

Minutes  
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce  
General Membership Meetings  
June 15, 2011  
12:15PM @ Albany City Hall

Members present: Kathleen Magel, Paul Tomczik, Mary Sauerer, Lynn Pennie, Jeannie White, Evelyn Budde, Rebecca Binek, Ami Ohmann, Ross Voit, Tom Schneider, James Kastanek, Janine Kutter, Gaylene Hanson, Tim Jopp, Jason Falconer, Kristy Watson and Kitty Eickhoff

Meeting called to order by Chamber President, Kathleen Magel at 12:15 pm.

Tom Schneider, City of Albany, welcomed everyone to City Hall and introduced Police Department Secretary, Kristy Watson.

The General Membership reviewed the minutes from the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. No changes or corrections made.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Tom Schneider and seconded by Mary Sauerer.

Treasurer Report was available for membership to review. A deposit of \$50 from the City of Albany was made. The \$50 covered half of the fee for the speaker that was at the April General Membership Meeting.

The \$1,000.00 expense paid out in May was the seed money given to the Heritage Day Committee.

There is a \$2,540.20 CD due on 7-17-11 at Stearns Bank. Membership was informed that the Chamber office is in need of a new computer. The Chamber's current computer system was purchased in 2004. It is outdated and starting to develop issues. A motion was made by Janine Kutter and seconded by Jeannie White to cash out the CD and move it to the general fund to purchase a new computer system for the Chamber office. It was also decided that there is no need for the chamber office to present at the next General Membership Meeting what computer system will be purchased. The Chamber office is allowed to use its discretion. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

No changes or corrections made to the Treasurer Report. Motion to approve Treasurer Report made by Ross Voit and seconded by James Kastanek. Treasurer Report will stand as written.

Albany Buck Report; there was no activity for the month.

The Heritage Day Committee will be running the flyer coupon ads again this year. There are a limited number of ads available. Cost of the ads will be approximately \$30-35 depending on the quantity that will be circulated. Several businesses at today's meeting committed to an ad. Anyone else interested in an ad should contact the Chamber office.

The Business Water Ball Fight will again take place on Heritage Day. Get your team together and call the Chamber office to register.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce welcomes new member, Kay's Bouquets owned by Kay Wilson. Mrs. Wilson was unable to make it to today's meeting but plans on joining us at the July General Membership Meeting.

Evelyn Budde of Mercy Manor talked about the Tri-Cap bus service in Albany. There is an average of 2.26 passengers per hour riding the bus. The bus service runs on Tuesdays from 9AM to 4PM. The desired number of passengers per hour is 5. Cities that have 5 passengers per hour have been using the bus service for 15 years. Residents who live in the Mercy Manor apartments truly benefit from the service. Once the new apartments are built on the Schwinghammer Addition east of Albany, there will be more need for the bus service.

The Tri-Cap bus service was made possible by the \$600.00 donations from the Albany Chamber and Albany Lions. Tri-Cap will again be looking for \$1,200.00 in funding to continue the bus service for another year. Ms. Budde will be submitting donation request letters to the Albany Jaycees and Albany Lions.

Tom Schneider, City of Albany: Mr. Schneider thanked everyone who purchased a ticket for the Jaycee Raffle. Money made from these raffles goes back into our community.

The Albany Lions will again hold their Gun Raffle (with cash option) on Heritage Day. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased from any Lions member.

There were 10 Community Garden sections available for rent. All 10 sections are occupied. The Albany Community Garden is located by the water treatment plant.

Interim Police Chief, Ted Boran, retired on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Acting Police Chief is Jason Falconer.

Mr. Schneider informed the Chamber members that the Main Street Committee reviewed several photometric plans for the proposed street lighting layout on Main Street (Railroad Avenue) relating to the 2012 Railroad Avenue Improvements. Mr. Schneider also reported on the following:

- Steel vs. Aluminum pole and types of skirts on the bottom of pole.
- XCEL Energy rebate could be as high as \$20,000.
- MnDOT will not fund any costs associated with street lights if LED lights are selected. MnDOT will fund 25% or a maximum of \$50,000 for other lighting such as metal halide or high pressure sodium.
- Estimated costs for poles/fixtures to be \$6,000-\$7,000 each.
- 2nd to 7th Street is projected for overhead light removal and replaced with ornamental lighting. Main transmission overhead wires crossing Railroad Avenue on 7th Street may not be removed nor the overhead wires between 1st and 2nd Street.
- Street lights at the 4-way Stop (Railroad Avenue/8th Street) need to determine how and which ornamental lighting will work in this intersection.
- Consensus of the committee was as follows for lighting:
  - 1) Renaissance or equal
  - 2) Metal Halide

- 3) Shield to be installed inside lens on all lights
- 4) 80' spacing for uniformity if the photometric work
- 5) 250 watt

- Committee has discussed inroad lighting for pedestrian crosswalk. MnDOT will not pay for the installation or maintenance for a lighted crosswalk in the roadway surface.

- XCEL Energy provided the City with a cost estimate of \$241,000 to relocate the overhead wires on Main Street and other related services.

- MnDOT is recommending that the roadway surface be "concrete".

- Construction to begin is estimated to be May 2012.

- Detour routes are being considered. Traffic for Pioneer Days will be affected by the construction. Mr. Hanson noted that temporary "bituminous patches" will be done at major intersections during construction to allow adequate flow of vehicle traffic, and removed when nearing final phase of construction rather than leaving these intersections with a gravel base.

- All business owners are encouraged to take detailed pictures and/or video of their buildings before construction begins. The City and General Contractor will be taking pictures as well.

- Re-route maps will be prepared in the near future to be distributed to the public to make sure everyone is aware of the potential delay in vehicle movement and/or to make those folks residing near the re-route aware of the increased traffic to minimize concerns before the project begins.

- No decision has been made relating to decorative sidewalks.

The Main Street Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 7PM at Albany City Hall. All Chamber members are invited to attend.

Thank you to James Stueve for watering the flower pots on Main Street.

Prize drawing winner was Janine Kutter.

Next meeting will be held at The Hillcrest Family Restaurant, Wednesday, July 20th at 12:00 noon.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Fish, Chamber Executive Secretary