

**Pontiac Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting
May 21st, 2008
Pine Lodge, Bristol, QC**

1. Mike Hodgins motioned to open the meeting, seconded by Doug Gauthier.

Jim Thompson motioned to accept the agenda, seconded by Richard Lance.

2. Introductions were made, the minutes from the AGM on May 8/08 were reviewed and accepted without change, though it was noted that changes could be made by the membership at the next general meeting if required, and the Board members' bios were reviewed and it was noted that Marlene Scullion's hat been omitted in error. Betsy will correct and redistribute and redistribute to all prior to next meeting.

3.a The Board Requirement for business was discussed, particularly with regards to Betsy Farrell.

3.b Doug Gauthier motioned to extend the Board to 21 members, seconded by Heather Duggan to include representation from both Luskville and the Chapeau/Alumette/Calumette areas. Carried unanimously

Pierre Crevier will represent Luskville. A Chapeau member will be recruited to fill that vacant seat. Brian Dubeau and Carl from Carl's Bakery were suggested as potential Chapeau members. Todd Hoffman and JC Rivest respectively to approach with a goal to fill this vacant seat prior to the next board meeting to be held within the next 3 weeks. Betsy to organize this meeting. Carried unanimously

3.c Jim Thompson motioned to leave the Board intact until the bylaws are reviewed. Seconded by Mike Hodgins. Carried unanimously

4. The Member Benefits were explained and discussed. Ron MacKillop proposed that he invite an insurance representative and the President of the West Island Chamber of Commerce to speak at the next Board meeting. Carried unanimously.

5. Betsy Farrell brought up a problem with the Chamber's bank account. It is still called "Shawville and District Chamber of Commerce," and so can not be used for the Pontiac Chamber business. Tom Orr motioned that Jim Thompson and Heather Egan Duggan be signing officers for the "Pontiac Chamber of Commerce" bank account until Executive are elected. Seconded by Mike Hodgins. Carried unanimously.

Jim Thompson motioned to elect Executives at the end of the next Board meeting. Seconded by Julie Graveline. Carried unanimously

6. Betsy Farrell presented the Chamber's correspondence. A thank you letter from the Shawville Lionettes for donation to their fashion show (Gift certificate – Chamber owes Boutique Gwendoline \$100). Telebec contract to be signed by Betsy Farrell. The Pontiac Chamber of Commerce is now an official member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Reminder about the Queens University contest for small businesses.

7a. Reminder about Community Fair in Lusville on Saturday, May 24th – call for volunteers.

7b. (Committee Structure) deferred to next meeting.

Discussion over electing new Executive versus assigning job to previous members of the Shawville and District Chamber. Decision to elect new.

7c. Tom Orr suggested recruiting a volunteer to deal with accounts, prepare financial statement for Secretary-Treasurer to present at meetings. Jim Thompson asked that members come up with suggestions of who to approach in community with financial background. It was also pointed out the need for the development of a budget.

7d. Board Members were reminded to embark on membership drive. Betsy will distribute to all membership forms to facilitate. It was agreed that a June 31/08 membership cut-off would be necessary.

7e. Jim Thompson spoke about the importance of the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce, suggested getting on municipal mailing lists. Also warned about projecting the right image of the Chamber, sending out press releases detailing actions taken, the Chamber's opinions on political statements made, etc.

Betsy Farrell suggested appointing an official spokesman. It was agreed that for now that Betsy would be that person.

Board Members were asked to make individual, anonymous notes of Top 4 "What is the biggest challenge for Pontiac businesses?" for next meeting, to identify Chamber's main issues and goals. Everyone is to bring this to the next meeting.

The importance of the Chamber's relationship to government agencies, stating that the Chamber should be non-partisan and have no ties to the government. Betsy stated that from its conception there has always been that approach. It was unanimously agreed that it should be continued that this Chamber should always be "all about Businesses for Business".

7.f and 7.g deferred

7.h Frank Sofalvi from Portage du Fort had called Betsy with a heritage issue (the Tobacco and other additional Farms) and she asked him for a paper on this and referred him to the Armstrong Heritage Farm and will follow up on this.

7i. Municipal government bids beyond the Pontiac – Todd Hoffman received a call from a business related to this. This business was more than willing to join the Chamber. This issue will be further discussed.

Date and Location of next Board meeting to arranged by Betsy Farrell.

Bill Telford motioned to adjourn the meeting.