

## Minutes for the December 4, 2019 Meeting

In attendance:

Ian Mansley- Chamber President/Tofield Liquor Mart,

Greg Litwin-Chamber Vice President/ Maxwell Devonshire Realty,

Dave Spilchen -Spilchen Consulting Services

Brenda Chehade-Town of Tofield and Tofield Welcome Basket Initiative

Hazel Reid-Tofield/Ryley Food Bank

Sharon Klassen-Klass Co Interiors

Yvonne Brown- Busy Bee/Farmer's Market

Belle Henderson- Chamber Treasurer/Golden Club

1. President Ian Mansley called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM

### Round Table

**Dave Spilchen of Spilchen Consulting** advised he will be officially changing the Company name to Spilchen Construction Ltd. In the new year. Business has been slow, but he has been awarded some out of town contracts.

**Brenda Chehade** updated us on the Welcome Basket Initiative. To date 39 baskets have been delivered. She is looking for more SWAG from businesses to fill the baskets and more binders to contain all the information. Brenda said she is not getting referrals from the rural areas. Greg will look into this.

**Yvonne Brown of Busy Bee/Farmer's Market** advised Busy Bee is supporting the Elves program, the Shoe Box program, the Christmas Hamper program and other local initiatives. December 13 will be the Christmas Market and the last one before January.

**Ian Mansley of Tofield Liquor Mart** shared that sales are down in most liquor stores in rural Alberta this year. Beer sales are 18% less than at this same time last year. He has completed the process for licensing the Cannabis store and hopes to be open by mid-January.

**Greg Litwin of Maxwell Devonshire Realty** gave an update on the rural market. The market is still slow, people are being very cautious, but he is seeing some movement.

**Hazel Reid of Tofield/Ryley Food Bank** indicated business has been steady. The Stuff the Bus results are not compiled yet, but it was a successful initiative.

**Belle Henderson of the Tofield Golden Club** thanked the community for their participation in the Club Bake Sale on November 23 and for their generous offering of door prizes for the Christmas lunch on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

### 2. New Business

- 2020 Chamber Elections- Due to the low attendance, elections were deferred until January 8, 2020. However, there was productive discussion regarding increasing membership and making the meetings more accessible to everyone. We need to make people aware we welcome "home based businesses like Scentsy and Tupperware. Potential changes to the day and time of the meeting were discussed, Greg suggesting

drafting a piece informing the membership of the impact of the Chamber potentially folding if an executive is not in place at the January meeting. This could go out to members in an email and be posted on the Chamber Facebook page. The primary losses would be in the areas of Member Health Benefits, there would be no Promenade, no Fall celebration of small business, no Welcome Basket Initiative and no opportunities for business in Tofield to network and learn. If we are successful in installing a new Executive, then a second piece should be drafted to go out to local businesses who are not members letting them know of the benefits of membership. This could just go on various sites such as Tofield Today and Tofield Home Based Businesses.

- Membership renewal forms were available at the meeting and members are reminded to get the forms completed and submitted.
- Winterfest was a successful event again this year. Thanks to all those who participated.
- Christmas Hamper update by Greg: The Christmas Hamper volunteers will meet at the Community Hall on December 19 at 10:00 AM to sort all the donations and fill the hampers. There are volunteers coming from the school to help with this. Delivery and pick up of the hampers will take place December 21 starting at 10:00 AM. The program needs drivers for delivery. Pick up of hampers will be between 1:00 and 3:00 PM.
- The Snow Goose Festival, hosted by the Town of Tofield, will be back in 2020. This festival was last held in 2002. It is set for April 25 and 26 at the Curling Rink. There will be Trade Show booths focusing on nature and the environment. Volunteers are needed for registration, welcoming guests and other essential activities. There are to be tours, a concession, and a banquet on Saturday night.

### **3. Next Meeting**

- Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the Beaverhill Museum and Nature Centre.