

***Girard Chamber of Commerce Report
Courtesy Chamber Website***

February 12, 2025 Girard Chamber of Commerce meeting opened at 7 a.m., President Jeanette Earley leading Pledge and prayer at Courtyard Estates. Myrna and Craig Bomkamp of Madison House were breakfast sponsors. Attendees included John Earley, Deb Burnett, Myrna and Craig, Steve O'Dell, Wayman Meredith, Casey Claypool, Nita Hamilton, Cindy Edwards and Janice Smith.

Focus turned to lengthy discussion, review and update of the organization's by-laws and selection of nominating committee for election of officers. Vice President Sydney Gray, Secretary Debra Burnett and Treasurer Sara Millward will not seek re-election. Tax filing requirements were also reviewed and to be updated as needed. Motion came by Hamilton, seconded by O'Dell, all voting aye, to adopt by-laws decisions/changes as brought forward in discussion. A finalized version of the by-laws will soon be available on the Chamber website.

Secretary Burnett reported an estimated 40 Chamber members currently enrolled.

Members continued to sign up for the monthly breakfast meeting sponsorship; Police Chief Meredith updated the group on staff changes; with a motion by John Earley, seconded by Claypool, unanimous approval came for a \$100 donation to the Post Prom organization; Miss Girard Adrienne Adams hosted a February 7 Bake Sale, raising \$600 toward the city's new north sign purchase.

A Festival Days (July 25-27, 2025) planning meeting is set for Monday, Feb. 17, 4:30 p.m., at Doc's. Committees will be formed relevant to various events, Queen Pageant, stage performances, vendors, etc. Attempts to book carnivals for the annual event continue to be unsuccessful. Moving forward, inflatables will again be featured and children's homemade rides will continue. Immediately following the Festival meeting, a Community Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Fire District President and Prairieland Ambulance spokesman John Earley announced, weather permitting, a trip will be made the following day to Harrisburg, Pa. to bring back a pre-owned ambulance unit; the annual Pancake and Sausage meal is set for Sunday, Feb. 23, from 9 to 1 p.m. at the Prairieland ambulance shed. Work on the new firehouse is in full mode, walls are being built, wiring and drywall is near complete, kitchen cabinets are to be installed, much of interior work is being done during inclement weather. The concrete pour is set for April 1 (450 yards, an estimated 54 truckloads of concrete), with the final order on the steel building estimated at 8 to 10 week delivery, perhaps by May, the purchase to be attached to the existing building. The move into the new location is aimed for fall, with the also big task ahead of cleaning out the current firehouse.

Brief discussion concerning the city's business signage posted at the four way stop made way for a motion by John Earley, seconded by Steve O'Dell, all voting aye, to offer the first year's posting for businesses at no charge.

Adjournment came at 7:55 a.m., with the March meeting cancelled and an April 9, 7 a.m. meeting scheduled at Courtyard Estates, Courtyard as sponsor.