

# **Okanogan Chamber of Commerce**

## **Board Meeting**

July 22, 2020  
Board Meeting Minutes

### **Call to Order - 12:01 by President Bess**

#### **Initial Business**

- Introductions
- Approval of 6-24-2020 Board meeting Minutes. Channele moved, seconded by Irene to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report - Stacey absent, no report
- City of Okanogan Liaison – Janet reported on the presentation by Doctors Rutheford and Wilson from Confluence Health about COVID in our area and the increasing trend. The message

#### **Special Presentation:**

- Laurie Jones, Director Okanogan Health District - presented Okanogan County COVID update. Asked for feedback with the new website. Health District was slammed with large number of tests taken over the weekend. Will start using the State's COVID numbers. How COVID testing reporting happens: the Lab test results are reported directly to the State Dept of Health. Then the County health district has to do a case report from each result from clinics and hospitals and connect a name with the lab, that's how we identify who lives in the county as opposed to those who were tested in our county but may live elsewhere.

We have seen an increase of cases in the last two weeks, people need to make sure they are physically distancing.

County Health District is planning to do more drive-through testing. Health Dist has worked with Gebbers since February on their plan for COVID containment. Employees are monitored and detailed records are being maintained. Lauri's office meets with Gebbers daily. State L & I rep visited and inspected at Gebbers and found they do have a solid plan in place. It's the behaviors of the employees outside of the work environment that are creating the issue.

Contact Tracing: Janet asked if "anyone" can be tested - Lauri said she doesn't know why they shouldn't be able to; although currently, only those w/symptoms or known exposure can be tested by clinic/hospital. The Health Dept doesn't test. Brewster is offering drive-through testing, Check Three Rivers Hospital website for hours. Lauri said restaurant workers should be wearing masks, they are only allowed to be open if they follow the guidelines. People should be wearing a mask, unless they are unable to because of medical reasons. Still quite a few people who refuse to wear a mask; Laurie's opinion is that with the rights in the Constitution come the responsibilities to help protect others.

Our businesses are concerned about PPE availability and the cost therein. Laurie recommends businesses contact OEM or Economic Alliance for support in mask acquisition. Lauri's heard good reports about most Okanogan businesses following the state guidelines - she would encourage ALL businesses to follow the guidelines.

### **Old Business**

- Website Update – new website is live! Bill will add the old minutes and news to the new site. Bess & Denise will receive training Thursday from Bill.
- Okanogan Prospers Interview Update – Chanelle

### **New Business**

- Economic Alliance PPE donations - donations were delivered to Stacey at Baines Title. Businesses need to have their UBI number.

### **Member Announcements**

- Janet has QUALITY furniture ready to sell. She will post to FB Buy Sell and Trade sites. Funds raised will be donated to Chamber.
- Bryan reported the Land Trust has an August 26th OkaKnowledge Zoom presentation w/Humanities Washington. Topic: History of Transportation in Washington State. Check out the OkanoganLandTrust.org site or their FB page for the zoom address and additional information.
- Irene reported that more employers are hiring; Work Source is working on transitioning WS staff back to employee assistance. Unemployment doesn't require those on unemployment to prove they've applied for jobs. There are jobs to be had in our area. If you know of someone looking for a job, have them contact WorkSource. They yalso have Job Training opportunities for dislocated workers. Currently working with JC Penn's employees on relocation and training.
- Bess reported that the WIAA sent out guidelines for athletics for this year. The plan is to run four seasons of sports rather than typical 3 seasons.

*Next Regular Meeting: **Wednesday**, August 12, 2020 at Noon, Venue TBD*

*Next Board of Directors Meeting: **Wednesday**, August 26, 2020 - Venue TBD*

*Building Community through Locally-Owned Business*

Minutes recorded by Denise V.