerning the Chamber's health insurance offered by the Montana State Chamber. Being a member of the Montana State Chamber, the Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce was automatically able to offer any Chamber member access to Chamber Choices, a health insurance program offered by the Montana State Chamber. For the next year the Montana Chamber is requiring any Chamber wanting to participate in the Chamber Choices program to assist them with their marketing efforts including sending their emails to our members and displaying their logo on our website. The decision was made to continue to be a local endorsed Chamber with Chamber Choices for another year.

The Festival of Trees & Keys' was another successful event as was reported by Executive Director Amy Overstreet. The Cut Bank Chamber and Northern Rockies Medical Center Auxiliary raised approximately \$15,000 to be split equally. A couple of businesses have yet to turn in their sponsorship fee for the band. Although the Chicago Dueling Piano musicians gave an outstanding performance, President Billman suggested we look for different entertainment for next year's Festival Trees & Keys.

Amy reported the membership drive is going good. To date she has received 11 new membership raising the total membership to 94 members. The goal for 2010 is to get 175 memberships. Each board member was asked to sign up to contact businesses who have not yet

joined. Liane Johnson said she would be willing to work with the Chamber in getting memberships from the local farmers and agriculture community.

President Billman reported U.S. Representative Denny Rehberg could not make the tentative date of March 19 set for the annual banquet to be held at the Joe Meagher Memorial Civic Center, but was possibly available on April 10, 2010. U.S. Representative Rehberg will be contacted to see if he can be the guest speaker on April 10.

### **New Business:**

After some discussion on purchasing a cell phone for Executive Director Amy, a motion was made by Carson Dunk to purchase a Tracfone from Radio Shack. It was seconded by Robert Carette. The motion passed. The Tracfone was by far the most cost effective option for its occasional use. The telephone calls from the Visitor Information Center will be forwarded to the Tracfone during the off season when the VIC is not staffed.

The 2010 committee assignment sheet was passed out by President Jeff. Anyone who was not on the list was asked to sign up on a committee.

Mike Bruch presented the slate of officers to the board. Robert Carette made a motion to accept the slate of officers and directors. It was seconded by Josh Larson. Motion carried. Jeff Billman will serve as President; Virginia Harman as Vice President; Stephanie Browning as Secretary; and Treasure Berkram as Treasurer.

Jeff asked for volunteers for the 2010 budget committee. Scott Laird, Treasure Berkram and Jeff Billman will serve on the committee.

Jeff presented the final draft of Executive Director Amy's 2009-2010 contract. The Executive Committee had recommended Overstreet receive a \$650 bonus as well as a \$1 per hour increase to her pay for her contract year, 2009-2010. They also recommended the new contract include language stating Overstreet will receive six weeks paid maternity leave. She is expecting the family's third child in late February/early March. Virginia Harman moved to accept the contract as presented and Scott Laird seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Much discussion was done on promoting the gift certificate program offered by the Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce. LeAnne Kavanagh would like to present this option to the Parents of the Class of 2010. These could be given out at their Graduation Fun Night party after graduation.

Virginia Harman reported on Shakespeare in the Park event. Sponsorship for it will be approximately \$1250. She is still working on picking a date for event.

Jeff reported on the Northern Rockies Medical Center recruitment event which will be Thursday, January 14 at Charlie's Pizza from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to welcome Dr. Darrel Stock, and Niall Atkinson, Family Nurse Practitioner to the medical staff and in addition the other medical providers on the medical staff. LeAnne Kavanagh made a motion to give up to \$250 to help the Northern Rockies Medical Center with the refreshments and food for the event. Mike Bruch seconded and was passed unanimously.

### **Visitors Comments:**

Jerilee Wilkerson reported CBDC is working with Glacier Electric on an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant for \$500,000 due by January 31.

**Reminders:**

Chamber Up Social Frontline Ag January 13.  
Annual Meeting January 20 at Charlie's Pizza at noon.  
Glacier Country Annual Retreat, January 11-12 in Whitefish

Scott Laird moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Jeff Billman.