

**OROFINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 7, 2008
PONDEROSA BANQUET ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan Smathers called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. There were 34 members and three guests 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 guests were our program speakers, County Commissioner John Allen and Building and Planning Administrator Bobbi Kaufman. Our other guest was Ron Ihli with North American Directory Services who will be selling ads for the local hotel directories.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We have a fundraiser the 17th of May at a Motorcycle Race at the Arena in the City Park. The event has been approved by City Council. I will email out a sign up sheet for those willing to volunteer.

Thanks to all who helped out with Community Clean up Day and sprucing up Heritage Plaza. It looks great and the new bark donated by Brandt Cedar Mill was a great addition.

Thanks to all auction volunteers, attendees, and donors. The final numbers are not yet in, but I have every reason to believe that the event was another huge success.

For the next couple of General Membership meetings we will be trying out ordering off the menu instead of having a set meal.

There will be a Board of Directors Meeting on Monday at noon at the Ponderosa.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs- The committee will meet on Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. at the Ponderosa Garden Room. They will be meeting with the Forest Service on the planning process as well as discussing the North South trail.

Promotional- Laura Wolverson announced that there will be a free kiddie's planting day at King's on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Auction- The auction was a great success again this year. Thanks to all who volunteered, attended, donated or participated in any way. The numbers are still being tallied, but it looks like we are only about \$1500 down from last year which was an extraordinary year.

Welcome and Membership- No Report.

Economic Development – There was a meeting yesterday at City Council Chambers about telecommunication issues. Many counties were represented and Clark Communications as well as First Step were there.

GEM- No Report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report

PROGRAM

Programs- May 21 – Our Legislators

President Ryan Smathers introduced our program speakers, County Commissioner John Allen and Building and Planning Administrator Bobbi Kaufman.

Commissioner Allen began with a background on County issues and funding. He stated that the Clearwater County Ambulance service made 779 runs in 2004. In 2007 that number was up to 998. They are down three people in the Sheriff's Department. According to a study conducted by the Nez Perce Tribe, 135 residences were built from 2005 to 2007. According to Commissioner Allen, the population that is moving into the county is older and therefore demands more services. The hospital has been packed and there have been times when the overflow needed to be sent on to St. Josephs in Lewiston. Also, the road and bridge department is down two people from five years ago and is burdened by the rising cost of fuel. Solid waste is also increasing with household waste being trucked to Missoula, and now with recycling as an option, the county hopes that the number of truck loads will decrease.

Commissioner Allen went on to explain the property tax system in Clearwater County. In FY 07, there was a \$10.2M budget. \$2.2M came from property taxes. \$8M came from other sources such as fuel taxes and Craig Wyden funding. The county is allowed to raise property tax 3% per year and new construction can be charged full assessed value for one year and then raised to 3% following that year. The increased property tax value last year was \$83,000. The county can expect to provide more services without a corresponding increase of income, according to Commissioner Allen. Also, Craig Wyden used to get 25% of money that the Forest Service made from the sale of timber for schools and roads. Now they get \$500,000 from the federal government which is just half of the road and bridge budget. \$350,000 goes to schools.

Bobbi Kaufman explained the purpose of the new zoning map which would zone smaller lots close to the cities and outlying areas would be zoned for no less than 20 acre divisions. The last zoning map for the county was adopted in December of 2004 which designated F1 as low density, F2 as medium density and F3 as agriculture and timber production district. Before the 2004 change, that land could be divided as small as 1 acre. According to Kaufman, the new zoning has been in ordinance since 2004 but has not yet been designated on a map.

There was discussion on the comprehensive plan revision. County Commissioner Don Ebert stated that Planning and Zoning requires a public hearing and that he doesn't care

what the outcome of the map is, but wants the decision to be deliberate and wants the public's help to come to solutions that are feasible. He will support what the public has a say in and feels the participation level of the public needs to be high. He then excused himself from the meeting to avoid a quorum of the Commissioners.

Keith Hanson asked when we might get to see the map. Kaufman answered that we first need to get the comprehensive plan done and then as soon as the plan is finished, a map will become available. There was much discussion about the map and potential problems with the process. Local realtors expressed great concern with the zoning change due to the fact that the land suitable for building is within this zone change and 20 acre minimums will limit the people who can buy the land. Other members expressed concern with limiting growth in the county and suggested that a good way to create revenue for the county was to increase the tax base by allowing for growth and building to take place. Discussion continued and Commissioner Allen and Kaufman again stated that the comprehensive plan would be open to public for input and encouraged all those concerned to participate in.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Ryan Smathers, President

ATTESTED:

Heather R. Burnham, Executive Director