**WEST LIBERTY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING NOTES**

**AUGUST 13, 2020**

In Attendance – Mitch, Ronda, Tami, Jon, Natalie, Lydia, Linda, and Nancy

Mitch called the meeting to order, Ronda read the minutes, Tami motioned to approve minutes Jon second the motion. Motion passed.

There was discussion about the Village now requiring we have the health departments approval to hold the remainder of our events, after the first one was already over. Tami will submit the necessary information to the health department for approval. It was also discussed to invite Jan, Bev and Jill or any council members to our meetings, so they are aware of what we are doing.

Mitch stated that council agreed to pay installation of way signs, Lions Club has not voted on it yet. The signs were originally estimate at $500+ the new estimate came in at $931.00 for the full signs, $682.00 for the half signs and installation at $1,800.00. They will be finished and painted. Holdren Brothers were asked to sponsor some of the signs, and they said no. The banners were discussed, and the Street Department was asked to put them up and declined. Signs at either end of town were also suggested, and nothing heard back.

The discussion of becoming a 501c3 and 501c6 was explained and the difference between and LLC and Inc. It was decided a 501c3 and becoming Incorporated offered the most benefits but had a higher initial cost. To get these set up we will need to amend some of the by-laws

 Benefits of 501c3 and Incorporated

 Liability protection

 As a non-profit Inc. we can run a retail business i.e. Beer Garden, etc.

 Offers Grant Writing abilities

 Members can write off their membership as business expense

 We will get an EIN

 Discount of bulk mailings

Mitch motioned to apply for the 501c3 status, Ronda second, motion passed unanimously. Mitch motioned to be Inc., Ronda second, motion passed unanimously.

At the next meeting we will need to vote on the revised by-laws, once accepted we can submit formally to get EIN and submit the filing with the IRS for the 501c3. It will cost us $99.00 to file with the State of Ohio for non-profit and $699.00 for the 501c3 filing with the IRS. The EIN is free.

The streetlights were discussed again, Dave Smith has not gotten back with us. It was asked if we reach out to Rabenstein or can we do it ourselves? Stidham’s will let us use his bucket truck but will not do it themselves. It was suggested we reach out to the Street Department and ask them to install the lights. It was decided that members of the Business Association would attend the council meeting and ask about working together for the greater good of the Village and ask about having the Street Department install the lights. Mitch motioned to send Ronda to the next meeting, Monday @ 5:30 at the Lions Park. Jon second the motion. Motion passed.

Lydia announced a ribbon cutting at our newest busines Hamilton Hall today at noon.

Jon motioned to get on every roster and council meeting just to have a representative there to keep up to date. Ronda second. Motion passed. It was discussed meetings are twice a month on Monday’s at 5:30 with the next one being August 24th.

It was discussed that the Business Association should purchase a brick for the Splash Pad to show our support. Jon is purchasing a second one personally so the cost for ours would be lowered to $50.00. It was agreed to move forward with this.

Linda read the budget report. The Fourth Friday event showed a net profit of $397.50 and had 12 vendors attend. It was discussed we need to make more income, get more information, and do more events such as a Flea Market. Ronda wants a list of vendors to call and follow up with. Said she would call them.

We discussed having the dunk tank at the nest Fourth Friday event, it was decided we could spray the balls with sanitizer between contestants. Tami will submit the use and plans to the Health Department to get approval for the Dunk Tank.

Everyone agreed we need more membership and more involvement from existing members, so all the workload does not always fall on the same people. The next event committee meeting was announced to be Tuesday the 18th at LGP.

Tami moved to adjourn the meeting, Ronda second.

Minutes prepared by Tami Cox, filling in for Roberta Yoder, Secretary