

**Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce**  
**Meeting Minutes**

January 16, 2020  
7:30 A.M.

**Type of Meeting:** Monthly Board meeting for January

**Meeting Facilitator:** Eric Potes, Board Chair

**Invitees:** Terry Rummel, Jim Taipalus, Sandi Miller, Scott Donihue, Deb Fasick, Amanda Honeywell, Eric Potes, Cyndi Young, Pastor Mike Prince, Ruth Brown, Robert LaValle, Kathleen Hess, and Mike Pulgini.

**I. Call to order:**

- a. 7:38 am

**II. Roll call and Introductions for all new board members:**

- a. Board members in attendance: Terry Rummel (On the phone) as active Treasurer from COS, Sandi Miller as active Secretary from A1CU, Scott Donihue from Ryan and Bradshaw, Amanda Honeywell from HWD/HM Group, and Deb Fasick from Community Choice.
- b. Returning as a visitor to today's meeting: NA
- c. New to today's meeting: Bob LaValle, Ruth Brown from Sun Sand and Sea, Mike Prince from Nazarene Church, Cyndi Young from WCSR/Simply Hers, and Kathleen Hess from the College (Student).
- d. Unable to attend:
  - i. Mike Pulgini was unable to attend due to change of plans.
  - ii. Jim Taipalus was not in attendance.

**III. Approval of minutes from last meeting (Sandi Miller):**

- a. No meeting minutes available.

**IV. Discussion of Financials (Terry Rummel):**



- a. Amanda Honeywell abstained from looking at reports.
- b. Approval of bills:
  - i. Motion to approve:
    - 1. Scott Donihue
    - 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandi Miller
    - 3. All Approved – Except Amanda Honeywell as she abstained.

**V. New business**

- a. New Board Members:
  - i. Cyndi Young
    - 1. Motion to approve:
      - a. Eric Potes
      - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Deb Fasick
  - ii. Pastor Mike Prince
    - 1. Motion to approve:
      - a. Cyndi Young
      - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Deb Fasick
  - iii. Robert LaValle (Bob)
    - 1. Motion to approve:
      - a. Deb Fasick
      - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandi Miller
  - iv. Kathleen Hass



1. At this time, Kathleen would like to attend more meetings to make her decision.
- b. 4th of July Fireworks Celebration (Cyndi Young):
- i. It was brought to Cyndi's attention from Brett Boyd (from Market House), JJ Hodshire (from Hospital) and Scott Dow no longer want to have to do the fireworks event but want it to be continued. The group might offer it to HBA, or they might suggest it to the fair... It's being offered up to the HCCC now. It's not a profit-making event because of the grant status. Cyndi sees it being a chamber event. It's been going on for 15 years and the three-gentleman running it have it all laid out. All the chamber would need to do is take it over with leg work. The Hospital would continue to donate \$5000, The Community Foundation would continue their role, and Brett Boyd would continue to help this year. All the money possibly goes through the HCCF, but Cyndi is not 100% sure. Terry Rummel suggests the Chamber donate. The event is July 3rd. Amanda said that she would not be able to help with this event due to her pregnancy. Cyndi assured the group she felt the board could definitely take on this event and see it through.
  - ii. Cyndi asked if the Chamber if they would like to take this event on.
    1. Motion to approve by Scott Donihue
    2. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandi Miller
    3. All approved.
- c. Email Updates:
- i. Kelly LoPresto from the City of Hillsdale sent a Thank-You email to thank the Chamber for their involvement and financial support for the NYE Bash.
    1. See the letter Kelly shared called, "Untitled\_01142020\_043950.pdf"
  - ii. Kelly LoPresto from the City of Hillsdale sent an email about Michigan SBDC's upcoming Business Webinars for Busy Entrepreneurs so the Chamber will email and Facebook blast that out.
  - iii. Brad Dunlap reached out to the Chamber via email submission on the website asking for business advice to start a new business. Eric Potes offered to reach out to Brad.
- d. Amanda to take over role as Secretary for Sandi Miller:
- i. Motioned by Sandi Miller



- ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cyndi Young
- e. Website / domain renewal (Amanda)
  - i. Amanda just wanted to let everyone know that their website renewal date is approaching, and she wanted to know if everyone was good with a soft commitment.
  - ii. We did not vote, but everyone said yes.
- f. Meet the Candidates (Cyndi Young & Ruth Brown). The Primary is in Aug. this year. Cyndi and Ruth suggest that we have a “Meet the Candidates” in June as this would be an appropriate time to get absentee votes. The Republican Woman host a Republican Luncheon each year and the lunch are usually on a Friday where they invite legislators. So, have ours on Flag Day, which is Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. Old business:**

- a. Discussion of notes from November meeting with Bob Thomas:
  - i. Terry thinks this one event with Fireworks is something we can focus on instead of focusing on a Director or dissolution.
  - ii. Cyndi thinks we should table what Bob had suggested. She also thinks we should table the discussion of having a Director.
    - 1. Cyndi thinks we could change the view of the Chamber for the community, and it’s the only thing we need. Cyndi suggests we push for the “Monthly Breakfasts”. Amanda reminded the group that we need someone to take lead on these activities. Cyndi reminded the group that we have board members who can do the leg work Cyndi suggests that we collect money upfront for these events, but she digresses. Cyndi suggests we utilize CNB with the radio to talk about how things are going.
  - iii. Motion was set in to table this topic as well as the Director topic by Cyndi Young
  - iv. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Potes
  - v. Approved by all
- b. Chamber Guidebooks:





- i. Terry asked Simply Hers (SH) magazine (Cyndi Young) about the status of the Chamber Guides. He told her about MI Works! (for the State of MI, Tim) and how they want more. The Chamber is currently out. Cyndi asked when we needed them by and Terry said, “at any time as we are out”. Terry told Cyndi that someone had to run them to Lansing. Cyndi said they may be able to be shipped in sets where some can come to HCCC and the rest directly to Lansing. Cyndi said she thinks the print date is set and the chamber might have them back May 11-15th ish (she isn’t 100%). SH will get a list of memberships and will send out letters, sell ad placements and take care of the content. SH will figure out cost wise who gets what (Chamber vs. SH). She needs to know what a final qty. is. Terry said he thinks to just do what we did last time but said he’d get Cyndi Tim’s number to ask him to get a better idea.
- ii. Please see the .pdf scans Cyndi shared with us called,  
“Scanned\_from\_a\_Lexmark\_Multifunction\_Product01-15-2020-091308.pdf”
- iii. Terry set in place to motion to have SH continue this job.
  1. Motioned by Eric Potes
  2. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Donihue
  3. Cyndi abstained from voting.
  4. All approved.

**VII. Membership has The Floor:**

- a. Ruth Brown is our Hillsdale County Commissioner for District 1 and she is rerunning. She would like Chamber’s support. She has always been a Chamber Member and has supported us. She advocates for shopping local. She fights for local businesses—she says, “it’s not always about bottom line and cheapest contracts, it’s about service and supporting each other”. If the HCCC endorses, she is asking for that. Amanda asked Ruth to send her information to her so she could blast it out on FB as this is something, we do for all candidates. To go one step further, because Ruth is a member, we will also e-blast it out. We told Ruth that we do not endorse but will be happy to share her information! to blast out-social and email. Ruth added that if anyone would like to donate, she is accepting donations written to “Committee to retain Commissioner Ruth Brown”.

**VIII. Adjournment:**

- a. 8:40 am

