

Kansas City Business Journal - February 22, 2010
kansascity/stories/2010/02/22/focus4.html

KANSAS CITY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Friday, February 19, 2010

Adams Dairy Bank takes control by buying out Capitol Bancorp

Kansas City Business Journal - by [Tammy Worth](#) Contributing Writer

Adams Dairy Bank in Blue Springs will become fully independent when it completes a buyout of its majority shareholder, Michigan-based **Capitol Bancorp Ltd.**

The buyout will change very little, save the fact that the bank then would be in charge of its destiny, CEO David Chinnery said.

“With someone out of Michigan owning 51 percent, we don’t have control,” he said. “From a customer standpoint, it will be no different at all, but people don’t have to worry about us being bought out by a larger institution.”

Adams Dairy, which has been in operation for just more than two years, has about \$43 million in assets. The bank offered to buy out Capital Bancorp, and the stockholder accepted. There is no date set for the buyout to be finalized.

Chinnery said the goal of the buyout is to become truly independent and keep decision-making within the bank’s four walls. He said that it will be easier to set policies and procedures because it all will happen at this location and that things such as paying bills and handling payroll will be more efficient because they will be done locally.

Max Cook, president and CEO of the **Missouri Bankers Association**, said that although some banks do better when owned by a larger institution, he thinks that a strong community bank like Adams Dairy will benefit from the buyout.

“The company that owns Adams Dairy has been in a part of the country removed from us, so it is a little tougher to understand the local culture and economy,” he said. “Now, they can become a true reflection of their market.”

With local ownership comes decisions from individuals who have a good feel for what the community needs and how to address those needs, he said.

Although the bank has had a local feel since its inception, Cook said that when this kind of change occurs, a bank’s owners are freer to become “a full-fledged member of the community,” often able to have a more positive effect on things such as volunteerism and charitable work.

Chinnery said the bank’s strategy is to remain small. He wants to see slow, steady growth and has no intentions of opening another branch.

The bank has accomplished a lot in a bad economy, he said. Although it offers all of the services of larger banks, he said there is room in the market for a small bank that knows all of its customers.

“We only have eight employees, and you never have to press 1 to speak to anyone,” he said. “We are really able to provide great service that way. The same way rural banks do well, we are a country bank in a city.”

Randy Sallee, owner of **Sallee Homes Inc.**, has been a customer of Adams Dairy for about a year and a half and appreciates the fact that he gets to work directly with Chinnery on his transactions.

“They are personable and very friendly,” he said. “It’s always seemed like they were a locally owned bank, and I don’t think we’ll see a change in the way they do business. They have always been more about the personal touch they show their customers.”

Tammy Worth | Worth is a freelance writer in the Kansas City area.

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David Chinnery, CEO of Adams Dairy Bank in Blue Springs, says that from a customer standpoint, there will be no change after the bank completes a buyout of its out-of-state majority shareholder.

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