

Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of the November 10, 2022 meeting

The Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual business meeting on November 10, 2022, at the Bremen Area Historical Society, at 7:00 p.m. The public was invited to hear reports on the state of the village, the township and the school district. Following a call to order and welcome by chamber president David Foltz, those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Dee Mowry gave the invocation. Township trustees Jim Downard, Chad Ashbaugh and Tim Thomas were introduced.

Minutes of the October meeting ;had been emailed to members; copies were available to visitors. Minutes were approved on a motion by Dee, Mowry seconded by Toni Harper. The treasurer reported on the following account balances:

checking	\$ 7 111.97
community	5 686.90
CD total	25 218.91

Dee Mowry moved to receive the report, seconded by Dave Myers and carried. The chamber had 51 members for 2022, including the most recent additions: the Rushcreek Pub & Grub and Rushcreek Township. Local projects from the Community Fund totaled \$2 800.

Among executive board actions were:

- 1) setting the 2023 membership fees (no change from 2022)
- 2) moving the due date for membership to March 1 (by-law change)
- 3) Article IV: **appoint** (in place of elect)_
- 4) Article I: secretary and treasurer may serve an unlimited number of consecutive two year terms.
- 5) Due to the interruption of the sequence of elections caused by the Covid shut-down, the current president and vice president shall serve until the next even year election, in November of 2024.

Toni Harper moved to accept these changes, seconded by Chad Belville and carried.

Announcements:

The benefits of chamber membership were reviewed.

The sign at the intersection of state routes 37 and 664 has 4 spaces available; the cost of a space is \$300 per year. This income goes toward the community fund; however uncertainty about the sign's continuation has resulted in several years' hiatus in fees. A chamber letter will solicit Community Fund donations to replenish the funds this year.

The Bremen Area Food Pantry served 53 families in October. They will collect canned goods and non-perishables Saturday, November 12, in the village. Monetary donations can be sent to Linda Young. Vinton County Bank will double donations up to \$500. Dave Myers moved a donation of \$500 to the food pantry, seconded by Chad Ashbaugh and carried.

Superintendent Chad Belville reported on Fairfield Union Local School District. Despite gaps due to the Covid 19 shut-down, the district had the top over-all score in the county on the state report card, including 5 stars on gap closing and graduation rate. 2022 saw the restoration of the Memorial Wall at Bremen Elementary and the beginnings of problems with the heating and cooling systems. The latter are having a 54 week wait for replacement parts. But, in a state where the average for a district is 30 days open without outside funding, Fairfield Union could go 200!

For the township, Chad Ashbaugh reported the chip/seal of roads is on schedule; with growth being experienced, the zoning guides will be reviewed in 2023. Tim Thomas reported that the fire department has added a full time member. There were over 400 EMS calls, 72 fires and 12 accident calls so far, as well as mutual aid requests from Richland Township at a rate of 8 for every 1 Rushcreek request. This uneven state cannot continue. Jim Downard reported on a buckled floor in the township office and an 80% increase in energy costs. The township is linking with the county on employee benefits.

For the village, Mayor Anthony Taylor reported that the long awaited repaving of Marietta Street is underway, with lining and sidewalks and curbs to be completed...Grants for street work on Bartlett, Highland and North Ridge have been applied for. There is a waste water project in the works. Restrooms in Howell Park have been up-dated and the pool floor refinished. A grant from the EPA should allow the up-dating of water meters, and West Main Street has had decorative lighting added

Chad Ashbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dave Myers and carried. A social time was observed with refreshments arranged by Toni Harper.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Schmitz, secretary _____