

## Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote Chamber members while enhancing the livability and connectedness of the community.

### AGENDA :

#### Current Executive Board Members:

Chair: Toby Polkinghorne, Vice Chair- Jeremiah Zahnow, Secretary/Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

Board Members: Jodi Dixon, Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, Chris Amundson

**Wednesday, November 26, 2025 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL**

Members present: Denita, Chris (via phone), Jeremiah (via Zoom)

### MEETING

#### 1-Call to Order/Roll Call:

- Meeting called to order by: Lu at 3:38 pm

#### 2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions & minutes

- Additions or Deletions: On a Motion by Chris and seconded by Jeremiah, agenda approved. Minutes from October 22, 2025 to be approved at next meeting
- On a motion by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, minutes approved.

#### 3- Financial Report – Financials

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- American Heritage National Bank – General Fund: \$46,398.29
- MN National – Chamber Bucks: \$-9,126.87 - ACH is not showing in the books. Balance will be approximately \$1200. Jeremiah used Chamber Bucks to purchase turkeys for meals to families that were short of food at Thanksgiving. Area businesses helped with the meal. January to October we are at net income \$6,123 for the Chamber total. Chamber Bucks balance needs to be adjusted for the net income. Lu is going to talk to the insurance company about the insurance for the 3 on 3 basketball. On a Motion by Jeremiah, and seconded by Denita. Chris abstained
- American Heritage National Bank CD's: \$43,427.21

#### 4- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:

- Karl's Recycling: \$40 list - Karl Arntson - collects metal and alumin cans.

#### 5- Director's Report-

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#### 6- Old Business

##### Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events – Report: None in November, open house in December

- December 18<sup>th</sup> - open house at the Chamber office - 9 am to noon
- Lu will send out a list for who would like to host next year. January will be solar power by MN Power. Panel discussion. Rest of the year is open.

##### Chamber organized events:

Report: Halloween Trick or Treat

- 739 chocolate bars handed out at State Farm. Very successful.

##### Coming up:

- Bright Light Festivities: Many activities on Friday. Posters are out.
- Arts & Craft Show: LP/GE from 9 am - 3 pm. Had it full, and now have lost some exhibitors. One got COVID and had 4 booths, but covered with 2 other exhibitors. Another dropped out with 2 booths, but they are now covered. 3 open booths. Promo has been put on Facebook to where everyone is in their booths. Daniella and her boyfriend, Lu's husband and Todd Ecker are helping to set up booths with taping etc.

##### Increase in salary for the EDA – proposal submitted, discussion

- Every year we renew the contract with the EDA. It started 6 years ago as Lu being the EDA director. We are currently at \$32,000. Includes Lu's salary and extra money to help to cover the administrative costs. Candy wasn't privy to that information. Candy thought Lu was getting the

\$32,000 as salary. Lu is taking on more for EDA for 2026 with child care houses and worked a lot for \$12,000 in grants. They are looking at turnkey child care houses. Also have a small cities grant that has been applied for which will cover residential and rental houses. Just got 100 surveys from homeowners. Grant is 1.4 million in rehabilitation. Lu sat down with Terry Jo Perry and she said to ask for \$45,000 for additional work for the EDA. Wadena gets \$109,000, Todd EDA \$102,000. In order to be competitive she asked for \$45,000. They counter offered to \$42,500. Melissa from the Todd County EDA helped Lu with the grants, and now she is gone. The new Todd County EDA director does not have the knowledge to help with the grants. More is going to fall on Lu's shoulders. She has learned a lot from her work the last 6 years.

- City Council meeting on December 10

#### 7- New Business

Budget meeting in December – Phil Gould may be able to help with this or Heidi Sudbeck

- Tom will come up with a budget for 2026.

#### New Executive & Board members

- Lu is going to do a drive to push for more board members. Jeramiah can stay on through 2026. 2 members from a business. Possibly meet every other month.

#### 8- Adjourn

- On a Motion by Chris and seconded by Denita, meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm

#### Our Core Values:

Promoting and connecting Chamber Members

Information and Resource Hub

Community enhancement

## Membership Benefits

- Promotion via Facebook,
- Electronic Sign on HWY 71 & Email
- Free website & FB job listings
- Newspaper announcement of your NEW membership
- Monthly Networking Opportunities
- Phone Referrals
- Bi-Weekly emails: Chamber News, Upcoming Events
- Membership Certificate and decal
- Chamber Bucks promotion- Keep it local
- Online Membership Directory
- Member brochure, business cards and flyer display in office lobby
- Career/Job Fairs and other employee search and retention programs
- No cost participation in Trick or Treat

## Community Benefits

The Chamber organizes and fundraises for the following events & initiatives:

- Monthly Networking
- Prairie Days
- Latino Festival
- Community Gardens
- Downtown Flowers & Deco
- Harmony Park trees & scrubs
- City Wide Garage Sales
- Homecoming Parade float prizes
- Halloween Trick or Treat
- Bright Light Festivities
- Arts & Craft Show
- Outdoor Rink
- Public Forums

## Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

### 2025 Strategic Goals

#### Increase Chamber Membership

Secure **15** new members in either Long Prairie or the surrounding area.

Show non-members the value of membership by introducing them to the Chamber Website, Facebook page and Membership Benefits flyer.

#### Retain Current Membership –

Make members feel valued by visiting and calling. Focus on connecting with at least 5 dormant members each month to check-in and remind them of the available membership benefits.

Promote and share business events and content via the chamber website, Facebook, GMLP Breakfasts, radio, emails etc.

#### On going

Brand the LPACC as the information Hub of Long Prairie

Send out **Bi-weekly** emails utilizing direct links for advertisements and events.

#### On going

Update the chamber website monthly to ensure it is an efficient and effective way to connect the community with resources

#### On going

Organize Networking events monthly

