

**Monroe-West Monroe
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Minutes
August 31, 2015**

Date and Place: The regular meeting of the Convention and Visitors Bureau was held at the Convention and Visitors Bureau office on August 31, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. The Chairwoman, Norene Smith, presided.

Roll Call: **Present**

Jerry Edmondson	Sammy Gordy
Lane Howell	Gretchen Kovac
Sue Nicholson	Don O'Toole
Nash Patel	Ryan Roark
Janet Rutledge	Norene Smith

Absent

Omar Elgourani (excused)

Staff: Alana Cooper, President/CEO
 Sylvia Bullard, Office Manager
 Elmer Noah, Board Attorney

Guests: Zack Parker, Ouachita Citizen
 Ray Armstrong, Monroe City Councilman

Board of Directors members of Chennault Aviation & Military Museum
Judge Elvis Stout/Chairman
Debbie Maham
Jeannette Herren
Joanne Williams
Tanya Shlosman/Staff

Agenda: It was moved by Nash Patel and seconded by Dr. Jerry Edmondson to move other business on the request from Judge Elvis Stout regarding Chennault Aviation & Military Museum Grant to the first item on the agenda and approve the August 31, 2015 agenda as presented. Motion carried by a vote of ten (10) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Other Business: Judge Elvis Stout discussed and presented the board with information on the progress and activities of the Chennault Aviation & Military Museum. He discussed the July10, 2015 Tourism Development Grant application of \$300,000.00 for land purchase that was not funded. He requests that the board of directors revisit the application for possible funding.

Minutes: It was moved by Don O'Toole and seconded by Sammy Gordy to approve the July 27, 2015 minutes as read. Motion carried by a vote of ten (10) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Treasurer Report: The board members reviewed the itemized deposits and disbursements showing the following balance on hand as of July 30, 2015.

General Funds 7,078,280.37

Report filed for audit.

Travel Plans: It was moved by Lane Howell and seconded by Janet Rutledge to approve the additional travel plans for August through November 2015. Motion carried by a vote of ten (10) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Committee Reports:

Signage Committee – Ryan Roark reported the committee met on August 31, 2015, at 3:15 to discuss bids for the new Convention and Visitors Bureau location sign. He reported that no decision was made. The committee is waiting on additional information from other vendors and references.

Tourism Development Grant Committee – Janet Rutledge reported that the tourism development grant committee met on August 31, 2015, at 3:45 p.m. to discuss a request from the Dixie Youth Baseball of West Monroe. The Dixie Youth Baseball organization requested the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Convention and Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$280,000.00 to perform work of grading the fields to drain be dedicated to another project. They would like for the funds to go electrical work and replacing poles and lights. The committee suggests letting the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement expire in September 2015 and they will have the option of reapplying for a grant in January 2016.

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was moved by Janet Rutledge and seconded by Lane Howell to adjourn at 5:35 p.m. Motion carried by a vote of ten (10) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes.

Norene Smith, Chairwoman

Lane Howell, Secretary/Treasurer