

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 1, 2007
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Connie Robison called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. There were 25 members present and 1 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

Our guest was Joanne Ryser, Sr. Loan Officer for America One Finance and does residential and commercial mortgage loans. She has been in the area for about 3 ½ years and wants to become more involved in the community. She works out of her home office in Peck and is interested in finding out more about the Chamber and possibly becoming a member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bobbi Flowers announced that in a previous Orofino Celebrations, Inc. (OCI) meeting, there was some discussion that when OCI originally started, each business and organization sent a representative to the meetings as volunteers to help insure the success of Lumberjack Days. Their numbers are now dwindling and volunteers are suffering burn-out. Lumberjack Days brings a lot of business to the area and on behalf of OCI, Flowers invited the membership to attend an OCI meeting. They meet the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the White Pine Building.

Diane Hairston with the Orofino office of Idaho Department of Labor announced that the next employer seminar will take place Wednesday, August 15th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the ICIO training room. The topic will be effective supervision with speaker Lynette Schlader.

Terri Law announced that there will be a community Blood Drive August 21-24 at the Armory. During the blood drive the Human Needs Council will also be hosting a Resource Fair.

Laura Wolverton announced that there will be a fundraiser at King's for Clearwater Valley Hospital and Clinics on Saturday, August 25th from 2-6 p.m. Ten percent of sales during the event will be donated to CVHC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There will be a Board of Directors Meeting next Monday.

In the month of July, 8 Relocation packets and 1 tourism packets were mailed out.

Senator Craig will be here on August 23 for a visit. He will attend a no host lunch meeting here at the Ponderosa from noon to 1:00. Lunch will be a cold cut buffet and the cost will be \$8.00.

The Chamber will be emphasizing the sale of tiles for Heritage Plaza over the next couple months and especially leading up to and during Lumberjack Days. Cost of the tiles is \$100 each. If anyone is interested in purchasing a tile, please contact the Chamber Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- No Report

Promotional- No Report

Special Events- We will be doing another TIPS training prior to Lumberjack Days. Each shift for the beer bus needs to have one volunteer who is TIPS certified.

Welcome and Membership- We will welcome Kick-Eez and Just Brew It at their new location next Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Economic Development –Last week the Department of Commerce was here and attended a meeting in Pierce for which Doug Gober was the guest speaker. The focus of the meeting was ATV Trails. Economic Development also used this opportunity to thank Commerce for providing funding for the program for the next three years.

GEM- No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report

PROGRAM

Programs- August 15, Representative Ken Roberts

Vice-President Ryan Smathers introduced our guest speaker, the new Orofino Police Department Chief, Jeff Wilson.

Wilson thanked the Chamber for inviting him to speak today. He reported that he was born and raised in Orofino. In 1992, he joined the Clearwater County Sheriff's Posse and in 1993, joined the Orofino Police Department reserve. In 1996 Wilson went to work for the Lewiston Police Department, but was only there for nine months. He later came back to Orofino as it was a better fit for him. He has been back since 1997 and was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2001 and is now the new Police Chief.

Wilson reported that the Orofino Police Department has six full time officers as well as a reserve staff of up to six. They are down in reserve and understaffed right now. Also, Alice Parsons, who has been the office manager for the Police Department for 43 years has retired from full time and will be fully retired on October 1st. Several of the officers are currently serving their first years and Wilson described the Department as young, yet mature.

Wilson went over the short term goals of the department. An immediate need is to get up to staff. Another goal is to become more proactive in the community. They are also working on reshaping the image of the department. There is a lot more to what they do

than just enforcement. Wilson feels that more visibility in the community will lead to better communication and cooperation as well as public trust of the department.

The long term goals that Wilson has are to establish stability within the department. He would also like to see a citizen's academy made up of 20-25 citizens who want to get to know more about the Police Department and what they do and why they do it. A major challenge in a department the size of Orofino's is turnover. Small communities have a hard time keeping officers for long periods of time because they cannot afford to pay them as well as larger communities. He believes that one solution to that problem is to recruit local people who already have ties to the community. There is not a lot of opportunity for advancement and today it takes the right person to fit the mold of being satisfied with the job that they do and not want to move quickly up the ladder.

Wilson explained that we are a changing society which provides challenges for the police force. The juvenile problem right now is great due to the lack of respect for authority. There are also many changing trends. With drug use, in addition to marijuana, there is now methamphetamine and the abuse of pharmaceutical drugs. The increase of identity theft is requiring the police force to have special skills and training and to be able to follow up with how to deal when it happens to citizens here.

According to Wilson, there are many positives happening in the department. The cooperation between agencies such as the Sheriff's Department, the Area Agency on Aging, Health and Welfare, Tribal Police, the F.B.I. and the A.T.F. is very good. They are ahead of many other cities in their technology capacities and have been awarded many grants to help with purchasing the technologies which help this smaller department have more effective ways to deal even though their man power may be limited.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, President Robison adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Connie Robison, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director