**Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce**

**Regular Board Meeting**

December 19, 2019

**We discussed what Bob had suggested**–how to go about having those two meeting (the first one late this winter/spring where we invite just the "big names" to see if they wanted to back the Chamber up on our journey to determine a new business plan and direction and the second, summer 2020, for a public town hall meeting to ask the public).  If you recall, the main goal is to have the big named businesses on our side as well as having a business plan prior to the last meeting.

We also **discussed how we felt about holding off on a Director** or the opposite: seeking one! We ran out of time to really dive in though. We couldn't determine 100% the direction we wanted to go with the meetings either. On one hand, we feel it's best to try and get a Director now to get activities for our members moving but on the other hand, we think it's a good possibility of accomplishing Bob's suggestion of the two meetings without a Director.

**Do we come up with a business plan prior** to the first meeting with the big names? Do we wait until we hear from the big names and then come up with a business plan? Do we have a new Director lead those meetings? Do we just get a Director and forget the meetings all together, etc.?

During our conversation, **Amanda had presented Lisa Miller**. She does not know her, no one does. Amanda got her name from my co-worker, Sarah, who is Jeff Gray's wife (he is the City manager over there).  Sarah said Jeff had nothing but great things to say about her. She is a professional consultant. It's her only job. She is from Coldwater. Amanda will get more information about her, i.e. website, rates, availability, etc. and will see if she is available to speak to the board sometime soon.

Our thoughts were that if one of us attempts to hold these meetings, we might not be able to do a good job simply because this is not any of our professions. We also thought it would be nice to have someone outside of our community being the person to relay information, so it wasn't biased. Are we as a board capable of coming up with a business plan as we stand? Do any of us have experience in this field? Do any of us have time? That is the bigger question… Therefore, we thought if this person had experience in this type of work as well, she could maybe take what Bob suggests (he’s supposed to be sending us a business plan for our size of a Chamber) and with us helping her, she could help us come up with a plan to present to a new Director, to present to the town hall meeting attendees.

**Do we try to come up with a business plan prior to seeing the big names at the first meeting?** How do we come up with a plan for Lisa to follow for these meetings?

What **we did determine was that we needed to actively seek board members**. Amanda will implement a campaign through email and FB for this from now till April.

Lastly, **Amanda would like to abstain from voting** on all financial decisions because she is not only a board member but also a paid contractor.