



Mentone Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Minutes: 26 September 2011

1. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alfred Chichester at 7:21 p.m., at the Rocky Point Fellowship Church, 2116 Mentone Boulevard in Mentone.

Members Present

Alfred Chichester, Chair
Pastor George Everett
Ellie Lafferty
Skip Morris
Jim Lotito, Ways and Means

Oscar Ellis, Vice-Chair
David W Wilder, Secretary/Treasurer
Gabe De La Rosa
Maribeth Lotito Ways and Means
Kimberly Wilder, Executive Director

Guests

Neil Derry, 3rd District Supervisor
Chas Kelley, 3rd District Supervisor's Field Rep
Irma Gonzales
Bill Rhetts
Patty Turney
Angie De La Rosa

Pastor Everett provided the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Approve Minutes of the August meeting

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as submitted. Motion Everett/Second M. Lotito MSP

3. Presentation by Supervisor Derry

Neil Derry, 3rd District Supervisor, presented information to the Board and guests as follows:

Budget – The County has passed a balanced budget. However, the State budget is expected to fall short of predications thereby reducing the money that the County should be receiving. The County has been attempting to negotiate with its labor contracts with little success. A full 85% of the County budget is personnel costs. It was explained that there is concern that in order to balance the State

budget more money will be taken from the local counties and cities. It is anticipated that the budget “triggers” previously identified in the budget process will be “pulled” and there will be more cuts to several programs. Questions from the audience were invited and addressed by the Supervisor.

Redistricting – The new district maps have been approved by a 3 to 2 vote. Unfortunately, even though members of the public attended and expressed their concerns for the proposed changes, their concerns were not taken into account. The size of the Districts is determined by population and the goal is 470,000 in each district. The 3rd District has expanded to include all of the Morongo Basin, Lucerne Valley and the city of Barstow. The city of Crestline has been moved into the 2nd District. There was a lengthy discussion about the process. One of the issues that was raised was about the ability of the Board to revisit, and change, the districts without waiting for the next census.

Questions were asked about the marijuana dispensaries in the community. The Supervisor explained that the courts have repeatedly upheld the rights of the dispensaries to operate. The County is attempting to establish, by ordinance, very specific rules concerning the location of the dispensaries. It is expected that there will be lawsuits regarding any attempt to protect areas of the community.

The Supervisor explained that the FBI currently has 4 investigations ongoing in the County. One over the city of Upland, one over the County hospital, one over the Colonies, and one over the airport. He explained in detail the history of the airport and the fact that he inherited a very costly project on the premises. There was a promise of airlines landing at the airport that have not come to fruition. The director of the airport has been barred, by a court order, from working in the airline/airport business. He was hired by the previous supervisors anyway. He explained that he is in support of the FBI investigations stating, “it is always good to have another set of eyes”.

Throughout his presentation, the Supervisor willingly answered questions on a variety of subjects.

4. Financial Report

MCC General Account	
Beginning Balance	\$ 647.56
Exec. Director	\$450.00
D&O	\$ 88.43
Verizon	\$ 32.94
All Star Engraving	\$ 28.28
Deposits/Credits	\$ 125.00
Checks/Debits	\$ 599.65 {
8/31/11 Ending Balance	\$ 172.91
Business Savings (Assumption based on history)	
Beginning Balance	\$6,528.17
1 Credit (Interest)	\$.76

Ending Balance		\$5,028.93	
Petty Cash			
DATE	EXPENSE	AMOUNT	
	BALANCE		
Sept. 26	None	\$ 0.00	\$16.00

5 Old Business

There was no old business pending for this meeting.

6. New Business

No new business was presented at this time.

7 Executive Director's report

- a. Activity to date
 - Executive Director's Report for September 26, 2011
 - Paid bills.
 - Created flyer to send out to email list/s.
 - Redid Chamber email list to include 28 contacts and sent meeting announcements and reminders out to all of them.
 - Updated QuickBooks with new member information, member renewals, and current billing invoices.
 - In process of creating an Excel document with all member's information for posting on Chamber website and our Facebook entry.
 - Worked with Dionne on updating the website and will be working with her on Facebook entry as soon as member-listing document is completed.
 - Answered incoming calls and responded to email inquiries.
 - Will have put in 40 hrs this month by September 30th; need another transfer of funds by Wed. for payment obligations (ED & Oct bills).

8. Chairman's Report

There was no report made at this time.

9, MACA Report

Gabe reported the County Land Use Department gave a presentation on the enforcement of brush and weed removal. There was discussion held around this subject. The representative of MWD responsible for the trails project has been out of commission. She has returned to work full time and is continuing the discussions.

10. Ways and Means

Maribeth explained that we will be holding another Christmas party in conjunction with Highland, similar to last year. A date will be selected soon. The event will take place at Mill Creek. Supervisor Derry will be asked to provide the

entertainment for the evening. Help is needed in securing the prizes for the event. Volunteers have already been identified to decorate the tees that will be auctioned off.

Jim reported that he is in the planning phase of the golf tournament and is considering a second tournament next year.

11. Information

No additional information was made available at this time.

Motion made by Wilder, Second by J. Lotito to adjourn, MSP. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

REMINDER

The next meeting will be **31 October 2011 (Immediately following the 7:00 pm COMET Board meeting)**. Minutes Pending Approval