**Minutes of the Cowan Commercial Club**

The Cowan Commercial and Community Club met on Monday evening, January 27th, 2020 at Nick’s Pizza & Pasta with the following members in attendance: Mary Bledsoe, Kallie Britt, Rendi Britt, Helen Brown, Mary Nickelson, Nick Nickelson, Jarod Pearson, Kim Shelton, and Bill Welch. Also in attendance was Courtney Stachel, advertising consultant for The Herald-Chronicle.

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were presented and accepted with no changes. No treasurer’s report was provided for this meeting as the Treasurer was out of town for the meeting.

The main purpose of this meeting was to hear a marketing proposal from The Herald-Chronicle. Courtney explained some changes made in the publication to help businesses reach a more dynamic and ever-changing marketplace. The members discussed in detail the proposal and pricing schedule. Mary proposed that the local businesses meet again to consider this proposal and other possibilities. Our goal is to help Cowan businesses penetrate the growing area market and to position the town for more business growth.

Jarod, speaking on behalf of Tennessee Association of Railroad Passengers, briefed the group on recent news that Amtrak is working with the State Legislature on a possible passenger rail route through our area. We don’t know at this point if the state will move forward with funding and operating plans, and we also do not know if Cowan can or will be considered as a passenger stop. We do note that if the service should come through, Cowan will be more visible and residents here will have access to another transportation option.

The members were reminded that we now have a no-cost membership for residents who are not businesses owners but want to help promote the town. The no-cost membership does not have voting privileges or office-holding privileges, but may be a way to help boost participation.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 24th, 6:00 p.m. and at a location to be determined.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jarod Pearson, Secretary