



Board of Directors Meeting

November 17, 2009

Call to order by Steve Thompson, Chairman of the Board @ 12:15 PM.

Members present: Buckner, Mills, Roe, Thompson, Burke, Oaks (Goforth), Holum (Inkelbarger), Von Schipmann, Wine, Graham

Members absent: Cooper, Mayor Lay, Erickson, Hill, Rhyne, Toppins, Phillips

Visitors present: Chantay Collins, Tonya Adkins

Approval of Agenda: Motioned by Von; 2nd by Burke. Motion approved.

Steve welcomed new members: Gun Shack, Dawg House, B Bruce Carpentry, Arctel, C&C Acres, Farm Credit Services, Color Me Salon

Approval of October minutes: Burke motioned to accept; Von 2nd. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Judy reported a starting balance of \$3615.62 and an ending balance of \$3174.18. Burke moved to accept the treasurer's report and Wine 2nd. Motion passed. Mr. Burke commended Judy for the excellent layout of the financial report.

President's Report: Julie and Jennipher reported on the following: **Tourism-** The Norris Highlands Tourism Council has sent the regional map project to the printers. The product should be available in 4 weeks and available for the Norris Lake marinas to bring as marketing material to the boat and outdoor shows throughout the Southeast and Midwest. NHTC received permission to distribute this map at all of the Tennessee Welcome Centers. Julie also provided a map of the proposed highway/ byway project that is being done by the Tennessee Department of Tourism. Originally, Union County was not included on the map which is tentatively named the "White Lightning Trail." Julie successfully petitioned to have Union County included. Jennipher and Julie contacted tourism related businesses including restaurants to ask for permission to include them in

the brochure. Only one of the marinas declined. **Governor's Recognition of Tennessee Volunteers-** Union County 2009 Volunteers, Tonya Adkins and Martin Dickey were recognized in Nashville on 11/16 at a reception honoring community volunteers from the 95 counties in Tennessee. Tonya is owner of A&B Bookkeeping and Tax Service and has donated multiple hours for various community services. Martin is an active member of 4H and was recognized for his efforts with leadership activities in school, 4H and church. **CREST Application-** Julie submitted an application for intent to apply. CREST, Creating a Rural Entrepreneurial System in Tennessee is a program of UT Extension, UT Institute for Public Service, TN Department of Economic and Community Development and the TVA. **TVA and SOC Grant-** TVA will no longer provide membership fees to chambers. Support will come from competitive grants. Julie will be attending a workshop on 12/8 that will emphasize the importance of the community web site for attracting business. **RAM Program-** The Chamber provided hospitality baskets at Beach Island Resort Marina and Hickory Star Marina and Resort for each cabin, houseboat or room that was used to house the medical professionals volunteering at the RAM clinic. A very special recognition to Ned Bass for his donation of lodging and to Flowers by Bob for his donation of baskets. **2010 EDETA Marketing Plan-** The targeted business types for 2010 include automotive manufacturing, distribution and logistics, material research and alternative energy and food processing. Julie has been contacted 3 times in the last 2 months about food processing, but Union County has no buildings that are large enough (60,000 square feet) to meet the RFP process.

Board Action:

Old Business:

Steve reported on the grand re-opening of Arctel and congratulated Rick Collins on his purchase of the company. In attendance for the event were Rick and Jan Collins, Tammy Humphrey and all the other employees of Arctel, Wayne Cox and Judy Roe from FSG Bank, David Leaverton from Sen. Corker's office, Lana Moore from Sen. Lamar Alexander's office, John Harenza from TVA, Michelle Scarborough from State of Tennessee, Ed Medford from KUB and other guests. WATE 6 News did a 6PM segment with a nice interview by Rick, Chris Woods and Mayor Lay. All of the plant manager's were invited to the luncheon that followed. The Chamber recognizes Rick for providing 15 jobs in the community. Also special recognition of Arctel's participation in the S&W Cafeteria restoration in Knoxville.

Steve recognized Chantay Collins, Maynardville Library, for being recognized as the TEL trainer of the month. Chantay is the 1st public library to be awarded this recognition that has previously gone to academic libraries. Chantay then provided an overview of the TEL program which includes the Gale Database, TN Newspaper collection, Heritage Quest for genealogy searches, Learning Express which includes pre tests for GED, SAT, ACT exams. These are free services and can be accessed from any connected location. The library also has downloadable audible books. For more information, contact Maynardville Library at 992-7106

Rebecca reported that the annual chamber banquet is scheduled for Friday, Feb 5 at the high school commons area. The theme will be a "Taste of Union County". Auction items are still needed. The committee is currently finalizing details and will continue to meet ad-hoc.

As Wayne was not available, the reading mentor program was tabled.

New Business:

Jennifer introduced the topic of board proxy with respect to businesses that join and wish to use a proxy when necessary. Mr. Burke stated that precedent had been set with the municipalities. Von commented that having a proxy would allow the board to more reasonably achieve a quorum. After discussion, Von motioned that a proxy be allowed for businesses, as it has been allowed for the municipalities and that the bylaws be amended to reflect this. Mr. Burke 2nd and the motion carried.

Ron was not available to discuss the Building Codes workshop, so the topic was tabled.

Steve did not have any committee reports, but requested that Julie arrange one more meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee prior to the annual banquet.

The topic of canceling the December meeting was discussed. Judy motioned to cancel the December meeting and Susan 2nd. Motion passed

Julie provided ETTD data for Union County representing retail, population projections, and tourism impact. Union County experienced a growth in retail sales of 7.1% for 2008-2009. Growth came from building supplies, food stores, and miscellaneous. The greatest decline was in autos, boats, and furniture. With respect to tourism, Union County made significant progress from a decline for 2007-2008 of 15.8% to an increase for 2008-2009 of 4.3%. This data was very favorable comparable to the other counties in the ETTD region. Mr. Burke reminded the board that the Chamber should continue its focus on retail and tourism promotion because the results have been measurable.

Steve asked about business recruitment and the food processing industries. Julie stated that these businesses need large buildings. Discussion about Industrial Park 3 and the possibilities for this location were explored. Julie reported that she has had engineering renderings done for IP3, but that the park is very limited because of the terrain. The ideal situation would be to partner with Grainger and Knox Counties to find ways to bring more industrial jobs to the Luttrell area of Union County.

Susan Oaks distributed the Walters State class offerings for the spring semester, which includes English Comp II, Math Probability and Statistics, and Phil Intro to Ethics. She strongly encourages Union County residents to take advantage of taking classes in the county. There is an open faculty position for social studies. The candidate must have a Masters in Social Studies.

Announcements:

Thank you to Flowers by Bob, for providing baskets for the RAM Event

Thank you to Ned, Steve, Bubba and Nancy, Beach Island Resort Marina for their generous donation for the RAM event

Shop Union County- Saturday Nov 21 10-4PM, to be eligible for the \$100.00 gift card, all bingo cards must be dropped off or postmarked no later than 11/30/2009

Walters State Classes in Union County Sign-Up: Classes begin on Jan 14, 2010- For more information, contact Susan Oaks or Walters State Community College at 1-800-225-4770

Meeting adjourned at 1:07PM

Next Chamber Meeting: January 19, 2010 at 12N