

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2007
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Connie Robison called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. There were 26 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

Terri Bolling of Edward Jones introduced her new Business Office Administrator, Carrie Geidl.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Robison presented Past-President Chris Laws with a plaque in appreciation of her year of service as President and thanked her for a great year. She also stated that she is looking forward to working with new Vice President Ryan Smathers.

Keith Hanson announced that he will serve as North Idaho Chamber of Commerce (NICC) President this coming year. NICC had their annual meeting and the organization is in good shape. The spring tours will be in Grangeville.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There will not be a Board of Director's meeting next Friday.

Special Thanks to Chris Laws for a great year. She was a wonderful President and I greatly appreciate all of the time that she put into the position.

There will be a Good Morning Orofino meeting on Tuesday, January 30th at 7:00 a.m. at the Ponderosa Banquet Room

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- Committee will meet tomorrow morning at 7:00 a.m. in the Ponderosa Garden Room. They will be discussing gillnetting.

Promotional- Eric Statler is the new Promotional Committee Chair.

Special Events- The Chamber Auction Committee will have their first meeting of the year on Wednesday January 31st at Fiesta en Jalisco. All who wish to participate are invited to attend.

Welcome and Membership- Orofino Chamber of Commerce welcomes new member King's of Orofino.

Economic Development- No Report.

GEM- The Gem Committee will meet on January 25th at noon at the Ponderosa Banquet Room.

PROGRAM

Programs – February 7th – Scott Douglas and Dan Pollick, Probation and Parole
February 21st – Alex Irby, Public Land Access Year-round (PLAY)

Vice President Smathers introduced our program speakers, Mayor Joe Pippenger who gave a City update and Clearwater County Economic Development (CCED) Specialist Chris Kuykendall who updated the membership on economic development.

Mayor Pippenger began his city update by suggesting that Orofino business owners give employee bonuses in the form of Orofino Gold. This will assure that the money will be kept in the community. Mayor Pippenger provided the membership with brochures outlining general information about City services.

Mayor Pippenger was happy to report that the Business Center is now full. A lease was signed November 1, 2006 and the new tenant, I. N.C. Inc. has moved in. This is an umbrella company for several smaller companies; the two housed at the Business Center are Kick-Eez, which manufactures recoil pads and Post 4 Optics which makes shooting glasses.

The City has two new parks planned. One is to be a small park where the Jehovah's Witness Church washed away in the flood of 1996 and one where the swimming pool was located. These parks are being done on a small budget but the City is striving for a quality product.

The Mayor reported that the City is continuing work on the Water Master Plan. Bond 1 will add \$2.7 million and the cost to users is \$17 per month. Bond 2 costs users \$16 per month and is part of a plan to set funds aside for future replacement of the current treatment plant when needed.

This is an election year and the positions of Mayor as well as the 3 Council positions currently held by Roy Clay, Doug Donner, and Marguerite McLaughlin are up for election. Mayor Pippenger feels that the council is well rounded and works well together. The City is also short one Planning and Zoning member, anyone interested can pick up an application at City Hall.

Pending funds coming through, the airport will have a new runway and perimeter fencing in the near future. The total cost of the improvements will be \$1 Million. FAA grants will cover 95%, the state will cover 2.5% and the City would be responsible for 2.5%, \$24,500.

Mayor Pippenger turned the floor over to Chris Kuykendall who gave the CCED report for July 1 through December 31 with the Orofino statistics highlighted. Kuykendall summarized the program's five major components:

1. Business Retention and Expansion - worked with 15 unique businesses resulting in 7 new jobs with some jobs still unfilled.

2. Entrepreneurial Development – worked with 9 entrepreneurs on business and marketing plans.
3. Recruitment – Responded to 9 business leads and got 3 (county wide), of which 2 directly impact Orofino.
4. Infrastructure – New signs for the Elk River Backcountry Byway. The Artisan Adventure tour came into being. Telecommunication improvements which will include a 90 GHz repeater in Teakean in the Spring which will provide a wireless redundant backbone. Next year all of Clearwater County will have some broadband capacity. QRO is now covering the Riverside area and Ahsahka.
5. Program Capacity Building – The CCED program is dealing with sustainability and the CCED Board analyzing the effectiveness of the program. CCED will be applying for a new 3 year round of funding in April or May.

ADJOURN

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

Connie Robison, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director