

East Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce

March 21, 2011

Directors Present: Luci Patterson, Margo Zuch, Julie Young, Kerri Stewart, John Davis, Endia Wisser, and Dianna Elzer

Members Present: 21

Secretary Luci Patterson opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. due to other officers running late. She stated that the Directors had a meeting in January to discuss the results of the Chamber of Commerce election. The results are as followed: Don Elzer, Dianna Elzer, Kerri Stewart, and Endia Wisser were reelected and John Davis and Margo Zuch were elected. Julie Young and Luci Patterson have one more year on their terms. Officers were then elected for the coming year. They are as follows: Don Elzer, President; Endia Wisser, Vice President; Luci Patterson, Secretary; and Dianna Elzer, Treasurer.

STATE OF THE UNION

City Manager Gary Clark spoke about challenges and successes for 2010. We faced and overcame a severe blizzard in February. We were given no financial aid after this disaster. We used our own resources to clean up. Dog Days was a huge success with 400 volunteers, who helped spruce up the schools, downtown, and the park. Blight removal was achieved by constant pressure on property owners, application of City resources and some federal aid. The Garden Club provided the downtown with \$10,000 worth of new Christmas decorations. Most Jimtown homeowners were connected to the new water main. Labor peace was achieved with two 5-year union contracts: one between the City and the Teamsters and the other between the City and the FOP. Communication between employees and management was improved by efforts from both.

He then talked about construction projects. Jimtown water line project – the city began connecting Jimtown customers to the new water mains completed through the five-year Jimtown Waterline Replacement Project. This project eliminated a major liability for the City in that the City was responsible for replacing the 3" galvanized water mains because the City had accepted them in the 1950's. The new system of mains and a booster pump was completed through CDBG grants and meets modern EPA standards. There are a few customers who need connection in 2011. Their connection has been held to last because they cannot be connected until all the other customers are connected and the old lines abandoned.

Gary then talked about community housing. Clean up and demolition orders – this was a duty assumed by the City Manager upon the retirement of Mr. McElroy and the subsequent decision not to replace him for economic reasons. Mr. McElroy's salary was re-directed to the Police Department.

He then talked about the street department and all that they had done in 2010. He also talked about upcoming projects for 2011. They are a roof over Jimtown resoviuour, Howell Road booster pump, and East & West Martin Street and Brookdale are getting paved.

Gary said that the Christmas Home Tours this year happens to be on Veteran's Day. He wanted to know what everyone thought about putting Christmas decorations on one side of the street and American Flags on the other side. Once Veteran's Day is over the other Christmas decorations would go up. Everyone agreed that would be fine.

C.H. McCutcheon of Elder Ag & Turf then spoke. They are sponsoring a Ladies Clinic on Thursday, April 7th from 6p.m.-8:30p.m. Doors will open at 5:30p.m. Vendors will be available in the hallway. This is an event for ladies by ladies. Renee Baker will present a lawn mower clinic. The President of the Columbiana County farm bureau will talk. A comedian will be present. The event will be catered by "Magnificent Meals by Melissa". Ladies from the surrounding counties attend this event. Please RSVP by Monday, April 2nd. If you would like to have your business information put in the gift bags, please let C.H. know.

Barb Lynch spoke on behalf of the All School Reunion committee. The reunion is August 5th, 6th, and 7th this year. Karen King of the class of 1960 is in charge. The goal is to get people downtown, so the committee is asking merchants to let an alumni class decorate their store front windows. There will be a dance at the Clark Street Station on Friday, August 5th from 6p.m.-9p.m. Registration form for the dinner are available at the Library, School Administration Office, and City Hall. \$25.00 per person; Hordervous start at 5:30p.m. and dinner at 6:00p.m. On Saturday, August 6th the committee is going to try and have activities at the park. They would like to encourage everyone to spend the day at the park and then go to the dinner.

Ms. Lynch also talked about the EP Alumni & Friends scholarship Association Dinner on April 19th from 4p.m.-6:30p.m. Adults - \$9.00 in advance and \$10 at the door; children 5-12 - \$4.00, and 4 & under free.

She also talked about the Stonemetz Golf Outing which is May 1st. Registration forms are at the Country Club, the Moose, and the Eagles. All proceeds go to Social Concerns.

Chamber member, Joyce McCutcheon, asked about the upcoming Rotary Dinner. Please see the attachment for more information about this.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Theatre progress – Construction volunteers to be organized as soon as weather warms. Men's room is done. Ladies room is almost done. A new concession stand is being put in. Electrician came in and said that it would not be much to do work. HVAC will be expensive. Lobby will be open soon.
- B. Chamber Office – the works for the clock had to be sent back because they wouldn't work with the hands we got. Once we get them back, it will take two days to finish. Once the weather starts getting nice, we will work on the building. Thank you to Sparrow Figley for putting up the sign. A plaque for the chimes will go up in the Chamber office.
- C. Directory Update – Kerri Stewart brought one in for everyone to look at and make any necessary changes too.
- D. Business Park Plan update – brochures printed, and contact list being prepared for owners up St. Rt. 170. Don wants to talk to everyone.
- E. Flower Pots – Sample on display, taking orders
- F. Kids Pool & Chamber Concession Stand update – regulations have been received and give to Kim Gould to work up plan for submission to the State. Will need a fundraiser to fund this.
- G. Memorial Brick Sales – forms are available on the Chamber website.
- H. Pet Walk – May 28th, looking for sponsors at \$100 each for backs of t-shirts, etc. Registration forms on Chamber website.
- I. Financials for 2010 – Dianna Elzer handed out a recap of all the Chamber expenses.
- J. Anthem Health Discount – just waiting on signature. See the attached email from Dianna regarding this.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Planning commission working on a 5 year plan, looking for suggestions geared towards increasing population, income levels, and property values.
- B. Downtown Business Sidewalk Sales – Jason Whitehead will be coordination this event. There will be two sales: one during the All Alumni Reunion and one during the Alice Street Sale. Jason is going to be contact all the local businesses and putting information in the Morning Journal.
- C. Member Suggestions – In regards to the Farmer’s Market, Dianna said that she has sent a letter to PNC Bank asking if we can put the farmer’s market in the space between the bank and Dollar General. We need it to be in a smaller area where it is more populated. A lot of people are still saying they don’t even know we have a farmer’s market. We need more people to show up. Craft, bake goods, and home grown products are permitted at the sale. No yard sale items. We need to find a way to promote more and highlight the unique items.

John Hersh congratulated the boys basketball team for their 3rd ITCL championship and winning the schools 1,000 game, also Coach Tom Bingham on his winning his 200th game as a coach.

Barb Lynch said that the fact book in the Mourning Journal needs updated. Kerri Stewart has a copy and will give it to Barb to go through and update.

Ms. Lynch also said the Alumni committee is looking for someone younger to do the community breakfast on the 4th of July at the park.

Endia Wisser said that the 4th of July events will be on Monday July 4th. A rain date is set for Sunday, July 10th. Contracts will be given to vendors and a copy will be in the city office so that someone can’t show up and say they want to set up. They need to have a contract. If you have any suggestions please let Endia know.

Invoices for Chamber membership are done and will be sent out.

Dianna Elzer closed the meeting at 8:08 p.m.