



# Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 9/11/24

WOW! What a great speaker we had today. Kip Tom certainly did not disappoint. While we learned much about National Food Security, questions remain concerning Mr. Brook's pants and the delivery of them by Mr. Lambert. The mysteries of the Business Forum continue. As always, the items below are littered with misspellings to keep you on your toes. Please enjoy!

**Leadership:**

- President – Tim Smith, Abundant Executive Living
- Vice President – Tony Tranquil, Wayne Pipe & Supply
- Treasurer – Kim Ward, Northeastern Realty
- Secretary – Cassidy Young, Jack Laurie Group

**Next Meeting:**

- Date: September 18, 2024
- Time: 12p-1:15p
- Location: Umi – 2912 Getz Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46804
- Speaker: Bill Cast

**Upcoming Speakers & Reminders:**

- Business Meeting – 9/25/24
- Dan Votaw, Speaker – 10/2/24
- Eric Touchet, Speaker – 10/9/24
- Dan Arnold, Speaker – 10/16/24
- Brent Stoller, Speaker – OFF SITE MEETING at Workspace Solutions (2208 Production Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808) – 10/23/24

**Guests:**

- None

**Tip Session:**

Name	Tip
Cassidy Young	Thank you to Tad Levy, Brent Stoller, Dr. Daniel, Mark Deister, and Guadalupe's for business, hopeful to work Rick Schuiteman on upcoming projects at the Zoo. Architectural Billing Index (ABI) 44.2 in June 43.2 in July 44.3 in August

	49.1 in September
Tim Smith	Christopher James, Fort Wayne Urban League – Sneaker Ball attended last weekend was wonderful! That organization has been down, Tim serves on treasurer for this board. CEO is great. The organization is worth looking into. Tim said he would share some information.
Andrew Wartenbe	Christopher James and Blue Flame
Morrie Sanderson	Job Town Detailing – did a great job on my vehicle, Morrie shared a great review for the service. He did a great job, and he didn't try to upsell or over sell.
Jim Nash	
Tad Levy	Cassidy and Mark Andorfer
Tim Votaw	
Dan Arnold	Dick Fox, and Since September 1, NASDAQ down 1%, buying opportunity, AI and long-term investment strategies are interesting to talk through.
Chris Lambert	Brought pants for Andy Brooks, and lots of business – got a shout out from Kip Tom
Tim Caywood	Daughter made nationals for dance at age 17! Thank you to those of you who sponsored.
Elliot Neubauer	Thank you to Morrie, reminder that Job Town Detailing is run by first responders and firefighters.
Dave Arnold	Shout out to Dr. Gilbert, as a thank you for helping his wife!
Mike Motter	
Tom Bond	Starting to pick up with flu and covid and back to school. Thank you to Guadalupe's
Steve Glassley	
Noll Hupp	
Fritz Aichele	Business with Copy Solutions
Mark Deister	92 years with Lassus brothers
Todd Lassus	Guadalupe's
Tom Gilbert	
Bill Shinn	
Wayne Beer	
Mark Andorfer	
Jeff Parot	Business with a few in the group
Jason Patel	
Mark Daniel	Working with Steve Zacher on the Electric Works square footage group. Thank you for the tin caps game and hosting
Tony Wolfe	Mattress flipper, Thank you to Lassus!
Melanie Carney	
Andy Brooks	
Phil Terrill	
Tony Tranquil	

### Speaker Notes:

Kip Tom CEO of Tom Farms, located in Leesburg, IN

Producing

30,000,000 lbs. of corn seed produced

100,000,000 lbs. corn

13,000,000 lbs. soybeans

Title: Food Security is National Security. A pillar of National Power.

(Please See Power Point Attached)

- Spoke about his time as an ambassador, mainly focused on food security. Dealt with 6 agencies in Rome. His budget was the second highest, second only to NATO.
- Largest agency – World Food Program
- Shared map showing hunger around the world
- When people don't have food and shelter, they will move 3x within their country before leaving and being exposed to an extremist group/ trafficking.
- "All society is only 3 meals from chaos" – Vladimir Lenin
- The US is losing its national security approach to food
  - In part due to policy due to population growth - the majority of the population lives on the coast and is not connected to the farming community and food chain
- The US Report card for Infrastructure is C-
- China produces 70% of the chemicals we use on our farms. We have off shored this production because of regulations we have imposed on ourselves in the US
- Vulnerabilities
  - Supply chain
  - Regulatory
  - Global trade
  - Foreign ownership & dependence
  - Legal
  - Labor
  - Policy
- Simple equation to navigate the 4<sup>th</sup> ag revolution
  - Increase US food production & efficiency (increase yields through creativity) +
  - Reduced dependency on foreign inputs +
  - Increased global dependency on US outputs +
  - = American Food Power
- Q&A
  - Loss of grounds of farm/ producing to solar power – is it a concern? Yes, it's something we must watch closely.
  - GMO vs. non-GMO – we use less chemicals due to the GMO and have fed millions, the future looks like gene editing
  - How did President Trump find you to make your selection – Senator in IN was an advocate and suggested him to Trump. It took about 2 years to get through the process. I don't know what I would do in a future administration is unknown
  - Elimination of Food Waste – is about 1/3 of what we produce, so the next "billion – dollar" idea could easily be around this concept

- Honeybees- are a big deal, we need them to pollinate and can't get rid of them.
- Plant based protein – has a lot of work to be done on it. The amount of ingredients in it currently makes it not really that healthy for you.
- Gasoline has about 10% ethanol how much corn in the US is being used to make oil? Some groups are wanting to move from 10% → 15% - Not an issue the only part of the corn used for ethanol is the starch, we don't need all of that from the corn, there are several other resources for starch
- Yields on average for corn might be 200 bushels/ acre, in the next few years it could be 400 bushels/ acre due to some of the changes we are making

#### **Additional Notes & Updates:**

- GFW, Inc.'s Economic Summit, September 12, 2024, here's a link for more information:  
<https://business.greaterfortwayneinc.com/events/details/2024-gfw-inc-economic-development-summit-12507>

#### **Board of Directors Corner:**

The Board of Directors for the Business forum are actively working on the following:

- Evaluating meeting venues for 2025 and reviewing/ accepting proposals.
- Filling the 3 open spots for membership
- Finalizing the location and date for the President's Party
- Exploring options for a Komet's game social event
- Exploring options for a happy hour social event at Jason Patel's hotel
- 2025 Budget planning will begin after finalization of meeting venue
- 2025 Board of Director appointments are open for discussion