

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2008
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan Smathers called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. There were 25 members present. Staff included Burnham.

MINUTES

The minutes of the general membership meeting are now being emailed to the membership with the meeting reminders. The minutes of the general membership meeting were approved as presented.

GUESTS

All present were members of the Orofino Chamber of Commerce. Our program speaker was City Administrator, Rick Laam.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diane Hairston with Idaho Department of Labor's Clearwater Business Committee announced an employer's seminar tomorrow, February 7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Safety in the Workplace. She also encouraged the membership to share ideas for future seminars.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We will have a Board of Directors meeting next Monday the 11th at noon at the Ponderosa.

In January, 9 relocation and 4 tourism packets were sent out. Please make sure that I have your most current brochures to send out in these packets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- The committee is continuing their Tuesday morning conference calls with our legislators. If you have any items that you would like discussed, please let us know. Recent discussions have included local option tax, liquor licenses, dog fighting, and the \$35,000,000 shortfall in the budget and programs being pulled because of the shortfall.

Promotional- Tanna Zywina is working on getting a calendar of events and local activities together to have available at the hotels for hotel guests. She announced that she will be seeking information for the calendar, if anyone has information, please get it to her or Burnham.

Auction- The first 2008 Auction meeting took place on January 25th. The committee chose the theme "Surf's Up" and has begun solicitation for auction items. The auction will take place on May 2 at the Best Western Lodge at River's Edge.

Welcome and Membership- We welcome new member, Starlite Electric to the Orofino Chamber of Commerce. We will have three welcomings tomorrow morning; 9:00- Salon Savvy, 9:15 – Family Eye Care, 9:30 – Kimberling Insurance.

Economic Development – Joe Pippenger announced that the CCED Board has appointed him to continue to serve as chair of the committee. He welcomes questions and ideas. The next meeting is February 20th. The meeting following that is a joint meeting with IdaLew, which the committee will be working more closely with. If you would like copies of the quarterly reports, let him know and he will see to it that they are emailed to you.

GEM- No Report

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

No Report.

PROGRAM

Programs- President Smathers announced that we are in need of program ideas. Due to health reasons, Vice-President and Program Chair Statler has had to resign from his position.

Past President Connie Robison introduced our program speaker, Rick Laam, Administrator for the City of Orofino. Before beginning his program, Laam shared with the Chamber that the City received a call from the National Weather Service who has issued a storm warning for Orofino with a possibility of 6-8 inches of snow tonight.

Laam opened his program with “Idaho Government 101”, stating that there are two forms of City Government in Idaho; Council/Manager and Mayor/Council. Of the 201 incorporated cities in Idaho, only three; Lewiston, Twin Falls and McCall, have the Council/Manager form of government.

Laam also gave a brief account of the \$3.9 million city budget for FY 07/08. For every \$1 in property taxes, 64 cents go to the general fund. He also explained that \$2.3 million just went into the airport, of which the City was responsible for just \$43,000. The City has a healthy fund balance in case an emergency arises. During the floods of 1996/97, the city did not have to borrow any money to cover expenses because of this fund.

One challenge that the City is faced with is hiring qualified employees. Currently they are looking to hire a Public Works Supervisor, a Police Officer and possibly a Maintenance Works III. In regards to the Police Department, generally a person must be an employee prior to attending POST. One problem with this is that after the City puts them through POST, often the employee will leave for a higher paying job and there is no recourse that the City can take. Laam did commend Police Chief Jeff Wilson for doing a fine job. Laam said that in the hiring process, he looks for someone with a good attitude, who is honest and wants to work.

Laam had given those in attendance a photocopy of Fats, Oils and Greases (FOGS), that was pulled out of the screens at the water treatment plant. 1 ½ tons of FOGS are removed from the system each week. They now have an automated system for removal making the process much safer, though manpower is still necessary.

In conclusion, Laam announced that the City will be in court this month with an individual who has violated the Nuisance Ordinance.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Smathers adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Ryan Smathers, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director