

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Present-Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Mark Fisher, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Mike Knapp, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Don Howard, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Adam DeMarco. Mike Harter asked that Adam be excused due to Lt. School. Chris Welker second. Motion carried.

GUESTS: Rob Stambaugh, Jessica Miller

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Chip Thomson called the meeting to order, Laryssa Hook led the pledge of allegiance and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guests introduced themselves

MINUTES:

Colleen Smith moved to approve the July board minutes, Kevin Simpson second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chip Thomson discussed the 23 sign still not working. Jessica Miller gave an update on discussions we have had with the sign company. It will need a new radio transponder at \$350 plus labor. Jon Melvin moved that we fix the sign now for the fair. Randy Turner second for up to \$2000. Motion carried. Mark Fisher did some research on a new sand truck and it looks like we will have some extra money left over. We will need to decide where to spend that. Will be about \$60k. Chip announced we will be going into exec session for a couple of legal documents.

OFFICE REPORT:

Jen McGowan presented the rain insurance quotes for the 2024 fair. Discussion followed on dates and times. Randy Turner moved that we get the rain insurance as presented. Coverage will be as follows: 9/14-12pm-8pm for \$75k, 9/15- 12pm-5pm for \$100k, 9/18- 7am-1pm for \$100k, and 9/19- 7am-1pm for \$200 for 1/2" of rain. The total cost is \$18,233. Mike Harter second. Motion carried. Jen asked for a decision on boat and RV storage for the upcoming season. We made about \$12k profit last year. Randy will check on insurance liability. Randy Turner motioned to proceed with storage. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried. Jen reported that all the vendor spots and camping spots are sold out for the fair.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that we received our money back from our fraud check from December. He is still working with the commissioners on the bed tax. We now have a signed agreement in place. Dave Carrol wrote the agreement. We are on the cusp of starting to get money for our operating costs approved. Randy discussed the breakdown of the percentages for the operating. Justin with the County is estimating that 2025 will be around 2.2 million dollars. Could be 2.8 million, but he is basing our budget on 2.3 million.

Chip mentioned that the bed tax committee would like to pay the grandstand loan down. They will need our budget now because they start their budget now, so we will need to get them a list.

Chip had some questions about the accounts receivables.

Tom Wright asked for some clarification on the monthly percentages of the operating costs.

Randy Turner asked for a motion to ask for operating funds. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried. 3 opposed.

We have opened a Stars account with the grant money of \$106, 831.54. As of July 25, it is over 107k with interest rates of about 5.2 percent right now.

Chip Thomson got a letter today that our 2.5 million was approved and will be transferred to that Stars account.

We moved our purse accounts from PNC to First Citizens Bank this month. We already have an additional \$160 due to the higher interest rate.

Chris Welker moved to approve the treasurer's report. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chip mentioned that the minutes were in the board packet and that no action was taken in exec.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Dave Laaksonen reported that we approved RLS contract and went over it with a fine tooth comb. It will be the same as before, but will have a \$2/hr increase. Dave motioned to approve the contract. Mike Harter second. Discussion followed: Tom Wright asked if we should go into exec session for this. Mike Harter mentioned that we wouldn't normally do that for a contract. Mark Fisher mentioned that Tom wanted feedback on using a sub- contractor and he never saw that. Tom had some concerns about projects taking so long and if we are keeping up with everything that we have.

Chip Thomson said the barns are 80% done. Maintenance chairman brought this forward a few years ago. Somewhere along the way conflicts arose with some board members.

Chris Welker tabled the motion. We will discuss in exec session.

FAC COMMITTEE:

Mark Fisher mentioned that the Beef Committee will need the Ag. Center on 8/20 and will need the cattle barn unlocked on the same day. We will need the east end of that building cleaned out. He asked for private security to do a walk by of the goat barn maybe once every hour. They will need WIFI in all the barns. Chris mentioned that he has to order WIFI for the gates, so he will order for those barns as well.

They would like to have the Arts & Crafts building power washed. .

Bryan asked for an update on the pig & lamb sale block. Mark said they need to do a mock set up, but the building needs to be set up for that. It should not be any issue getting a permit.

All the big fans will need cleaned. Chris mentioned there is a helium balloon in the Ag. Center. When we get a lift we can get that down.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

Patti Gladman updated on the sign on Pennsylvania Ave. We submitted a permit to the City for a new sign and they turned us down. Chip said we will need to apply for a variance and that will cost about \$250. Chip asked Patti to call for another advertising meeting before Sept. 3

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Mike Harter brought a drone policy proposal to the board on the recommendation from the EMA. He made a motion we adopt this policy. We are changing the wording of employed to authorized by the Delaware County Fair Board. Chris Welker second the motion with the change. Motion carried
Tri-Township will handle motorsports and the rest of the fairgrounds. We will be paying them individually this year instead of to the association. The new chief felt pretty good with Jug day and having volunteers.

We are putting a 33x40 tent for the FD in the antique tractor area instead of them being in the maintenance office.

Mark asked if we figured out parking for the pig & lamb committee. Mike said we will have another security meeting to discuss that, there are still some questions about that. There will probably be a fire lane there. We can possibly use a couple spaces in the Ag. Center parking lot for that. We will work with that committee on that.

There will be no parking in the tractor club area this year and the tractor club will be policing that.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

Bryan reported that they held a short meeting to discuss sponsorships.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Jon Melvin went over the items brought up in FAC. Discussed getting a dumpster to get the areas cleaned out.

RACING COMMITTEE:

Tom reported that sponsorship wise we are at about \$310k, a little less than last year but they are still working on that.

Race Committee met and came up with a to-do list assigned to certain people to get things done. Tom mentioned that last meeting, Larry Bettler came to the board and we gave him the option of moving to the SE side of barn 36 and he was not very excited about that. We need to give this guy an answer. Discussion ensued on what was talked about at the last meeting. Jennifer Brown motioned to give them a tack stall. Tom Wright second. Mark Fisher abstained, 4 opposed. Motion carried.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Colleen reported that the committee will be meeting next week to discuss getting everything and everyone together.

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Tom had 2 items, one is the 4H pavilion. We will be making a decision by Sept. 3 on that. The 2nd is adding 2 more new lights for motorsports for an additional \$1500. Tom Wright motioned for the additional lights. Bryan Mellen second. Motion carried.

ALL HORSE PARADE:

Diane is hoping that the paving on PA will be done by the parade. They are right at about 100 entries so far. They are still looking for pooper scoopers. Diane will get a list for maintenance for set up. Horse parade is Sept. 8 at 3pm

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

Don reported that the new storage area is all staged.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tiffany talked about getting verbiage on the ballot for November for the Tax exemptions

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

Chris Welker moved to go into executive session for a legal matter. Mike Harter second. Motion carried.

Jackie Colflesh moved to come out of exec. Randy Turner second motion carried.

The board motioned to approve RLS contract for 3 years. Mike Harter motioned. Patti Gladman 2nd. Motion carried.

Chris Welker moved to adjourn. Jeff Armentrout second. Motion carried.