

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2008
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan Smathers called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. There were 22 members and one guest 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

Stephanie Deyo introduced her guest, Matt Deyo, her husband who works at Lightforce. Our program speaker was City Administrator, Rick Laam.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We will have a Board of Directors meeting next Monday the 25th at noon at the Ponderosa.

Please note that the April 2, 2008 General Membership Meeting is cancelled due to Spring Break.

A handmade quilt has been donated as a fundraiser drawing with proceeds going to help with medical expenses for Eric Statler. The drawing tickets were passed around to the membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- The committee is continuing their Tuesday morning conference calls with our legislators. The Governor is working with the Tribe on the gillnetting issue. Tom Reilly will be setting up another meeting with the Chamber regarding the 2nd round of the Travel Planning process.

Promotional- Tanna Zywina is working on getting a calendar of events and local activities together to have available at the hotels for hotel guests, please get information for the calendar to either Zywina or Burnham.

Auction- The 2nd 2008 Auction meeting will take place on Friday. 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- No Report.

Economic Development – No Report.

GEM- No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Smathers reported that since Vice-President Statler has had to resign for medical reasons, the Board has voted Past-President to the position of Vice-President. We do have a vacancy on the Board. If anyone is interested in the position, please let him know.

PROGRAM

Programs- *March 5* – Barbara Glodowski, Program Developer for the Volunteer Ombudsmen Pilot Program for the Area Agency on Aging
March 19 – Greg Smith and Elaine Green with the Idaho Commission on the Arts, North Central Idaho Region
April 2 – Meeting Cancelled
April 16 – Greener Clearwater County

President Smathers introduced our program speaker, Rick Laam, Administrator for the City of Orofino who updated the Membership with “round two” of his City update.

Laam emphasized that citizens need to be informed on what is happening in their community. City Hall is a good place to start. He reported that the Mayor and Council are enthusiastic about communicating with the public and would like to see more attendance at Council meetings.

Laam explained that the local level of government is the most responsive level of government that there is. A citizen can get an immediate response from local government, whereas this would not be likely on a state or federal level.

Laam went on to discuss water issues and asked the membership the value of a glass of water. In a water shortage, that value would be significantly higher. The City is planning for the future needs of the community with the knowledge that a new water treatment plant will one day be necessary. In 1997, the opportunity arose to access water from Dworshak Reservoir. There was work being done on Highway 7 and the necessary pipes could be put down for the project. The project was put to a vote and defeated by only six votes. Today the City is working on an update of the Master Water Plan and using water bonds which will fund future water projects.

Laam briefly discussed the Nuisance Ordinance and relayed that a third continuation was just passed down on a court case that the City is working on.

The City does not promote its employees, according to Laam, they have a policy in place to prevent promotion. Instead, all positions are advertised and if a City employee wants to apply, they are welcome to do so, but they will compete for the position with the pool of applicants. Opening the job out to the public sends a positive message to the community.

Laam also discussed the Business Park and the business that was supposed to move in, but backed out. The state, who provided funds for the Park, didn't sue, but the City did. An agreement was reached in December and the City was reimbursed by the business for some of their costs.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Smathers adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Ryan Smathers, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director