

Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 15th, 2016

Announcements/Updates

Welcome returning board members – President Scott Stanley welcomed back to the board Pat Happer, Diane Shaw, and Chuck Wilson—each of whom were unanimously ratified by the chamber to serve another 3-year board term.

2017 “After Hours” – President Scott Stanley announced that the winter “After Hours” would be held this year on January 19th, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at Ernest-Spencer Metals, 3323 NE 82nd St, Meriden. This business networking event—an annual highlight for the Chamber—has traditionally been held in December. But given increasingly tight schedules over the holiday season, the board opted to schedule for January this year.

Donated door prizes are invited and encouraged, including items that promote your business. In addition to door prizes, we will also announce this year’s Christmas Lights Contest at the After Hours. Each winner will receive a \$50 Meriden-Ozawkie Area Chamber of Commerce gift certificate.

County Commissioner Wayne Ledbetter – reported that the county now officially has a land bank. After the next two tax sales, Wayne anticipates the bank will hold close to 2,000 parcels of land. Wayne also announced that, due to a change in phone systems, the county phone numbers will all change within the next month or so.

Wayne noted that engineering is underway for improvements on 62nd Street west of K-4 Highway and right-of-way conversations are underway. The chamber was reminded that this will be a multi-year project. Wayne informed the chamber that the county has secured a new GIS employee, meaning Kirk Webb will be able to direct attention to redevelopment of the county website.

The County Economic Development Board of Directors has one position that will need to be filled this year. There are nine positions altogether, each member serving a 3-year term. The board meets nine times a year. This is an appointed position that involves an application process. If interested, please contact Wayne or Brittany Chaplin, Jefferson County Director of Economic Development.

On Brittany’s behalf, Wayne noted that the first of previously discussed workshops has been scheduled for April, will be held at The Barn in Valley Falls, and will focus on “Marketing and Social Media.”

Special Guests

Pam Lundberg and Kallie Foresman, representing “KANSASWORKS” were present to highlight services provided through their workforce center. Of special interest to chamber members, they highlighted a program offering federal income tax credits for employers who hire individuals from eligible target groups, particularly veterans. For more information about this and other services connecting employers with potential employees, visit *kansasworks.com*.

Next Meeting

The Chamber meets next from 5:30-7:00 PM at Ernest-Spencer on Thursday, January 19th.