



Chamber of Commerce Meeting September 21, 2021,

Noel calls the meeting to order at 701pm

- 1 - Approval of Agenda - Stephanie Popel
- 2 - Introductions and welcome guests and members - Debbie Palichuk, Renee Cherniwchan, Noel Simpson, Michelle Wright, Ross and Val Whitlaw, Boris, Evelyn, Gerry Hudson, Stephanie Popel, Mark Watson, Dave Paches, Hank Holowaychuk
- 3 - Alberta Chambers presentation - Gerry Hudson - Excalibur planning - Gerry talks about the benefits of the Chambers group insurance plan. You can administer the plan at my-benefits.ca and they also have a new app as well. There is an online portal now to sign up. www.chamberplan.ca where you can request a free quote.
- 4 - Minutes from Virtual meeting April 27, 2020 - Michelle makes the motion to approve the minutes and Stephanie seconds. Carried.
- 5 - Business arising from minutes - Centex sign - Noel will take care of it in the next 3 weeks. Hank said Noel could use the Town bucket truck, he will ask the Council for approval. Trevor Henry will make new signs for businesses at a cost from \$50 to \$100 dollars. Renee will call Trevor to confirm the price and order her own new sign. Trevor will have to verify that the Businesses are members before making their signs.

Stephanie approves the Executive minutes and Boris seconds. Carried.

- 6 - Executive meeting September 9, 2020 - Minutes attached, approvals needed actions taken - Renee makes a motion to approve the Executive meeting minutes, Ross seconds. Carried. Christmas light up - Noel said he talked to GFS about the turkeys at cost and they will charge us \$4.00 per kg. He knows turkeys go on sale for .99 cents a pound, so if anyone wants to step up and buy some for us to give away they are more than welcome too. No one volunteered yet.

Noel discusses the sign by his restaurant downtown Smoky Lake, Hank suggests making it mobile and Noel says no. Pappys will look after the sign by putting up posters, it will be a lock and key, so not anyone can get into it. Noel wants the sign upgraded, cleaned up and fixed, at a cost of \$500 dollars. Val makes the motion to update the sign for \$500 dollars and Renee seconds. Carried.

7 - Correspondence - none

8 - Financial statements - \$5010.52 Balance in our Chamber bank account, \$1634.49 in our Birthday town account. Stephanie presented the amounts.

Debbie approves financial statements as read, Renee seconds. Carried.

9 - Activities to Discuss

9a - Art Walk Grant - request approval to proceed with applications. Michelle needs a motion from the Chamber to request approval to proceed with applications to pay Dawn Marie Marchand for her Art work and other artistes who are displayed around town for her hard work and setting up all the pictures. Renee makes a motion, Debbie seconds. Carried.

9b - Gavinchuk book - still waiting on original group to update - Noel talked to Carole Carpenter and they are still trying to get it transferred. No meetings yet due to Covid. He will update us again at the next meeting.

9c - Refresh Centex sign -Noel leading - discussed above in item #5

9d - RCDC - request to be on the Centex sign - Noel wants their sign posted on our Centex sign. They have been a huge partner with the Chamber for the last 6 years. Their sign will read Smoky Lake Region Naturally Inviting. Renee makes the motion to approve RCDC put up their sign, Stephanie seconds. Carried. Michelle will also write a letter to the other clubs in Smoky Lake to see if they want to add a sign as well. They will pay Trevor Henry for the sign, but we will put it up for them.

9e - Bulletin board by Noels - Dennis and Richard have some design ideas. Discussed above in item #6

9f - New Corporate Registration update - Stephanie made a few corrections, will send in the specific forms, then she will mail it out. \$50 cost and our new name will be the Smoky Lake and District Regional Chamber of Commerce Association.

9g - RCDC Business Directory - Chamber members will be highlighted - Business directory with a self registration. Its a regional resident guide with all of the Businesses inside. Everyone will get one when they register for utility bills, snow ploughing, internet, find out about rules around lighting fires in the area, etc. Michelle will let us know who to register our Businesses once she finds out. Directories will be printed January 2021.

9h - Community Futures COVID recovery grant discussion - What to do with the \$3000 dollar grant money?

a) - Regional Covid Bingo with local draws for Vilna, Waskatenau, Smoky Lake. Complete an

entire Bingo card. Have the Chamber businesses showcased twice on a card.

- b) - Cookie walk - Do a cookie walk around Town starting off Christmas, purchase cookies from Renee
- c) - PPE for members - Businesses that need masks, gloves or hand sanitizer.

Evelyn motions that we do an article in the Smoky Lake Signal 1/2 page that Thanks everyone from the Chamber in this Covid year. Boris approves, Ross seconds. Carried.

9i - Light up planning - Use the \$3000 Covid recovery grant money for the Christmas Light Up

- a) Hot Chocolate, hot dogs and coffee
- b) Cookies
- c) Band - Tyler Fletcher is currently harvesting, but we will discuss with him playing for us for \$1000 for about an hour and a half. We will provide a shelter, electricity and heat. If Tyler cant, we will ask Brenda Hrycun

d) Prizes

e) Fireworks

Val suggests doing a Silent Auction in the stores directly where people bid in store, every store has one item. Dave will be Santa in an outside vehicle, we will figure something out for him. We are going to change the location to White Earth Street. Kinettes will help in some way. Michelle will write a letter to Town council to close the streets and maybe use the Town roof if possible.

9j - Advertising subsidy to Farmers Market for October 3 for CFCW - Michelle makes a motion to donate \$1000 dollars for the advertising. Noel says that is too much for the Chamber, but we will donate \$200.00

Renee donates \$200 from the Bakery

Michelle donates \$200 from Pappys

Hank Holowaychuk donates \$100

Covid recovery money \$300

Debbie makes the motion to give \$200 dollars from the Chamber and \$300 from the Covid money. Renee seconds. Carried.

Noel wants us to put an ad in the Signal to Thank the sponsors.

9k - Smoky Lake Tourism Strategy Engagement (pending) - Michelle updates us that there has been a commitment from the Town, County and Metis Nation of Alberta for \$600,000 dollars each to start the tourism strategy of course all pending approval. The money is leveraged and will be paid back in 3 years. Plan has been in the works for 18 months and now they take it out to the community.

9 - 1 - Birthday Town - Noel has tried to talk to Brian and Lessa, but they are always too busy. Evelyn will contact them to see where it's at and let us know at the next meeting.

10 - Roundtable - Hank talks about the Happy Camper on CFCW, homes are selling, realtors are busy. Pumpkins are being repaired by the Pumpkin Growers for \$6900. No Rodeo, no Pumpkin fair no parade which was a huge loss to the community. Paving is complete. Still negotiating for the Duplex. Metis Crossing is almost complete. Trying to readjust the lights downtown. Halloween they still aren't sure what to do. Solar Farms northside of the Metis crossing is being built. New school is going to be built down the hill.

Ross updates us on the electronic sign that was broken down. He will start promoting the Farmers market October 3rd. And the Club fund raising garage sales.

Gerry wants to reach more Farmers and more Businesses to join the Chamber. Michelle suggests going to the virtual Bonnyville workshop.

Noel Thanks everyone for coming and for their ongoing support!!

Meeting adjourned 9:10pm