

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 19, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Jennifer Brown, Mark Fisher, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Mike Knapp, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Don Howard, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jeff Armentrout, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Chip Thomson, Chris Welker, Diane Winters  
Randy Turner left after the treasurer's report at 6:28pm. T. Thomson left the meeting at 6:34pm

GUESTS: Thelma Knapp, Rich Farmer, Kyle Farmer, Quita Hines, Rob Stambaugh, Denny Davis, Jessica Miller, Danny Jones

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Mike Harter called the meeting to order, Tiffany Rankin led the pledge and Jen McGowan called the roll

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guests introduced themselves. Kiser sound had some questions about our speaker and wires to complete a bid for sound. They mentioned that many of the equipment was in very poor condition and would be best to replace it.

MINUTES:

T. Thomson moved to approve the February minutes. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mike Harter discussed the fair grant program thru the ODA. Last time we purchased equipment with it. We would possibly like to look at a new sand truck for the track. The deadline is April 30. The grant is for 10 million dollars. If every fair applied and got a part of it, it would be about \$110k. We will work on putting something together. We would like to use it for equipment since that would not be able to be covered by bed tax. We will make a list of what we need in descending order and most needed. Mike gave an update on the sidewalk project. It will be going out to bid. Dave Carroll has a zoom call scheduled with Jonathan to discuss some of the verbiage in the ordinance that passed.

OFFICE REPORT:

Jen McGowan mentioned that she talked with Bill Ferrigno with the city about traffic patterns for the eclipse. We will start filling the west lot for parking and move to the east.

Ticket money is starting to come in and vendor invoices have gone out, so that money should be coming in as well.

Jen mentioned that we got 8 good resumes for Quita's position and we will start interviewing next week. Barn 32 metal will be done tomorrow. Should be finished with everything the middle of next week except electric.

Update on a call from victim services regarding the juveniles who were caught vandalizing the grandstand. We gave them an amount of \$700 for labor and materials for repair and clean up and they will decide how to charge them.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner mentioned that he will need a couple of motions. The Finance committee met and the minutes are in the board packet. Financials are still pretty tight. We are probably going to have to dip into the line of credit for the tote bill and the insurance bill. We did get an extension on paying the insurance.

We need to change the signers on account 3318 at First Commonwealth Bank. We need to remove Sandy Kuhn and Dan Huffman and add Randy Turner and Tom Wright. Jon Melvin moved to approve the changes. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

The second motion is regarding a safety deposit box. Bill Lowe and Tom Wright are listed. We would like to remove Bill Lowe and add Jennifer McGowan. T Thomson moved to approve the changes. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried. We will try and look around the office to see if we can find a key for the box.

The third motion is to change the name on the SBA loan from Sandy Kuhn to Randy Turner. Colleen Smith moved to approve the change. Patti Gladman second. Motion carried. T. Thomson moved to approve the treasurer's report. Mike Knapp second. Motion carried.

#### EXECUTIVE:

Mike Harter mentioned the minutes from exec were in the board packet. Keith Hamilton will be doing a size run on T-shirts for the eclipse.

#### GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE:

Dave Laaksonen went over a few motorsports contracts. He mentioned that there will be an increase in the rodeo by about \$2k. They will also be implementing a delay penalty for the demolition derby.

#### FAC:

No Report. Minutes from the last meeting are in the board packet

#### ADVERTISING:

Patti Gladman mentioned that Jen is working on getting quotes for the digital sign out front. Mark Fisher asked where the money would be coming from for that. Jen responded either the advertising budget or possibly bed tax. Mike Harter said to get proposals and see what happens.

#### SECURITY:

Mike Harter reported that we got a quote back on the cameras and it was less than we thought it was going to be. They came in around \$15k

#### MOTORSPORTS:

Bryan Mellen reported that they needed to get contracts updated so we can get them out. They are trying to have a full slate this year but they have not heard back motocross yet.

#### FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:

Jon Melvin mentioned the minutes are in the board packet. Discussed getting ready for summer horse shows etc. Discussion on the flea market starting and having vehicles under the grandstand this year. Decided not to allow the vehicles to park under the grandstand this year. Most buildings are in good

shape and we are getting all the equipment serviced. Kevin Simpson mentioned the need for a plate compactor. We think it was approved to buy one of those a couple years ago. Jen will look for one.

#### RACING:

Tom Wright mentioned that he had a meeting with Jim Beachy and Bob Schmitz. It is not looking promising that we will be getting the additional \$250k for the Jug. They are trying to see what we can do but not to get our hopes up.

Had a sponsorship meeting with Jason, the goal is to be up 10% this year.

We are going to put a house on the top of the stretch of the racetrack.

We have filed for a grand with the USTA for a little more money this year.

#### HOSPITALITY:

Colleen mentioned that the quotes are in for the top of the stretch, backstretch and the Taft tent. They are waiting on final quotes to come in and will have a hospitality meeting to go over those.

Mentioned that she has secured a \$5k sponsorship for the hill with Event Risk.

#### BED TAX:

Tom Wright passed out minutes from the last bed tax meeting. With the additional metal and labor, barn 32 will need about \$72k more to finish it up. Jon said it should be wrapped up by next week.

Tom went over a list of projects which included switches for the cameras. Cabin roof quote came in at \$129k. New poles for motorsports for \$23,800. Bottom set of steps in the grandstand at a \$25k estimated cost. Move forward on barns 36 & 37. 36 will be roughly \$220k and barn 37 will be roughly \$60k. Would also like to possibly start planning stages on a riding arena and paying down on the grandstand debt.

Mike Harter said we are about 4 years out on a riding arena. We have talked about possibly redoing barn 10 to make it a year round multi use building. What are we going to do with the merchant's building? We have nothing on that list that will make any money. It has been proven that those barns on the backside don't make any money.

Tom mentioned that he appreciated the comments but that no one had spoken up. Barns will be done in 8-10 weeks and will be putting horses in the Jug and Juliette and D barns. The account is not empty, there is still money in there to do other worthy projects. Tom would like to move forward with the projects. Mike asked if the \$1 million dollar grant could cover the costs on the grandstand steps. Tom said that the money wouldn't be here in time for that. Jon Melvin moved to approve the bed tax projects. Mark Fisher second. Motion carried.

#### ALL HORSE PARADE:

No Report. Parade is Sept. 8, 2024

#### HALL OF FAME:

No Report

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Rob is getting a quote together for the upstairs wall. He met with Don and will meet with Chip. Rough estimate is \$6,000-\$6,500

Jr. Fair Scholarship discussion. Need to put together a committee to review those. Mark Fisher moves that Jeff Armentrout, Jackie Colflesh, and Chris Welker head up that committee and to keep the amount at \$4k. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Jon Melvin moved to go into Executive session. Mark Fisher second. Motion carried.

Mark Fisher moved to return to regular session noting that no decisions were made. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Mark Fisher moved to adjourn. Mike Knapp second. Motion carried.