

**Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
January 8, 2007**

Meeting called to order by Vice President Gary Gray at 6:07 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Joanne Craddock, Gary Gray, Harry Canont, Dan Bailas, Lee Mortimer, John Farrand, Lisa Robertson.
Not Present: Kent McCauley, Suzanne Little.

Minutes: Motion by Joanne Craddock seconded by John Farrand to accept the minutes for December 11, 2006 as written.
Motion carried.

Public Inquiry: Carol Higgins from the Commercial Express was present to inform us about the new Local phone numbers listing that will be going out in the March 1st issue of the express.

Treasury: Treasury balance year to date is \$7,394.53 not including sponsorship monies for the ice festival.

Marketing: The Public Service Announcement for the Ice festival is in full swing as of December 20, 2006. The web site is still getting a great share of hits with a count of 176 hits in the last 7 days.

Membership: one new membership for this month the Vicksburg Family Dentistry.

Events: We have gotten 33 sponsors for the ice festival of over \$6,000. 23 Sculptures sold. Posters, brochures will start printing on 1/9/07 Volunteer sign up is being passed. 12 participating restaurants in the chili cook off as well as kids ice games this year and a line up of 4 bands.

Economic Growth: No report at this time.

Village Attendee report: Dan Bailas was unable to attend the Village meeting but made the DDA meeting and reports they are happy to be working closely with the Chamber.

Unfinished Business

Band Shell: Looking to make a decision as to the placement of the band shell. Will be presented to the Historical Society meeting by Smitty Smith on January 11 to place it at the Historic Village.

Event Sign: Gary will have the sign ready for the ice festival with permission to place it in Oswalt park 2 weeks before the Ice Festival.

New Business

Newsletter: Our contract has expired with the Kalamazoo Gazette on our Newsletter as of December 31, 2006. It was brought to the board by John Farrand about having both the Commercial and the Kalamazoo Gazette present to us what they can do for us to continue this news letter at the next meeting.

Ad for 2007 Showboat: John Farrand motions for a ¼ page ad with the Vicksburg Showboat same as we did last year. Seconded by Dan Bailas. Voted Unanimous.

New Answering machine: Lee Mortimer motions for an expense of no more than \$30.00 for a new answering machine if we are unable to find one with in the chamber to be placed at the new office.

Visitors Guide: We are now down to one box of Visitor's Guides.

Announcements

*The February meeting will be held at Bronson Vicksburg Hospital.
The next rural Chamber meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 22 in Mason Michigan.*

Motion by Joanne Craddock to adjourn Seconded by Harry Conant at 7:21 p.m. motion carried.

By Secretary Lisa Robertson

Minutes
February 12, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:00 by Vice President, Gary Gray.

Roll Call: Gary Gray, Dan Bialas, Lee Mortimer, John Farrand, Harry Conant, and Joanne Craddock present. Kent McCauley not present.

Minutes: at this time, we do not have the minutes from the previous meeting on January 8, 2007.

Presentations:

Laura Howard of Bronson Vicksburg Hospital shared with us all the great services BVH still has to offer.

Pam Hughes and Trischa Carr from the American Cancer Society Relay for Life gave a presentation on a Relay occurring for the first time ever in Vicksburg. The event will be held June 30-July 1, 2007 at the High School track. Anyone interested in getting a team together or if you'd like to be a corporate sponsor, please contact Pam at 349-8719.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report given by Lee Mortimer. Not including any Ice Festival income, the available operating balance is \$7,295.70. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Dan Bialas, seconded by John Farrand. Motion carried.

Marketing Report given by Joanne Craddock. Joanne was greatly encouraged by the number of visits to the website involving the Ice Festival. The site is being well utilized now. We are also down to the last of the Visitor's Guide/Community Directories. We'll look at doing a new one in a few months. Joanne would also like to thank Carrie Henderson from the County Wide Newspaper for covering our festival. She wasn't able to make it in person due to the weather, but was going to do a follow up article.

Membership Report given by John Farrand. We welcome Dan Pryson and Kristina Powers-Aubry back.

Events Report given by John Farrand. The Ice Festival appeared to have a greater turnout this year based on ticket sales. The event was a big hit despite the bitter cold and blowing snow. Thanks to everyone who helped out. The committee should have more details at next month's meeting.

Economic Growth- no report.

