

7:30 a.m. Hotchkiss Library Basement

Attending: Nathan Sponseller, President; Rhonda Duclo, Treasurer; Katherine Colwell, Corresponding Secretary; Elaine Brett, Gloria Crank, Tom Wills, Mary Hockenbery, Katie Gnauck, Yvon Gros, Debbie Pennington, Lenore Cambria, Steve Ela.

The meeting was called to order by President Nathan Sponseller at 7:30 a.m.

Duclo moved and Hockenbery seconded that the minutes that were emailed be approved. The motion carried.

The financial report was presented. The categories of holiday lighting and plaques include 2010 because they were paid in January of last year. The Memorial Hall has not been paid their share of the proceeds of the craft fair. There is \$3589.63 in the checking account and \$6977.02 in special projects. Wills moved and Crank seconded the financial report be accepted as presented.

Corresponding secretaries report: Colwell reported that we now have 29 paid members. Seven are non-profit. She is updating the business directory part of the website. Members are encouraged to check the website to see that their information is correct. We should also send in photos of business or logos. We are working on a comprehensive lodging list.

Presentations: Elaine Brett gave an update on the Orton Foundation Grant. The North Fork is one of five communities in the U.S. to receive this grant. Cortez and a community in Montana are the other recipients in the western U.S. A representative from Orton will be here next week to begin the process. The North Fork Valley will receive \$100,000. The grant will bring people from all areas of business, farming, ranching, cultural, local government, religious and other endeavors to work together for the betterment and cooperation of all in our area. The first step will be to organize an advisory committee. A project coordinator will be hired. We will need to match with 1/4 in cash the rest will be in-kind. There is a possibility of additional funds to promote the arts in our area.

Old Business:

Business Symposium: Will be held at the Memorial Hall on Saturday, January 21 from 8:30 to 1:00. It will be a time for local business to meet with local governments for planning. There will be a panel including mayors and a council member from Hotchkiss and Paonia: Susan Hanson, a commissioner, Elaine Brett from 20-20 and others. There will be a time for questions and answers. A representative from Ox Bow mine will give the presentation during lunch which will be served by the Memorial Hall board.

Holiday activities: HOTbucks went over very well. Some were not spent so they will be added to the reserves for next year. The business lighting winner was Cowboy Collectibles, John and Billie Marta won first place in the residential category. Amanda Finlayson received second place in residential. The cheerleaders have asked if they could approach the merchants to do window decorating for a fund raiser next year.

Ride the Rockies: The organizer met with Nathan, Katherine and Stacy. The Ride will be in Hotchkiss Sunday June 10. It was suggested that we ask some of the cycling groups for help. We were given a very comprehensive notebook with instructions, suggestions and help. We need to get the lodging contacts updated to give to the tour contact who will be making the reservations. We will also be doing home lodging. Organizations will be contacted about serving dinner.

New Business:

Ballots were counted. The by-law revisions passed with a 23 of 29 yes. That is 79% approval. We now have openings for 3 new board members. Officers will be chosen by the Board. If anyone is interested in being on the board they should contact Nathan as soon as possible. There was discussion on whether the Chamber should take a stand on the proposed gas well leases.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Rhonda Duclo