



Place: Romer's Banquet Room

Date: 4/10/17

Members present: Karen Romer, Sharon Rindler, Frank Urwin, Matt Lammers, Nate Subler, Lisa Niekamp Urwin, Don Hess, Ron Rindler, Ann Garman, Chuck Stammen, Kathy Borgerding, Nicole Borgerding, Dr. Fishbaugh, Pam Fisbaugh, Emily Gast Schlater, *guest speaker – George Moore*

President, Frank Urwin called the meeting to order.

Frank opened the meeting with an introduction of special guest speaker, **George Moore**. George says the Moore families have been residents of Mercer County for five generations. He is an attorney of 10 years and currently holds the position of City of Celina Law Director. George is running in the upcoming Republican Primary election for Judge of the Celina Municipal Court. George and his family reside in Celina.

George shared information on several key points that he would like to address should he be elected as Municipal Court Judge:

- 1) Consider all legal factors while imposing criminal sentences including considering "prior crimes" committed by repeat offenders
- 2) Create a Probation Department
- 3) First-time non-violent offenders who qualify can complete an educational program focusing on rehabilitation rather than punishment
- 4) Offer evening court to accommodate work schedules
- 5) Technology upgrade – video conferencing

We wish George well in the upcoming election and encourage all members to support your candidate with a vote on May 2nd.

Chamber member **Emily Gast Schlater** continued the meeting by sharing information on the topic of Business Succession Planning. Emily is an attorney with Howell Gast-Schlater & Co LPA.

Many business owners procrastinate in planning for the future of their business for reasons including: the owners' differing personalities; wanting to avoid sensitive topics, for example if one owner works more hours, has more responsibility, etc; being unsure as to who may take over the business in the future; etc. These practical reasons can lead to a business having no plan in place and then having to deal with these issues when an emergency arises.

Emily advocates for a comprehensive, common-sense approach to planning for the future of your business. She recommends that in addition to current owners and their attorney, a successful plan will likely include input from your accountant, investment advisor, and insurance agent. Future owners may also be involved in the process, if they are known. A successful plan should allow the current owners to receive a fair price and the new owners to be able to afford to make the payments either to the current owners or their financial institution while also providing for their families. A business succession plan must include a plan for the current owners' retirement, disability, death, leaving the company earlier than anticipated, or no longer working actively for the company.

A family business succession plan must consider what "fair" means to that family in terms of how children working within the company are treated versus those working outside the company, and the family must understand that "fair" may not mean "equal" for a succession plan to be successfully carried out. Finally, a successful succession plan must include specific price, valuation, and/or payment terms that apply in the case of death, disability, retirement, or departure from the company so that litigation over the fair market value of the company can be avoided. If any members have questions regarding this topic, they can contact Emily at her office here in St. Henry at 419-678-7111 or eschlater@howellcolaw.com.

No changes were requested to the **minutes** from the March 13th meeting. They were approved as written.

In the absence of David Romer, no treasurer's report was given.

Committee Reports:

1) **Picnic Committee:**

- a. Matt said that all our contracts have been written for the items on the Chamber's Picnic "to do list". Still working on the details for getting the bleachers to the picnic grounds – everything else is on schedule. We will be asking for volunteers to work in the Chamber's tent at the June meeting.
- b. Chuck said that his committee is working on the raffle ticket donations. Businesses will be receiving a call to donate items – remember Village Cash is always a good idea for keeping shoppers local!

New Business:

- 1) We received an inquiry from St Henry High School Sophomore, **Alexis Heath** who won the title of Miss Lake Festival's Outstanding Teen. She will be competing in June for the title of Miss Ohio Outstanding Teen and has been working hard in promoting her platform of "Dueling Digital Dangers" where she discusses the dangers of identity theft, cyberbullying, and online predators with children, teens, and even adults. She is inviting the Chamber to support her in these efforts. Matt Lammers made a motion to donate \$100; it was seconded by Nate Subler. Motion carried.
- 2) Sharon Rindler will prepare and send a **Spring Banquet** invitation to all members, The banquet is scheduled for Monday, May 8th at the Mercer County Elks.

Thank you to "**Rindler Truss**" for hosting the stress relief!

Nate Subler was the winner of the **Pot of God – again!!** - \$30.00. It really does pay to come to the meeting!

Frank adjourned the meeting; next meeting will be our Annual Member Banquet to be held at Mercer County Elks. **More information coming soon.**

Sincerely,

Sharon Rindler

Secretary