Old Business:

Bandshell- per John Farrand, Karen Fulton will be working on this project independently of the Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

New Business:

New members applications in the past week are DY Mortgage (Donny Yant) and Double L Bait & Marine. Welcome!

Chamber Chat idea- Joanne Craddock discussed an e-mail from David Eichaker, a Vicksburg Police Officer, offering to present an Identity Theft seminar. John Farrand will follow up with David and get this scheduled.

Board Members- Due to the resignation of two board members, we have two positions to fill. One term has approx. 1 ½ years left, and the other term is approx. 2 ½ years. If you are interested in filling a position, please contact Kent McCauley, Joanne Craddock, Lee Mortimer, or Gary Gray.

Discussion- Board Members will come at 5:30 for a half hour closed discussion prior to the next Board Meeting.

Next meeting March 12, 2007 at 6:00 pm at Main Street Pub.

Motion to adjourn by John Farrand, seconded by Dan Bialas. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

By Acting Secretary Joanne Craddock

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
March 12, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:00 by President Kent McCauley.

Roll Call: Gary Gray, Dan Bialas, Harry Conant, Joanne Craddock, Kent McCauley in attendance. Lee Mortimer and John Farrand not present.

Minutes: Motion by Joanne Craddock, seconded by Gary Gray to approve meeting minutes dated 1/8/07 and 2/12/07. Motion carried.

Presentations:

There were no scheduled or public presentations.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Lee had prepared the Treasurer's Report and Kent went over it. We have a total current balance of \$9,213.62. If we subtract everything from the Ice Festival, we have a working balance of \$6,724.84. Lee suggests setting up a different account with the Ice Festival proceeds to fund some of our goals. The Finance Committee will discuss this further.

Marketing Report: Joanne Craddock will ask Total Market Strategies to come to next month's meeting to do another presentation for the Visitor's Guide/Community Directory since we are almost out.

Membership Report: the Membership Committee presented the American Cancer Society for approval. Joanne Craddock motioned to approve the American Cancer Society, seconded by Harry Conant. Motion passed. Welcome American Cancer Society.

Events Report: no report

Economic Growth- Kent McCauley discussed that a local businessman has purchased the old bowling alley and will be putting in a drive-in diner there. The new owner has some great ideas.

Old Business:

President Kent McCauley appointed Laura Howard, Lee Mortimer, Joanne Craddock, Gary Gray and himself as the Nominating Committee for this year.

The Nominating Committee presented Joanne Craddock to fill the position of secretary that is currently vacant. Motion by Kent McCauley, seconded by Dan Bialas to approve Joanne. Motion carried.

The Nominating Committee presented Joel Nelson to fill one of the vacant board member positions. Motion by Dan Bialas, seconded by Gary Gray to approve Joel. Motion carried. Welcome Joel.

Joanne Craddock reminded everyone that there will be a free Identity Theft Seminar held Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Community Center. Officer David Eichaker of the Vicksburg Police Department will be the presenter. Chamber members and general public are welcome.

Carol Higgins from the Commercial-Express came to discuss our "official newsletter". The Commercial can do basically the same thing we had in the Portage Gazette. After discussion, Dan Bialas made a motion to move our official newsletter from the Portage Gazette to the South County Commercial-Express. Joanne Craddock seconded the motion and the motion carried. We will draft a letter to the Portage Gazette thanking them for their help getting

it going, but that we will not renew with them. Chris Klok also agreed to help put together the copy for the newsletter. The Commercial-Express newsletter will begin this month with a deadline of 3/27/07 at 5:00, to be out 3/30/07. It will be done the last publication of each month. The Chamber gave Carol the go ahead to discuss it with the past advertisers.

New Business:

Chris Klok from Unique Furnishings & Other Stuff, a charter member, asked if there was a way the Chamber could help support Felpausch to get Corporate Felpausch to build a new store or expand in Vicksburg. The Chamber will draft a letter to Felpausch supporting a new store or expansion. Great idea- thanks Chris.

Chris Sherburn from TC Gallery Custom Stained Glass, a charter member, was in attendance and brought some questions and discussion to the table. Chris' feedback is appreciated and we welcome member feedback and input at any time. We will post our goals on our website. We encourage attendance to our meetings as well as input at any other time. Chris also mentioned a new website promoting Vicksburg that we may want to link to, www.vicksburg-michigan.com. Thanks for your input Chris.

