



July 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Opening & Introductions:

The July meeting was held at Honors Hall. Al Ranzou opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Members present were: CTTC, Comal ISD, Detex, EH systems, Fed-Ex Services, Great American Products, Hawkins Personnel, ITM, Lionheart Assurance, NB Chamber, NB Herald-Zeitung, NBU, Priority Personnel, RnR, Star Manufacturing, and TXI.

Officer Reports:

Paul updated the members on the financial status.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship: We have approved one three applications. Jerry read thank you letters from past scholarship recipients.

Chamber Report:

Rusty Brockman talked about several events:

- The EDF was meeting on July 20th. The newsletter should be out shortly
- New theaters will be going in at Creekside. This is a \$14 million project.
- Longhorn Steakhouse will be going in at Creekside.
- Logan's Steakhouse is going into the old Budweiser distribution building by CISD.
- The chamber is working with CISD on expansion programs for new space and to get out of portable buildings.
- CTTC is overfull. They will be getting some of the portables from CISD to expand capacity until the study is done to apply for funding to permanently expand the facility.
- Christus Santa Rosa has officially opened the cardiology center.
- The city is talking to two electric car manufacturers that are looking to open facilities in the area.
- An aircraft company is looking at the possibility to move to the NB airport.
- A rehabilitation health care facility is looking at opening in New Braunfels.

Featured Program:

Comal County Sheriff Holder and New Braunfels Interim Police Chief Whitmire was the featured program.

Sheriff Holder has been in office for 14 years and has 33 years of law enforcement experience in Comal County. The Sheriff's office has transitioned over the years by becoming computerized, implementing specialized groups and adding a SWAT team. The county has 130 commissioned officers. NB Interim Chief Whitmire has been leading the city's police force for a short time until a permanent chief is hired. The city has 102 commissioned officers.

Both entities have analysts to keep track of burglaries and other criminal activities. Crimes are plotted to indicate areas that require increased surveillance. Statistics over the last 10 years show crime levels have remained the same or lessened on some activities. Business burglaries have been dropping. Some crimes are growth related while others are due to access convenience from major expressways. Outsiders of the community account for a lot of the criminal activity. The goal of both the county and city's law enforcement is quick resolution and prosecution of criminals.

The county and the city share resources whenever necessary. They have a joint narcotics task force. The Sheriff's office has a SWAT team and the NB police department has canine units. The sheriff's office has recently acquired access to a plane in conjunction with the Hays county sheriff's office. The plane is at the San Marcos airport. The plane has low-altitude and low speed capability for surveillance purposes. It has latest surveillance equipment. The sheriff's officer has a couple of officers that have just completed training on flying the plane and using the equipment.

A concern of both law enforcement agencies is emergency response. With New Braunfels being on a major interstate and near major highways, having an active rail system and being under the main flight path to San Antonio airport, there is always the possibility of needing to act quickly in emergencies. All officers are trained for these types of emergencies and the departments are ready to respond when necessary.

Sherriff Holder mentioned that the county jail is near capacity. The facility has 337 beds. The facility will need to be expanded soon or the county will need to lease space from neighboring counties which will type up financial and personnel resources for transporting prisoners.

Interim Chief Whitmire mentioned that community vigilance will help keep crime low. Also, he mentioned that businesses should have adequate lighting pointed towards the building so that officers can see the facilities' doors and windows from the street at night. Make sure the buildings are secure at night and alarms activated.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 11:45am August 17, 2010 at Honors Hall. The program is a presentation from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Respectfully submitted:
Paul Webber
NBMA Secretary/Treasurer 2010