



December 2, 2009

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was held at the Dundy County Senior Center located at 710 Chief Street, Benkelman, NE. Members present: Gary Clark, Randy Hudson, Linda Melchert & Tim Fegler, Rita Jones, Monica Mercer, Cheryl Prangle, Joya Neville, Jann Clark, Frank Merklin, and Joyce Blair.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Gary Clark. Gary welcomed Frank Merklin as representative from Benkelman NAPA, the Chamber's newest member.
2. The minutes from the November 5, 2009 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Joyce Blair for approval of minutes as recorded. Second by Joya Neville. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
3. Treasurer Jann Clark reviewed the Treasurer's report for period ending 11-30-09. Beginning balance on the account as of November 1st was \$13,052.81. Total debits for the month were \$1,169.60 and total credits were \$765.00 for a month-end balance of \$12,648.21. Motion by Cheryl Prangle to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Second by Joya Neville. Motion carried unanimously of the members present. There was further discussion of outstanding bills from the Rumble. To date there has been no bill presented for port-a-pots. There is a bill which was received from the City of Benkelman in the amount of \$195 that has not been paid. Members asked to have the City's bill brought to the next meeting for discussion if it has not been paid.
4. Old Business
 - a. Action Groups
 - i. Gary Clark reported that the historical signage at the Springs will be installed on December 12th. There will be a press release and a photo op for a few individuals with a larger release in the Spring when the trees have leafed out.
 - ii. Scott Vanderford was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Linda Melchert discussed the possibility of linking the Chamber website with Nebraska Rural Living due to the fact that this business frequently promotes Southwest Nebraska and specifically Dundy

County. Linda was directed to contact Scott and ask him to set up the link.

iii. Cheryl Prangley shared a report from Bob Prangley for activity on the Chamber phone with several calls inquiring about businesses in Dundy County and other community activities. (attached)

b. Christmas promo was reviewed. Gary reported that the street will be blocked off at 9:30 the mornings of December 5th and 19th. The Ping Pong Blast will be held at 10:00 am with the prize drawings following at 11:00. Prior to the blast, Gary will pick up the Santa Buck tickets from each of the businesses who have been collecting them. Ping Pong balls from several businesses will be redeemed at the Dundy County Senior Center.

c. A short discussion was held on the promotion of new businesses starting up in the area. This topic is to remain on the agenda for next year so a plan can be developed and put in place.

5. New Business

a. Gary discussed plans for a community Christmas Tree. Due to the fast approach of Christmas it will be difficult to obtain City approval to locate the tree on the street. Gary offered to have the tree located on his property there on the corner of the old filling station., Kenny Haines and Gary will place the tree and members of the community will be invited to come decorate the 18 footer and share hot cider and hot chocolate at the Dundy County Senior Center. Date and time for the event is Thursday evening, December 10th at 6pm.

b. Prior to adjournment, Gary said a big “Thank You” to Jeff Preston and Kenny Haines for allowing the use of the windows in the old Farm & Home Building, the old Napa Store, and the corner garage for displays of the holiday season. Gary said a special “Thank You” to Joya Neville and Monica Mercer for their creativity in designing and setting up the window displays that are a great addition to the season.

6. Next Meeting: January 7, 2010 at 6pm at the Dundy County Senior Center.

7. Adjournment at 7:11 pm

/s/ Rita Jones, Secretary DCCCD