

**Claresholm & District Chamber of Commerce
Annual General Meeting
January 19, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by President, Russell Sawatzky.

Additions to Agenda.

There were no additions to the agenda so it was moved to accept agenda as presented by Tim Thompson.

Minutes from previous Annual General Meeting.

Russell went through the highlights of the previous minutes and touched briefly on past activities and previous executive. It was moved by Wilf Gour that we accept the minutes as read.

Financial Report.

The Financial report was presented by Treasurer, Sue Gour. Sue went over the various accounts and gave a brief overview of the projects undertaken by the Chamber. Sue informed the meeting that there would be no increase in membership dues even though the dues payable to the Alberta Chamber of Commerce have increased for the 2011 year. She also explained the value of being a Chamber members and what the membership covers.

Sue went over the Profit/Loss statement for the past year and made one correction to the statement. The profit on the Trade Fair is \$6,424.91.

Betty Fieguth moved that we accept the financial statements into the minutes for audit purposes.

Year in Review.

Projects discussed for information purposes were the Mexican Fiesta, Trade Fair, Hanging Basket program and the Late Night shopping. We have some great projects and what we do with them we do well and they make money for the Chamber.

The hanging basket program will probably show a profit this year with the purchase of new baskets by the town. The new baskets will hold the moisture for longer and will not require watering as often as before.

The Trade Fair was a success and we are expecting a good turn out this year as well. We saw good profits from the past trade fair.

The Mexican Fiesta is another project that continues to make the Chamber money and it gets bigger and better each year.

The Late Night shopping came up for discussion. It was noted that the Chamber has not been recognized as the sponsor for the sleigh ride and that this will be corrected for this year.

We then discussed new projects that may be suitable for the year 2011. The new projects will be to enhance the town or environment and the construction of a gazebo in the park was once again brought up. During the next couple of Chamber meetings we will have to decide what we would like to take on for the year.

We want to thank Don Leonard for his contribution to the Chamber and the town. He has not been as active since his illness and his presence is missed. He was named the Citizen of the Year in 2009 and for good reason.

Our membership came up for discussion. We have a fairly healthy membership however we are not seeing a lot of the members participate in the meetings. Sue suggested that we may want to talk to other members and see if they are interested in attending a lunch. Some form of encouragement may just work to get more members involved. And more members mean more new ideas to move forward.

Board of Directors.

The Executive as they stand are:

Russell Sawatzky – President

Don Leonard – Past President

Nancy McCance – Secretary

Sue Gour – Treasurer

Wilf Gour – Director

The executive as above will stand as current executive with the exception of Don Leonard. There is still no Vice President and there were no nominations from the floor. Russell called for nominations for executive three times. Motion to accept moved by Betty Fieguth.

There followed a discussion about who the current directors are and it appears that the list is not current. An email will be sent out to the membership asking for names for Directors and the Vice President position. There will have to be a review of the by-laws prior to this.

New Business.

Wilf Gour mentioned new directors and Vice President position and this should be in place by the March meeting of the Chamber.

A location for our meetings will have to be negotiated for this year as there will be a new contractor at the golf course.

Activities for 2011.

Some activities that came up for discussion were building a gazebo at Amundsen Park, doing a sign on the archway and having a mural painted at Ringrose park. Also a walking pathway was brought up by Iqbal Nurmohamed (BlueBird Motel) and we were informed that the town is looking after pathways.

Other suggestions were sending the Claresholm float up to the Calgary Stampede parade and looking into doing something with the vacant properties in the downtown core. We understand that the EDC discusses the downtown area at their meetings, however, it may come up for discussion purposes only.

Tim Thompson from ATB brought up the crossover between the Chamber and Service groups. Our focus should be business development projects with fundraising as a priority. Town beautification projects also came up for discussion.

Some other matters were discussed briefly as they are being taken care of by either the school division, the town or the Kinsmen.

Correspondence

Russell has been accepted to the board of Southgrow – Alberta Southwest, to the Marketing and Communication Committee.

The town has purchased 40 new planters for the hanging basket project. Cost \$3,000.00.

Southgrow is having a recognition event in Lethbridge. Speaker will be **Doug Griffiths** (MLA Battle-River Wainwright) Topic: 13 Ways to Kill your Community. Event is February 11, 2011 9:00 – 11:30 am. *An e-mail was recently sent out to all members with the details of this event.

Adjournment

Patrick Lannan moved that the meeting be adjourned.