

# Greater Wheatland Area Chamber of Commerce

Minutes from January 28, 2006

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Elizabeth Murray. The meeting was held at the new Scottsville Fire Hall. 23 people were in attendance. All present briefly introduced themselves.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mike Dakin, seconded by Rich Jasinski to approve the October 15, 2005 minutes.

## **III. Financial Report**

Treasurer Jim Musshafen gave the annual report for 2005. Income totaled \$1185. Expenses were approximately \$820, leaving a year-end balance of \$365.

Our current balance is a little over \$2000.

## **IV. Recognition of Community Leaders**

Jim Musshafen recognized Edie Corninsh as an individual who goes "above and beyond" in support of our community.

Edie was nominated by Mayor Michael Souers. She is a strong member of the local American Legion. Edie also participates on the Main St. Planning Team, and is the chairperson of the *Festival on the Oatka's* annual Fishing Derby. Congratulations, Edie!

Please forward any suggestions for future community members to recognize to any member of our leadership team.

## **V. Annual Report Review**

Vice-President Carole Dakin shared the annual report that was recently sent to all Chamber members. This publication consists of highlights from 2005, a look ahead to events scheduled for 2006, and a membership renewal section. All current members are listed in the publication along with our new logo and website address (website should be up and running this spring).

## **VI. Committee Updates**

### Marketing – Mike Dakin

The new logo is complete. The website design under construction, just waiting to be “launched.” This committee is looking to find corporate sponsors to offset the costs of the website. They would get advertising on our site in return.

Mike also shared a long-term goal of this committee to market outside of Wheatland.

### Fundraising – Carole Dakin

Currently looking into three options. One is a Delta Sonic (car wash) fundraiser. Booklets with car wash coupons are sold and we would get a percentage of the sales. Krispy Kreme Doughnuts also has a similar program.

The Scrip program works with various stores. People turn in their receipts from these stores and money is given back to our group.

### Special Events – Elizabeth Murray

Two wine tasting events have been very successful. We will look to have more in 2006, utilizing various venues. Genesee Country Village is a likely spot for the next wine tasting (June 3).

Other events that the Chamber hopes to be involved with: The Farmer’s Market, Full Moon Music Series (now held at the Legion), Festival on the Oatka.

### Membership– Dan Murray

We currently have 65 members. We have an “unofficial” goal of doubling our membership in 2006. We need to continue to encourage people to join committees. Please submit any referrals for new members and we can send them an annual report/membership renewal form.

We are looking into a Chamber member discount card (or web coupon) that would entitle members to a discount when used at other Chamber members’ businesses.

### Business Programming – Jim Musshafen

Jim and Dan have met with Henry Williams to discuss formalizing our by-laws and setting us up as a non-profit organization. Henry is a Chamber member and local attorney who has offered pro-bono legal counsel to our organization.

The next business programming forum is set for March 23. More information to follow.

#### **V. Town of Wheatland Commissions**

Town Supervisor (and Chamber member) Linda Dobson gave an update on the boards that were taking applications for new members. Our discussion focused on the Economic Development Commission (EDC) which was seeking 5 new members.

Linda explained that EDC is charged with development and growth with a careful eye on the pace of that growth with respect to the taxpayers. Our taxpayers have recently approved two fire hall projects (Scottsville and Mumford), the school district's capital renovation, and the town/village government building project. New growth and development beyond these projects will need to be carefully selected.

Powers and duties of EDC are assigned by the Town Supervisor. Currently, town councilman Ed Shero is serving as interim EDC chairperson. The budget for EDC for 2006 is \$2700. EDC meets monthly and meetings are open to the public. EDC would like to have 6 to 9 members who serve in staggered 3-year terms. One or more members of EDC serve as liaisons to the town planning board.

Linda explained that EDC and our Chamber should be a "marriage" as we work together in the interest of the development of our area.

Chamber members who are interested in serving on EDC were encouraged to apply for a position.

#### **VI. Member Showcase**

We apologize to *Beautiful Valley Guest House*. Carl and Lori were scheduled to give a presentation on the new bed and breakfast, but the meeting ran longer than anticipated. Carl and Lori were great sports and will be featured at our next general meeting in April.

**Meeting adjourned: 10:30 A.M.**

**Next General Membership Meeting – April 29, 2006 (location TBA)**