Jessica Klok suggested that we add a blog to our website which may solicit more feedback from our members and that we print our meeting date and location as well as any special speakers in our official newsletter. Great ideas Jessica- thanks.

We would also like to thank Lisa Robertson for all her work as a board member and the board secretary. Her time commitment and dedication did not go unnoticed and she will be greatly missed as a board member.

Announcements:

Next meeting April 9, 2007 at 6:00 pm at Main Street Pub.

Reminder of the ID theft seminar Tuesday, March 20th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

By Secretary Joanne Craddock

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
April 12, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:02 by President Kent McCauley.

Roll Call: Kent McCauley, Gary Gray, Dan Bialas, Joanne Craddock, Joel Nelson, John Farrand, Lee Mortimer. Harry Conant not present.

Minutes: Motion by Gary Gray, seconded by John Farrand to approve meeting minutes dated March 12, 2007. Motion carried.

Presentations:

Dianne Zeman, a volunteer Junior Achievement teacher, and a group of 5th grade Sunset Lake Junior Achievement students gave us a presentation on Generous Hands. The Junior Achievement class has designated April 18th as Generous Hands Day in Vicksburg. They are asking for our support in collecting 100% fruit juice boxes to put in the Friday Packs. Junior Achievement reps will pick up any donations on the 18th from area businesses. Joanne Craddock will e-mail the membership to let them know about this event.

June Kucks, Margaret Owen and Paul Franklin from the FolkLife Festival gave us a presentation of this year's festival and the changes they are making. They will have lots of children's activities and will promote activities for special needs children as well. The event is July 28th and they will have a nominal entrance fee. They would like to have the food booths provided by local businesses and organizations again. Any questions about the event can be directed to Margaret Owen at 269-327-2815.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Lee prepared the regular Treasurer's Report and a Special Report. The income to date on the Special Treasurer's Report is \$3,540.90 and the operating balance from the Treasurer's Report is \$5,758.77. Lee again suggested we use the funds on the Special Report for specific purposes such as scholarships.

Marketing Report: Joanne Craddock discussed the number of hits the website receives. In the last 30 days, we had 688 views. She has also contacted Total Market Strategies and will have them present at May's meeting regarding the Visitor's Guide/Community Directory. She also mentioned that Jim Smitchger of jaEss Consulting is offering a Member-to-Member benefit of a free consult regarding Internet marketing and websites. This will be posted on the website M2M page.

Membership Report: John Farrand of the Membership Committee presented Carl Austin of STK Built Homes and Tammy Tibbetts of Heavenly Touch Therapeutic Massage as new members. Joanne Craddock made a motion, seconded by Kent McCauley to approve our new members. Motion carried. Also, thanks to McCallum Business Services for renewing their membership. John also mentioned that MarJo's has new owners, and the ID theft seminar on March 20th went very well.

Events Report: no report

Economic Growth- Kent McCauley asked Bob Donelson to speak to the Chamber about his plans for the old bowling alley. Bob and his family will be opening Bobby's Drive-In. Bob gave an overview of all his plans and hopes to open around August. They could potentially employ 50-60 staff. We wish Bob luck and support him in getting his business going.

Dan Bialas discussed Spartan buying Felpausch. They look at this as a very positive change for the employees and customers. The actual change over will take place near the end of June and they may receive a new name.

Old Business:

Joanne Craddock on behalf of the Nominating Committee presented Charles Zanayed to fill the remaining vacant board position. Joanne motioned, seconded by Dan Bialas to approve Charles filling the position. Motion passed. Thanks and welcome Charles.

Bylaw Revisions- Joanne asked the Board if anyone had any comments, questions or changes from the bylaws she had e-mailed the board members. Still working on the wording of a few sections. It was also mentioned that we should have an attorney review our changes. Kent will see if the Village attorney can help with this. The members then have to approve the final version.

Carol Higgins from the Commercial-Express said she is still working on selling ads for our Official Newsletter.

New Business:

The Hearty Hustle group has asked if the Chamber would like to provide something to go in their packets that each participant receives. There was some discussion and Kent will take care of it.

Michigan Chamber of Commerce- Joanne had checked into joining the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$295.00 annually and there are many benefits. Joanne will get a copy of the paperwork from the Chamber to each Board Member. Tabled to next meeting.

