

**MINUTES**  
**Grand Rapids Area Chamber**  
**Area Business Committee**  
**Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**PRESENT:** Derek Rolle, Len Salmela, Cheryl Lemler, Mike Iaizzo, Steve Lynch, Katie Henriksen, Jason Janesich

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Dale Adams – Mayor of Grand Rapids

**STAFF:** Kerry Larsen & Bud Stone

Derek Rolle called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**DECEMBER 2009 MINUTES:** Len Salmela made a motion to approve the December 2009 Minutes; Jason Janesich seconded; motion carried.

**ACTION:** No further action is needed.

**NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Introductions were completed and Katie Henriksen introduced herself. She is employed at the Reif Center and will be a part of the committee.

**ACTION:** No further action is needed.

**GUEST SPEAKER – DALE ANDERSON:** Dale Anderson visited with committee and talked about different things that were happening in the City of Grand Rapids. These consisted:

- Sales Tax
- Early retirement
- Government cuts
- New truck – controversial issue/reasoning behind theory
- Federal dollars applying for
- Rural assessment policy
- Continuation of how to reduce costs
- Public utilities and a possible merger
- Long term staff reduction
- Future city plans
- Tax rate reductions
- Sign issue
- Wheelchairs plus/ how and why they worked with the business/reasoning behind it
- Pokegama Golf Course

Dale wanted to make sure that the committee knew that moving forward they will continue to look at ways to reduce costs effectively.

**ACTION:** No further action is needed.

**ADS FROM GRAND RAPIDS HERALD REVIEW:** The committee viewed the Grand Rapids Herald Review ads. The committee was asked to give Steve more ideas for ads.

**ACTION:** Steve will continue to email Kerry & Bud the ads for the committee.

**BUSINESS CARD IDEA:** Bud informed the committee two-chamber member businesses have responded to our business card idea. Bud will continue to work with these businesses and continue to inform the committee. Bud is hoping to have these ready for the next meeting.

**ACTION:** Bud will continue to work with the companies that have responded to the business card idea and see if any other chamber member businesses will respond.

**SPEAKERS FOR 2010:** The committee members discussed speakers for 2010. The speakers will be as follows:

Feb. 2010 – Tom Pagel – City Engineer / Bud will confirm

March 2010 – Jim Hoolihan – Blandin Foundation/ Bud will call

April 2010 – IEDC – Bud will call

**ACTION:** May – December will be chosen at a later date. The committee members will arrange speakers for the month they volunteered for. They will let Kerry know when confirmed.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be Feb. 25th 2010 Chamber of Commerce Conference Room – 8:00 a.m. Kerry will have the Opening Fishing BBQ job duties ready for the committee members to delegate. Tom Pagel will be the guest speaker.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

Submitted by Kerry Larsen, Membership & Tourism Coordinator