Clare Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2026, 7:30 am

Secretary Jeremy Howard called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

Present: : Lori Schuh, Treasurer, Sarah Ebaugh, Willliam Murphy, Nathan Rogers Jeremy Howard, Secretary, Ellie Theisen., Matt Forsberg, Greg Rynearson, Holle Angellotti, Lauren Hoffman, Josh Gross, Office Staff: Katie Showers

Absent: Mike Coon
Excused, Shari Buccilli, President, Jen Dancer, Vice President, Lori Fassett

1.0 Motion made by Greg, supported by Sarah, for approval of agenda.
2.0 Motion made by Greg, supported by Sarah, for approval of past minutes September 16, 2026

3.0 Financials: Motion made by William, supported by Sarah, to accept September financials. Short discussion was had for need of an accountant to help resolve issues in the QuickBooks reporting. Access will be granted to Lori S, to assist with this.

4.1 City of Clare: Dredging of Shamrock Lake complete for season. The dam project is progressing and weed treatment is being applied. Public ITC sessions went well. Proposed area will be on the North side of the city limits. Only concern is with the airport being so close. The city is sending out Master Plan surveys in the next few months. This is done every 5 years. Parks and Rec have their Pumpkin Run on October 31st.

4.2 Village of Farwell: Road projects have been wrapped up for the year. The Village is still looking for an office staff/finance director.

4.3 Clare County CVB: 26 Digital campaign underway. Traffic on website has increased CVB is working with Gabe Ambrozitis from the airport with tourism incentives for pilots.

4.4 Clare Public Schools: Successful homecoming week. Primary school cafeteria is now about to open. Several School Board members are up for re-election in the upcoming ballot. School count is down about 2% enrollment. This is standard for our state. Schools are now ¼ of the way through the year and report cards are being sent out. Brookwood turf project got approval and Brookwood field will be closed next summer from June to August.

4.5 Mid-Michigan College: Indigenous People ceremony on 10/12 with CMU and Tribe went well. First annual Trunk or Treat will be in Harrison on Thursday. The new event center in MMC in Mt Pleasant ribbon cutting will be held on November 24th at 3pm. "

4.6 DDA: No meeting to report on

Unfinished Business:
5.1 Queen of Hearts at Hammerin' Hanks was a net loss of $406, not including any taxes. We have been paying winners taxes. Katie spoke with our accountant who reported that whoever set up the forms with the Chamber had done it this way. Katie will meet with the accountant soon to figure out these and other taxes in detail. Weinlander Fitzhugh report s that this will be a "billable service" for us.

5.2 Family Night Our was a success. About 50 local businesses and organizations participated. Sherry Combs did a wonderful job organizing. The event is relatively low cost. Small changes can be made next year, and it worked well at the same time as Homecoming Week in Clare.

5.3 Christmas in Clare is being planned. Finding a Santa is difficult to find. Sarah E. suggested her husband might be of help. Will contact him to check. Looking into having 12 trees decorated by local organizations/businesses to be placed in Clare City Park and contributing to the tree lighting ceremony. Will call to get goats as reindeer are not available.

New Business:

6.1 Many Board Member term limits have passed. These are 3-year terms. Outgoing board members were encouraged to nominate replacements. Correspondence will be sent out next week regarding term expirations.

6.2 Several Board members present expressed concern about commitments needed. Each member must be on at least one subcommittee per bylaws. Bylaws also state that we are to have an annual meeting, during the 4th quarter, open to our members with the membership list available for inspection.

6.3 Membership continues to grow slowly. Invoices to those who pay during the first of the year will be sent withing the next month.

7. Clare Chamber Office Manager Report: none needed

8. Coming Chamber Events 2026

Small Business Saturday – Nov 28

Christmas in Clare – Dec 5

Ribbon Cutting – Clarabella Flowers, October 30, 3pm

Ribbon Cutting – The Lake Hardware, October 31, 4pm

Adjourn at 8:40 am. Next board meeting will be held November 18, 2026, at 7:30am at the Clare Depot