Certificates of Origin- Joanne has done some checking on this topic and is trying to get in on a meeting at the Kalamazoo Chamber. Kent agreed we should follow through with this and see if we can provide this service (notarizing and signing on behalf of the Chamber).

Concerts in the Park- the Chamber is in need of someone to Chair these concerts. If we don't have a chairperson, the concerts will be discontinued for this year. June Kucks from the FolkLife Festival will discuss this at their next meeting on Wednesday and see if they have anyone interested in helping. John Farrand and June will discuss the details.

Announcements:

Dave Downs from the Chapman Memorial Church has volunteered to host the next Chamber meeting at the Church on May 14, 2007.

Motion by John Farrand, seconded by Dan Bialas to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

By Secretary Joanne Craddock

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
May 14, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:00 by Vice President Gary Gray.

Roll Call: Gary Gray, Dan Bialas, Joanne Craddock, Joel Nelson, John Farrand, Lee Mortimer and Charles Zanayed present. Kent McCauley and Harry Conant not present.

Minutes: Motion by Lee Mortimer, seconded by Joanne Craddock to approve meeting minutes dated April 9, 2007. Motion carried.

Presentations:

Celeste Statler of Total Market Strategies discussed doing a new Visitor's Guide/Community Directory. There is about a 3% increase for the ads. With our approval they will move forward in handling things the same way they did last year. We discussed a Chamber member discount and she'll run some figures on that. The Chamber also asked Celeste to quote on 5,000 quantity instead of 3,000. Joanne will be the direct contact for the Chamber.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Lee prepared the regular Treasurer's Report and a Special Report. The income to date on the Special Treasurer's Report is \$4,240.90 and the operating balance from the Treasurer's Report is \$4,737.87.

Marketing Report: Joanne Craddock reported we had an increased website viewing the Monday following the newsletter in the Commercial.

Membership Report: John Farrand of the Membership Committee presented Classic Laser Cuts, Indian Lake Nazarene Camp, Done-Deal Realty and James Vlasicak Mediation as new members. Dan Bialas made a motion, seconded by Lee Mortimer to approve our new members. Motion carried. Lee brought up that some new members have been paying the full amount rather than the pro-rated amount. She will refund these people to get the billing cycle to one time per year (October 1).

Events Report: John noted that he still needs advertisers for the Concerts in the Park poster. There will be 250 posters distributed in full color. One business card size ad is \$65.00. Concerts will take place in Clark Park. Chris Klok will check on availability of power from the village. Dan Bialas reports that we will do the awards dinner with the annual meetings again this year.

Economic Growth- Dan Bialas gave us an update on Felpausch. The store will be closing on June 13, 2007 for a few days while they convert everything over. Spartan has not as of yet unveiled a new name for the store.

Old Business:

Bylaw Revisions- Chris Klok verified for us that the village attorney will review our revisions.

Michigan Chamber of Commerce- Joanne had checked into joining the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$295.00 annually and there are many benefits. The primary benefit seems to be the legislative backing. We discussed joining for one year. John Farrand motioned, seconded by Dan Bialas to join the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Motion carried. Joanne and Lee will take care of the paperwork.

Certificates of Origin- Joanne requested to approve \$27.00 for a Chamber Seal to certify the Certificates of Origin. Lee motioned, seconded by Dan Bialas to approve the purchase of the Seal. Motion carried. The Chamber can then sign Certificates of Origin.

New Business:

Lee on behalf of the finance committee brought up putting some of our funds into an interest bearing account. We discussed opening a 9-month CD at 5.15% with \$3,000 from the Ice Festival income. Joel Nelson motioned, seconded by Dan Bialas to follow the recommendation of the finance committee and open a CD. Motion carried. Lee will take care of paperwork.

Charter Member Plaques- Joanne contacted Crown Trophy, one of our Chamber members, for prices on plaques. She also had a sample on hand. The sample had a removable plate at a cost of \$14.95 each. The version without the removable plate is \$9.95 each. Lee motioned, seconded by Dan Bialas to approve purchasing plaques at the \$9.95 each for the remaining charter members that would note *Charter Member 2005*. Motion carried.

John Farrand had a request from the Vicksburg Performing Arts Center to renew our advertisement. John motioned, seconded by Lee to renew our ¼ page ad at \$100.00 Motion carried.

Joel Nelson brought up the idea of spotlighting a Business of the Month on our website. He had seen it done very nicely on Mattawan's Chamber site. Joanne will incorporate this with our newsletter as well.

