

Odessa Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of Meeting held January 23, 2007

The January 23, 2007 Odessa Chamber meeting was held at Chief's Bar and Grill. The flag salute was followed by the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting and the Treasurer's report. President Jerry Schafer then introduced guest speaker H.P. Carstensen, who is the Manager of the Odessa Trading Company.

H.P. took a few moments to explain the history of OTC, which was founded in 1928. In 1997 the company expanded into Coulee City and then in July of 2000 merged with Ritzville Warehouse. Today OTC is a full Case IH dealership, which currently employs 25 employees.

The next order of business that was discussed was the need for new Fest and Welcome to Odessa signs. Jerry suggested a new committee be formed to look into the possibility of having the current signs replaced. Norm, June, and Rebecca volunteered for the new sign committee. April mentioned that replacing the signs had been discussed in previous years' and offered to gather the information that was obtained. It was also suggested that perhaps the High School could assist in the designing of the signs.

An update on the Float Committee was the next order of business. Jerry spoke on the behalf of the committee and mentioned that he'd like to see an increase in the float donation for repairs and would like to incorporate those funds with the scholarship donation. It was then brought up that with the cost associated with Fest the Chamber account would be at an almost zero balance with an increased donation. A suggestion was made to perhaps have the Chamber match donation funds, instead of funding the whole donation. Don Strebeck is also currently working on signs for the side of the float trailer with local business donations.

Chamber's involvement in Spring Fling was also discussed, as was the possibility of having Spring Fling on the same weekend as the Stump Jumpers are scheduled in town.

Airport Manager and Chairman of the Airport Committee, Donny Smith, also spoke briefly about the 10 year process of a new airport plan. The plan includes State and Federal funding and would extend the strip at least 1,200 feet to allow for heavy twins to utilize the airport.