

To: Chamber Board Members  
Re: Minutes for 12/4/14 Board Meeting

I. Call to Order: 7:30 AM by Vallerie Vickers

In Attendance: Candee Rinde, Vallerie Vickers, Steve Nelson, Marianne Graham, Sharon Smith, Janice Reynolds and Barbara Eccher. Lucas Snart was present as a visitor, representing the Village Council.

II. Agenda: Sharon S. complimented Candee R. on the Meeting Agenda. Sharon S. made 1<sup>st</sup> motion and Steve N. made 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept. Agenda approved.

III. Approval of Minutes from Nov. 6 meeting: Sharon S. made 1<sup>st</sup> motion and Steve N. made 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept. Minutes approved.

IV. Guest Presentation: Vallerie V. introduced our guest, Councilman Lucas Snart from the Village Council.

He stated that his personal goal as a member of the Council is to contribute to making the Village a vital, thriving community with thriving businesses. We all applauded his convictions. He stated that the following are the foremost issues facing the Village:

1<sup>st</sup> priority – to get the current rash of break-ins under hand – he recognizes that the Chamber has called for a Town Meeting to address this, asking for clear direction from the Village to our businesses for how to respond to this on-going threat.

2<sup>nd</sup> priority – water

3<sup>rd</sup> priority – waste-disposal

Lucas S. understands that the primary function of the Chamber is to promote the Village. He offered the Chamber a location on his property (along Rt. 58 approach in Mountain Meadows) where we could erect a sign introducing the Village, and giving directions with map to the Village businesses and to the Visitor Center. The concern is that a passer-through only sees the main street of Cimarron with 9<sup>th</sup> Street businesses after passing it, especially if the driver is not aware of them. He added that he could mount a sign w/map (4x8 plywd.) and install a light at his own expense. The Chamber Board thanked him for his offer and will consider it.

V. Old Business

1. Break-ins: Several more businesses and residences were broken in to over the last week. Steve N. reported that the Crime Stoppers committee had met the day before and raised the reward to \$5,000. He also made note that the suspects had been spotted on multiple occasions at Philmont over the Thanksgiving weekend. There has been no reply from Judy, our Village Mayor, on the Chambers request to hold a Town Meeting. The Mayor had commented that she needed to meet and discuss the idea with the Police Chief. Also, the members of the Chamber Board who attended last month's Village Council meeting reported with disappointment that there was no verbal report given from the Police about the break-ins. The concern is that there is NO action. Sharon S. spoke that this is not entirely a police issue but a problem for the Village. The fear is that someone will be shot and seriously wounded/killed. Councilman Lucas S. offered to call the Mayor – he had already sent her an email, but had not received a reply. Vallerie V. indicated that she would write an email, asking the status of action on the letter.

2. Nov 19 Council Meeting report: Steve N. was present and reported that the meeting was educational, but nothing seemed to be accomplished. He thinks that the Chamber should be on the agenda and give a verbal report each month, although Mindy (Village) has vetoed this in the past. Sharon S. said that there were several opportunities for public comment but apparently, the Council cannot respond or answer the comment at that time. Sharon S. instructed anyone able to attend to go to the website to look at the packet before the meeting so that what is being voted on is known in advance. Sharon S. also reminded us that Mindy (Village) had said that a Lodger's Tax Board would be named and approved at that meeting, but no mention or action was taken.

3. Debt to Village Hall: Steve N. reported going through all the financial files and had not found any reference to the Chamber authorizing additional project/design fees – overruns from \$38,000 (grant monies) to \$52,000 plus. He made an accounting of the situation for Councilman Lucus’s benefit. Sharon S. suggested for the Chamber to keep paying \$50/month no matter who or what we owe. Steve N. suggested that this project was to promote tourism and the Village, and that the funds we spend to pay down the debt can be claimed for refunds under Lodger’s Tax. We all thought that this was an interesting twist.

Steve N. suggested that the Port-a-Potties placed on 9<sup>th</sup> Street during the summer months should be paid for by the Village, but if the Chamber pays for half as has been the case, the charge should be re-submitted under the Lodger’s Tax. Last summer, the Chamber was billed \$504. Steve N. also stated that the Visitor Center’s utility bills should be submitted under the Lodger’s Tax, as Mindy (Village) indicated was allowable.

The Board agreed to keep paying the \$50/month to the Village Hall.

4. Vision Paper (letter “Stamping out the Rumor Mill” written by Candee R., our Executive Director): Sharon said it is better to put out a clear message “What the Chamber is About” rather than to be reactive. We discussed the status of Old Cimarron Days. Since attendance has waned over the last 6 years, funds raised were decreasing significantly, and Val Kutz has moved, this will be a good time to make a break from this Chamber sponsored event.

The proposed Informal Member Survey (6 on agenda) fits with the Vision Paper.

5. By-laws revision update: Steve N. is working on this – he thinks the only revision should be the Membership Levels. Sharon S. suggested that she would still like to have our PURPOSES statement simplified, for instance, removing the word “controversies” and the phrase “planning activities.” Barbara E. will draft a statement for taking to the members in the survey.

6. CS Ranch grant application: the application was completed and mailed before the deadline Dec. 1. We asked for \$2,000 that we can supplement with raffle funds raised for special projects such as repairs to the Visitor’s Center.

## VI. New Business

1. Election results: The election results and number of votes cast for each candidate was read. Newly and re-elected members are Ryan Hammitt, Barbara Eccher, Vallerie Vickers and Marianne Graham. The new members will start at the January meeting when officers will be elected and team assignments given. Teams can also solicit help from general membership. Sharon said that the Teams should work through details and bring reports to the Board meetings. These Teams could be different this next year than the past years.

2. ACI Membership: Candee R. asked whether we would support becoming members of the state level Chamber at \$305 per year. She reminded us that the organization helped our Chamber when Mindy (Village) was withholding the Lodger’s Tax due us for over 3 months. We all were concerned over the amount of money and what we would gain, but agreed to keep it in mind. The organization conducts workshops, especially regarding small business issues, which could be helpful to our members.

## VII. Executive Director’s Report:

Candee R. reported that we don’t yet have a contract from JR for the Canon Copier and wanted authorization to sign it when it comes. Also, we decided to not replace the outside (stolen?) trash can at this time. This will be addressed within the Visitor’s Center Team when it becomes an issue.

She also reported that there has been a membership decline since September – a significant number of businesses are not renewing. Candee R. agreed to call each business/member to solicit their status and opinions.

#### VIII. Finance Report:

Steve N. reviewed the overall figures – the Chamber’s income for the month was \$2,400 (Lodger’s Tax, dues and reimbursements for bulk mailings, etc.) and \$1755 expenses (payroll, accounting fees, etc.) with net income of \$671. Steve also asked that the \$400 deposit for Explore the Arts be moved from the checking to the savings account, which he will take care of. He also reported that there were 2 payroll checks over 2 years old that weren’t cashed, figuring that we could write them off, but will check with the accountant. Steve N made 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept the Financials and Sharon S. made 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to accept. Financial Reports approved.

#### IX. Other Items/Announcements

##### 1. Schedule of upcoming Board Meetings/Chamber Functions:

Sharon S. will be in town for the Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Village Council Meeting and will give a report.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM, St. James Hotel, since the first Thursday falls on New Year’s Day. Both Sharon and Steve indicated that they will be unable to attend that day, but we decided not to reschedule.

Vallerie V. again thanked Councilman Lucus S. for coming. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 AM by Vallerie Vickers

Respectfully submitted: Marianne Graham, Secretary of the Chamber Board  
January 7, 2014