John Farrand brought up an idea of having a video on the website about the Chamber. John also feels it's time to step up our website. He will contact jAess Consulting for pricing and another person he knows for pricing. John will present more next month.

Lee Mortimer requested a donation to the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation duck derby to be held June 9, 1:00 pm at Clark Park. Joanne motioned, seconded by Dan Bialas to purchase 10 ducks at \$5.00 each in the name of the Chamber. Motion carried. Lee will take care of the details.

Announcements:

Dave Downs of Chapman Memorial Church gave a brief presentation and had staff on hand to give us a tour following the meeting. Thanks Dave.

John requested a partial closed meeting at June's meeting. The Board will meet at 5:30 pm.

Next meeting is June 11, 2007, Main Street Pub, 6:00 pm (5:30 for Board Members).

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

By Secretary Joanne Craddock

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes

June 11, 2007

Meeting called to order at 5:59 pm by Vice President Gary Gray.

Roll Call: Gary Gray, Joanne Craddock, Joel Nelson, Lee Mortimer, Charles Zanayed, and John Farrand (late arrival) present. Kent McCauley and Dan Bialas not present.

Minutes: Motion by Lee Mortimer, seconded by Charles Zanayed to approve meeting minutes dated May 14, 2007. Motion carried.

Appearances and Presentations:

No scheduled appearances or citizen presentations.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Lee Mortimer reported that per last months meeting, a CD was opened for \$3,000 and a separate account for the Ice Festival income was opened for \$883.90. Total funds- \$8,231.99, with operating funds at \$4,348.09.

Marketing Report: Joanne Craddock reported we had several phone calls to the Chamber answering machine and a few e-mails regarding the Old Car Show and the upcoming Lion's Club Summer Festival. People automatically go to the local Chamber looking for information on these events. Joel Nelson offered to attend a Lion's meeting to let them know more about the Chamber and our website and cross-promoting events.

Membership Report: Lee Mortimer, on behalf of John Farrand, presented D&N Detailing, Morton Family Chiropractic, Richards Sewer & Septic, Piper Academy, and CATO Companies for membership. Joanne Craddock motioned to approve members, seconded by Joel Nelson. Motion carried.

Events Report: John Farrand & Lee Mortimer reminded us of the upcoming concerts in the park. 250 posters will be distributed in the next week or so. There are a few bands/spots yet to be determined.

Economic Growth- no report

Old Business:

Bylaw Revisions- Joanne Craddock has given Chris Klok a copy to review and then they will go to the attorney. We hope to have more finalized by the next meeting.

Michigan Chamber of Commerce- Joanne Craddock reports that we are officially members and show up under the "local chambers" directory. Joanne will put more information in the newsletter and will add a link to the website.

Certificates of Origin- Joanne reports we are all set to sign Certificates of Origin. Lee Mortimer will keep the official seal at her office. Lee is also a notary public. We will not charge members for this service. Joanne will put this information in the newsletter.

Chamber Plaques- Joanne showed everyone the nice plaques that were done for Charter members. Board members divided the plaques to hand deliver to the recipients. Joanne will get pricing for doing another type of frame item for all members- will provide at next meeting.

Website Changes- John Farrand reported that he received a quote from Ryan Smith for about \$600.00 for revising our website with a \$3.95 monthly hosting fee. John is still waiting on a quote from jAess Consulting (a member). Will have more for next meeting.

Visitor's Guide/Community Directory- Joanne reported letters will be going out for advertising in the next few weeks. Joanne is looking for help on the guide. Lee Mortimer and Joel Nelson volunteered and Joanne will ask for photos and articles in the next newsletter.

New Business:

We had several new faces at the meeting and asked for introductions. We had Dr Morton from Morton Family Chiropractic on hand. He has recently purchased Dr. Jaworski's practice on Sprinkle Rd. We also had Kim Baker and Kathy Almay from CATO companies (Saw Mill Creek & Prairie Meadows Apts.) in attendance. Paul Casarez from Indian Lake Nazarene Camp and Mike Hardy from Vicksburg United Methodist Church also introduced themselves. Nice to have so many new faces at the meeting.

Announcements:

Next meeting is July 9, 2007, Main Street Pub, 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

By Secretary Joanne Craddock

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
July 9, 2007

Meeting at Main Street Pub.

