



Clare Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Minutes

September 16th, 2026, 7:30 am

President Shari Buccilli called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

Present: Shari Buccilli, President, Jen Dancer, Vice President, Jeremy Howard, Secretary, Ellie Theisen., Matt Forsberg, , Greg Rynearson Lori Fassett, Holle Angellotti, Lauren Hoffman, Office Staff: Katie

Absent: Josh Gross

Excused: Lori Schuh, Treasurer, Sarah Ebaugh, William Murphy, Nathan Rogers, Mike Coon

1.0 Motion made by Greg, supported by Lori F, for approval of agenda.

2.0 Motion made by Lori, supported by Jen, for approval of past minutes August 19, 2026

3.0 Financials: Motion made by Jen, supported by Lori, to accept August financials. Memberships are slowly coming in. Decided that sponsorships should be divided equally into all events rather than weighted.

5.1 City of Clare: Dredging continues and is an ongoing project. Street projects will be wrapping up for the year. The pavement in front of the police station and fire department will be repaved soon. Amazon Facility at the South Industrial Park is up and running. Notes that this building stocks the 10,000 most purchased Amazon items for quick delivery. Dam removal project by Fisher is ongoing. The new outdoor restrooms at the Depot should be completed in the next few weeks.

5.2 Village of Farwell: Waiting on street work to be finished as adjustments were made mid-project. Village is still looking for a finance director. Looking to put in a playground at Mill Pond Park. Halloween and Trunk of Treat will be the week before the 31st. Farmers Market winding down for season.

5.3 Clare County CVB: No report

5.4 Clare Public Schools: New students and new routines getting started. Title 1 family night was successful. Construction moving along nicely. Cafeteria slated to be finished before winter. High School gymnasium ahead of schedule, looking for completion in spring. Part-time Industrial Tech teacher hired. Brookwood track and field to be replaced next summer. Funding for this is already in place.

5.5 Mid Michigan College: "Tailgates" are being done at local high schools with scholarships being given out in Clare, Gladwin, Harrison and Farwell. Ribbon cutting for the MMC Event Center in Mt Pleasant scheduled for November 24. Official enrollment numbers are 3,740, a 1.7% increase. First Trunk of Treat being held on 10/27 at Mid. Short term training showcase is set for 9/28 from 5-8pm at Morey in Mt Pleasant. Indigenous People ceremony set for 10/12 with CMU and Tribe.

5.6 DDA: Music festival next weekend, rain or shine. Time of event has been changed. Proposed bench and possible garden wall at the Depot in memory of Jim Allen. Restroom almost complete, signs ordered.

Unfinished Business:

6.1 Queen of Hearts at Hammerin' Hanks is up to \$2,184, with 50% of that as payout. Ticket sales continue to be slow. Future venues to hold the event were encouraged.

6.2 Membership is down -18,666. Memberships slowly coming in due to several factors. This may take longer to be rectified. Memberships coming in at an average of about 2 a week.

6.3 Discussed that Music Festival is not a Chamber event and what sponsorships that were given should be applied. This will be removed from Sponsorship listing in the future. Future “hosting” events should be charged administrative fees and have clearly outlined terms for both parties.

New Business:

7.1 Reviewed that Board Members must attend 9 out of 12 meetings in accordance with Bylaws. Must also be on at least one sub-committee. Katie will email individuals with the subcommittee opportunities. Board reminded that no Board Member can enter into a contract/obligation/expense without Board approval. Lauren Hoffman was welcomed onto the Board. Katie will supply her with handbook and additional paperwork.

7.2 Family Night Out is scheduled for October 6th. Sponsorships have mostly covered the expenses of this event so Katie will proceed with bookings.

7.3 Marketing and Strategy Analysis opportunity from Northwood MBA program was reviewed. This entails MBA students helping identify potential strengths and weaknesses at no cost to the Chamber. Katie will contact to proceed.

7.4 Christmas in Clare was debated as it may be taking away from other small communities we assist. Was determined to have small parade. Santa and tree lighting only and no craft fair and additional activities.

7.5 East Central Childcare Coalition Partnership opportunity was discussed. More information is needed as to whom and how this would potentially help. Katie will request additional information.

Clare Chamber Office Manager Report: It was suggested that Chamber Newsletters be sent more often to highlight members and these be tracked. Katie will be emailing weekly updates for Board Members to keep them informed.

Adjourn at 8:43 am. Next board meeting will be held October 21, 2026, at 7:30am at the Clare Depot