

**Chamber of Commerce in Culver**  
**Minutes – Board of Directors October 29, 2008**

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver met at the Culver Coffee Company with the following members present: Mike Stallings, president, Greg Fassett, vice-president, Dick Brantingham, Ralph Winters, Rick Tompos, Ron May, and Dawn Minas present. Ben Schaller, treasurer, and Scott Huberty were absent. Bobbie Ruhnow, secretary, was also in attendance.

Stallings convened the meeting at 7:30 AM with a request to approve the minutes of the September meeting. The motion to approve was made by May/Tompos and carried.

**Treasurer's Report – Budget Proposal for 2009**

Tompos presented the treasurer's report to date that showed Revenue's at \$14,141 and disbursements at \$16,263. Cash balance in checking at a minus \$2,122. There will be some income from Destination Culver articles prior to December 31, 2008, but is anticipated at approximately \$650. Schaller anticipates a draw from MCCF will be necessary to cover the deficit. The final amount received from the joint raffle with Kiwanis was \$1,684. Approval was given to withdraw \$2,000 from MCCF funds on a motion by Fassett seconded by Winters.

Relative to the 2009 budget, discussion of removing the \$2,000 for the Marshall County Visitors' Guide to balance the budget was held. Basically, the budget figures remain as 2008 only removing the MCVG funds. Members agreed that the Chamber should continue to support the guide. However, errors that shouldn't have occurred in the last issue i.e. misspelled Lake Maxinkuckee, should be discussed with the publisher. Suggestions that instead of paying the required \$2,000 in a lump sum, \$1,000 be paid in January and \$1,000 in March at which time, the bulk of the dues money would be in the treasury. The board also wishes editing of the proof prior to printing.

To balance the budget with the reinsertion of the \$2,000, some form of fund raising effort should be made.

There will also be a need to address the issue of the Farmers' Market tent, which will need replacing. The framework remains solid, but the canvas covering is deteriorated. Cost of replacement is \$1,500 to \$2,000.

The modified budget will be presented to the membership at the November 11, 2008 dinner meeting. A motion to present was made by Winters seconded by May with the addition of the \$2,000 for the guide and approved.

**Other Business**

A slate of officers and directors for 2009 will be presented in November for approval of the membership. Greg Fassett, will assume the presidency, Dawn Minas, will be vice-president and Ben Schaller will remain treasurer. Mike Stallings will become the immediate past president. Tony Sellers will be added to the board of directors.

The committee to choose the Chamber awards for 2008 consisted of Dick Brantingham, Rick Tompos, and Ralph Winters, previous recipients. The following have been selected:

Lifetime Achievement – Finney Shilling VFW Auxiliary, Post 6919

Business of the Year – Culver Power Equipment – Estel Blocker

Volunteer of the Year – Leroy Bean

The dinner will be held at Café Max in December.

Ribbon cutting will be scheduled for Jamieson’s Town & Country Liquor.

Efforts will be made to get Culver Power Equipment, Culver Cobana (John Zehner), Town & Country Liquor, Brockey’s Insurance, City Tavern back on the membership roles for 2009.

Fund raising projects were discussed. A possible combination of hosting the Taste of Culver in conjunction with sidewalk sale days was considered. Since this has been a project sponsored by the Culver Union Township Library in the past, library board members will be contacted for input. Ron May will discuss possibilities with Carol Saft, who is employed at Ancilla.

A sign noting that the Farmers’ Market is a Chamber project will be posted at next year’s event.

Several worthwhile projects to support with fund raising efforts include Vandalia Village and ensuring a new tarp for next year’s market.

The meeting ended with a discussion of possible location of a new CVS building. Several proposals are being explored including relocating to 10 & 17 at the Town & Country Liquor Store area and remaining in the same location with expansion to the west. Ralph Winters said he would be encouraging all government bodies to give full support to keeping the operation in the downtown area and urged Chamber members to support this premise.

Meeting adjourned at 9 AM

Bobbie Ruhnow  
Executive Secretary