Board Members in attendance: Joanne Craddock, John Farrand, Dan Bialas.

Not enough Directors for quorum. Had some discussions. No business actions taken.

Requested vote via e-mail to approve Ozland Enterprises as a new member. Vote passed.

By Secretary Joanne Craddock

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes

August 13, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm by Vice President Gary Gray.

Roll Call: Gary Gray, Joanne Craddock, Joel Nelson, John Farrand, Harry Conant, Lee Mortimer, Charles Zanayed. Kent McCauley and Dan Bialas not present.

Minutes: There were no minutes from July's meeting, due to lack of quorum.

Appearances and Presentations:

No scheduled appearances or citizen presentations.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Lee Mortimer reported that our current working balance is \$4,893.81 with an additional \$1,033.90 in the Ice Festival Account and \$3,024.80 in a CD for a total of \$8,952.51. This total includes the income from the FolkLife Festival of \$636.66.

Marketing Report: Joanne Craddock reported continued phone calls and e-mails to the Chamber. The Chamber is now being recognized as a source of information for the area.

Membership Report: John Farrand reported we have no new member applications this month.

Events Report: Brief discussion on the FolkLife Festival. Thanks to all our volunteers. John reported the remaining Concerts in the Park have been filled.

Economic Growth- John Farrand noted that a new business has opened called the Loose Goose. It is located over between J & S Party Store and the Car Wash. Welcome!

Nominating Committee- Joanne Craddock reported that three board positions are up this September. The new nominees are Lee Mortimer, Gary Gray and Dave Downs. The official letter will go out Wednesday if anyone else is interested and would like to petition to run for a Board position.

Old Business:

Bylaw Revisions- Joanne Craddock reported that we have not heard back from the Village attorney yet.

Chamber Plaques- Joanne reported some quotes on printing and frames for plaques for all Chamber members. We discussed some other options. Joanne will ask Jill at the Commercial Express for a quote to design a certificate layout. Dave Downs offered to print them on the Church printer and we can pay the Church for the copies. Will report more next month. Motion by John Farrand, seconded by Lee Mortimer to approve the purchase of 100 plastic frames for the plaques at the cost of \$3.20 each plus \$15.00 shipping from Exclusive Marketing Concepts. Motion passed. Joanne will take care of the order.

Website Changes- Jim Smitchger from jAess Consulting gave an overview of the redesign proposal he provided to the Chamber. Motion by Joanne Craddock, seconded by John Farrand to approve the website redesign at an estimated cost of \$500.00 and to move the website hosting from Yahoo to jAess Consulting for a monthly fee of \$20.00. John and Joanne will follow up with Jim. Motion passed. Actual revisions will not begin until October.

Visitor's Guide/Community Directory- Joanne reported advertising sales are going well. Joanne is requesting assistance on getting any revisions made to articles and/or new articles. Joel Nelson will review and also update our

calendar with the regular community events. Lee with contact VCA and Rotary about putting some more information in and John will contact a few other organizations.

Annual meeting- John Farrand and Joanne Craddock discussed the upcoming annual meeting. It will be held at Main Street Pub on September 26, 6:00-7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served and a citizen award and a business award will be presented. Invitations and award nomination forms will be mailed this week.

New Business:

Motion by John Farrand, seconded by Harry Conant to approve the ½ page ad for the Main Street Revue program at the cost of \$48.00. Motion passed.

Announcements:

Next meeting is September 10, 2007, 6:00 pm, location to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

By Secretary Joanne Craddock

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
September 10, 2007

Board Members Present: Gary Gray, Joanne Craddock, Lee Mortimer, and Joel Nelson. We did not have enough for a quorum. No business acted on.

E-mail vote sent and approval was confirmed for membership for Dwight Blodgett CPA and MIR-REN.

E-mail vote sent and approval was confirmed to approve Dave Downs, Lee Mortimer, and Gary Gray as the Board Members for the vacancies. No nominee petitions were filed.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
October 15, 2007

Board Members Present: Gary Gray, Joanne Craddock, Lee Mortimer, Dustin Morton, John Farrand, Dave Downs, Joel Nelson, Dan Bialas. Not present: Charles Zanayed.

This meeting was set up due to having two months in a row without quorum.

Dan Bialas gave his resignation. He is sad to leave but with his new job location in Dowagiac he feels he wouldn't be able to help much. We thanked Dan for his time with the Chamber.

