

MINUTES
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
June 29, 2007

Committee Members Present: L. L. Johnson, Rick Utech, Jake Goering, Dale Adams, Peter McDermott, Jim Millis, Tom Schmoll, Frank Allen

Advisory members present: Catherine McLynn

Chamber Staff: Bud Stone, President; Renee Thompson, Administrative Assistant and Finance Coordinator

Jake Goering called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rick Utech made a motion to approve the May 25, 2007 meeting minutes. Jim Millis seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

COUNTY SUBDIVISION MORATORIUM

Catherine McLynn gave the committee an overview of the moratorium proposal that will be voted on at the County Board meeting on July 10, 2007. The moratorium would put a temporary hold on applications for subdivisions until zoning ordinance revisions are completed.

Committee members voiced their opinions on the pros and cons of placing a temporary moratorium on Itasca County. One of the biggest "cons" voiced was the fact that media perception to citizens would be that Itasca County is "anti-business" or closed for business.

Catherine McLynn expressed great concern with the need for zoning ordinance revisions and expressed that need for citizen involvement with the zoning ordinance revisions.

Bud informed the committee that the Chamber, GABA, the Itasca Housing Coalition, IEDC and Habitat for Humanity boards of directors all passed resolutions opposing the moratorium.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

OTHER

Jake Goering informed the committee that he has had great success using the MN Job Bank.

Bud Stone and Rick Utech gave an update on a DEED meeting they attended on June 28, 2007.

Peter McDermott reported that IE DC purchased the vacant building on Airport Road next to Schroeder Log Home Supply.

Bud Stone informed the committee that Congressman Oberstar was able to get another million dollars for the Waste Water treatment plant and an additional 1.75 million for the Forest Legacy.

Dale Adams gave an update on the Branding initiative.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, July 27, 2007.