

Morton County Chamber – General Meeting Minutes (Feb 4, 2026)

Morton County Chamber of Commerce

General Lunch Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 2026

Location: Morton County Museum

Time: 12:00 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:18 PM.

Attendance

Attendees included: Jeannie S., Sharmila K., Nancy H., Cammie H., Patrice A., Wesley O., Kayal W., Cayden F., Jaclyn A., April K., Becky E., Jennie F., Crystal B., Laura M., Bobbi H., and Toni B.

Lunch was catered by **El Aguaje**.

Approval of Minutes

A spelling correction amendment was noted.

Motion: Laura

Second: Toni

Status: Approved

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Natasha reported an ending balance of **\$14,456.72**.

School & Youth Reports

- **ETS / EMS / EHS:** Parent–teacher conferences scheduled for February 10 and 12.
- EMS league basketball ongoing.
- High school scholars bowl advanced to regionals (February 5).

- Basketball at KCHA on February 6.
- Senior Night scheduled for February 7.
- No school on February 13 and February 16.
- HPL music program on February 18.
- ACT testing on February 24 at the Civic Center.

Student of the Month: Caden Floyd and Koyal Whissenhand.

RESIST Program Recognition: Wesley O'Connor and Camrie Henry.

Student Council Update: Beatrice Areola; Senior Honor Night February 3; Coronation for Bash on March 6.

Business Reports

County Commissioners (Ed Anderson)

- Brief busy with meetings.
- Hunting activity remains very important to the local economy.

Mt. County Health System (Jeannie & Sharmila)

- February is Heart Health Month.
- Community labs and follow-up visits emphasized for proactive health changes.
- Virtual Career Day scheduled for February 18 for Yarbrough, Rolla, and Elkhart students (lunch provided by Seaboard).
- Disaster Tabletop Exercise planned for April 7, focused on blizzard disaster planning, rural emergency needs, communication networks, and future grant opportunities.

Health Department (Marla Houtz)

- February is Heart Health Month.
- Women's Retreat scheduled for April 11, 9:00 AM–12:30 PM (doors open at 8:00 AM).
- Planning for approximately 120 attendees; free-will donations accepted.
- Two speakers confirmed.
- Super Bowl tickets available for purchase through Lions Club at Mindy's.

Morton County Museum (Becky)

- High volume of school visits for Kansas Day; 187 student visits last week.
- Pioneer Man & Woman of the Year scheduled for February 7, 2026.
 - Honorees: Dorothy Milburn and Johnny Denton.
 - Approximately 57–58 RSVPs.
 - Catered by El Aguaje.
 - Qualifications available through Becky.

Cornerstone Physical Therapy (Becky)

- Three physical therapists and two PT assistants on staff.
- Amanda has returned.

Library (Toni)

- Public story time held from 10:00–10:30 AM.
- Mahjong group meets Tuesdays at 1:30 PM at the library.

Senior Center (Sherri)

- Community invited to play board games with seniors.
- Presentations in progress:
 - Iris Queen
 - Veterans Directed Care Program
 - Landlords & Renters (HUD)
- March Fundraiser Lunch planned.
- Fraud Bingo dates forthcoming.

Ministerial Alliance (Forrest)

- Women's Gathering scheduled for April 11, 9:00 AM–12:30 PM.
- Trude Perkins Funeral Service on February 5 was livestreamed.
- WNK is active.

City of Elkhart (Tim)

- Fourth of July planning underway; Leo identified as a potential flyover contact.
- Lifeguards and summer help needed; pool manager position open.
- Water analysis update:
 - Wells show a 2-inch and 3-inch drop, respectively.
 - Most stable water levels in years.
 - New system paying off through improved efficiency.
 - Contact Tim for additional information.

Grasslands (Nancy)

- High traffic from quail hunters.
- Grassland Plan revision in progress.
- February 9: Online comments open.
- February 17: Public Comment Meeting.
- March 11: In-person workshops.

Quilt Shop (Laura)

- Hosting three retreats per month through July.
- Increased vending activity.

JJ's Feed Store (Jenni Forbes)

- New business announcement.

Extension / Fair (Crystal)

- Fair planning in full swing.
- February 7: County Club Day at Rolla.
- February 21: Regional Club Day at EHS.

New Business

- Emerging Leaders Board discussed as a way to engage young adults (ages 18–25).
- Legacy Business Award introduced:

- For businesses operating 25+ years and still open.
 - Nomination deadline: February 20 (online).
 - Chamber Banquet:
 - Food and cash bar bids due February 20.
 - Theme: 1920s Chicago Mob / Murder Mystery.
 - Tickets on sale for \$45.
 - VIP tables available.
 - Wine Walk scheduled for May 9 2026 ; seeking local artists.
 - Senior citizen engagement initiatives:
 - Coffee hour with Chamber members.
 - Senior shopping hour.
 - Business Helping Business initiative launched to coordinate partnerships.
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Community & Upcoming Events

- Kids Heart Challenge runs through February (school nurse Jaclyn Anglin).
 - Fraud Bingo fundraiser planned for March with BBQ chicken.
 - Women's Retreat scheduled for April 11 (doors open at 8:00 AM; event 9:00–12:30).
 - Additional April community events under development.
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Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at **12:58 PM**.

Motion: Natasha

Second: Laura

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared from consolidated handwritten notes dated February 4, 2026.