Kimberly Baker of CATO Companies was nominated by John Farrand, seconded by Lee Mortimer to fill the remainder of Dan's term. Motion carried.

Officers:

Motions were made for Gary Gray to be President, Dr. Dustin Morton to be President-Elect, Joel Nelson to be Secretary, and Lee Mortimer to be Treasurer. Motions were made and seconded, and motions carried.

Committees Chairs:

Events- John Farrand
Marketing- Joanne Craddock
Membership- Joel Nelson
Finance- Lee Mortimer
Economic Growth- Kent McCauley? (Gary will ask)
Nominating- Dave Downs

Discussion: there was discussion on changing our meeting schedule/layout. A motion was made and seconded to approve making the regular monthly meetings "Board Meetings" where the general public would not come unless wanting something specific on the agenda. A motion was also made and seconded to hold only 4 "General Membership Meetings" per year to be held in February, May, August and September (along with Annual Meeting). Motions carried.

Other: Joel Nelson has spoken with Allen Edwin Homes and they would like to speak at our next Board Meeting. Joel will set this up.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
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Board Members Present: Joanne Craddock, Lee Mortimer, Dustin Morton, John Farrand. We did not have enough for a quorum. No business acted on.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes November 12, 2007

Board Members Present: Gary Gray, Dustin Morton, Joanne Craddock, John Farrand, Lee Mortimer, Joel Nelson. Not present: Charles Zanayed & Dave Downs.

- Allen Edwin Homes presented and discussed their present and future growth in their housing developments within the Village. Josh Warren & Lisa Leach from their sales department discussed the marketing and sales of their homes. The new Operating President Bob Kaylor discussed the production process. Scott Sanderson owner discussed the company philosophy.

81 new home starts in 2007 have made Vicksburg the fastest growing municipality in Michigan. Allen Edwin has begun a new phase consisting of 391 new home sites.

- Randy & Miranda Austin of Mir-Ken Enterprises visited the meeting as new members.

Committee assignments were discussed and consist of;

1. Finance- Committee leader-Lee Mortimer
 2. Economic Growth- Committee leader- Kim (last name?). Kent McCauley.
 3. Nominating- Committee leader-Dave Downs
 4. Events- Committee leader- John Farrand. Dustin Morton.
 5. Membership - Committee leader- Joel Nelson. Lee Mortimer.
 6. Marketing - Committee leader- Joanne Craddock. Kim ?
- Minutes from the meeting in October were emailed to Jim Schmitger for inclusion in the soon to be released new web site.
 - New members announced for November include:
JLS Construction
Vicksburg Hardware
Vicksburg School Foundation
 - An allocation of \$300 was voted on and approved for the purpose of buying stationary and envelopes for the Chamber. Business cards for Chamber board members were discussed. Discussion of the business cards was tabled to be considered at a later date.
 - Gary Gray will be approaching the Village of Vicksburg to discuss how the Village and the Chamber can work together more closely for the benefit of the community in general and area businesses in particular. A meeting between the Village officers and the Chamber board members is being planned.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2007

Board Members Present: Gary Gray, Dave Downs, Lee Mortimer, Joanne Craddock, Joel Nelson, John Farrand, Charles Zanayed.

Absent: Kimberley Baker & Dustin Mortimer

New member announced- Loose Goose (Carla Blinn)

Treasurer Report: Unpaid memberships were discussed. Follow-up phone calls and visits will be made. Review results in January.

Budget: Upgrade of annual meeting was discussed. Proposed budget for 2008 was discussed and approved.

Marketing: Discussions relating to the website progress, renewal plaques, distribution of Community Guides as well as a change in the Chamber logo and design.

Events: Ice Festival scheduled for 2/2/08 was discussed. Village approval is obtained. Big tent is booked, ice carvers are booked, ice-fishing contest is sponsored. Raffle items are still needed from local businesses.

Schedule of Meetings for 2008 were discussed. In an effort to promote “networking” amongst the members, four “OPEN MEETINGS” are to be held in 2008. They will be on the 2nd Monday of the months of February, May, August and September. These meetings will be open to the public as well as the general membership of the Chamber. Notices will be mailed and e-mailed to the Chamber Members encouraging their attendance. Regular Chamber Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the second Mondays of the month and will not be open to the public or the general membership.

The next Chamber Meeting is scheduled for January 14th, 2008 at Main St. Pub.