

Tyrrell County Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2026

The meeting was called to order by the 2025 President, Debbie Olson.

Members in attendance at the Chamber Office: Justin Westcott, Sandi Smith, John McCann, Luther Daniels, Debbie Olson, David Davenport, Cammy Arnold, Jean Lambert, Jennifer Westcott, Randy Armstrong, Virginia Sellers. Via zoom: Lynda Mastronardo, Gretchen Schermerhorn, Nancy McKaig, Daniel Salazar, Allie Grace McLaughlin, Megan McLaughlin

Approval of Financial Reports:

The Financial Reports were presented.

- Debbie explained and reviewed the reports, including a YTD Budget/Actual Comparison. There was a discussion about the balance equity and retained earnings.
- Sandi Smith made a motion to accept the financial report as presented
- Second: Virginia Sellers
- Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the previous meeting were presented.

- Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Justin Westcott
- Second: Jennifer Westcott
- Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Town Ordinance Board: Debbie is going to serve on this board.
- Sharon Smith/NC Dept of Commerce: Debbie told the Town Alderman that the Chamber is willing to help with NC Main Street; she stressed the importance of working with the Alderman.
- T-Mobile Grant update: the grant recipients will be notified in February. The proposal is stronger now to include more specific items, such as redoing the tennis courts. However, we are not a Main Street Community and that is the organization in charge of the grant so we are unsure if that will make a difference in being awarded the grant.
- Library Workshops: Grant Writing Workshop on February 24th at 4:00, Entrepreneurship Workshop March 17th and a workshop on Writing and Self-Publishing Books, the date is TBD.
- Wayfinding Sign Project: the project began in 2021 and the signs are still not created. John expressed his frustration that it is still not complete when many businesses are supported by tourism and would benefit from the signs. The TDA should be in charge of this project, but has not provided the funding needed, yet they receive funds from many of the local businesses that want the signs. The next TDA meeting is January 28th at 3:00PM for anyone interested in attending.

Election of New Officers 2026

President: Justin Westcott

Vice President: Sandi Smith - nominated by Jennifer Westcott, second - Daniel Salazar

Secretary: Jennifer Westcott - nominated by Sandi Smith, second - John McCann

Treasurer: Hunter Rose - nominated by Jennifer Westcott, second - Virginia Sellers

2026 Committees & Chairpersons

Membership/Community Outreach Committee: Katerina Ramos (Chair), Sandi Smith, Luther Daniels, Megan McLaughlin

Fundraising/Events: Cammy Arnold (Chair), David Davenport, Daniel Salazar, Justin Westcott, Hunter Rose, Sandi Smith

Scholarship/Education: Jennifer Westcott (Chair), Jean Lambert, Teresa Thompson, Monica Mauffray, Lynda Mastronardo, Gretchen Schermerhorn

Rivertown Christmas: Justin Westcott (Chair)

New Business:

- Website- Allie McLaughlin: the chamber logo, QR code and pictures have been added. When members pay their dues, they will be listed on the website in February.
- Annual Banquet/Meeting: the banquet is on Saturday March 28th at Black Dirt, tickets are \$45 and Stick Burnin' BBQ is catering. There will be a silent auction.
- Tyrrell County Chamber of Commerce has a NC Chamber Membership: Justin shared a packet of information from NC Chamber about Carolina Healthworks which offers Blue Cross NC insurance to members with a business of 2-50 employees. The open enrollment is continuous so businesses will be able to request a quote and sign up at any time.
- 2026 Membership Drive: 65 invoices were mailed, there are 35 returning members and 10 new members

State, Regional, Community & Member Happenings

- Winter Magic at the Blue Juniper Inn - welcoming guests who are looking for rest, nature and a true reset.
- BCCC GED and Yoga - BCCC is offering GED classes. Yoga classes are taking place on week nights at IBX Mercantile.
- Albemarle Commission - a resolution passed on January 15th formally opposing "excessive dwelling insurance rate increases" requested by the NC Rate Bureau.
- Rural Summit Awards - nominations are being accepted through February 2nd
- Columbia Middle School CTE Job Shadowing Event February 23rd. Any business owners interested in participating contact Angie Jennings at ajennings@tycomail.net

Adjournment

Sandi Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried.