

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Mike Harter, Dave Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Don Howard, Patricia Gladman, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jeff Armentrout, Mark Fisher, Tiffany Rankin, Laryssa Hook

GUESTS: Morgan Miller, Alexis Plants, Mike Knapp, Ginger Williams, Jessica Miller

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Chris Welker called the meeting to order, Benjamin Wenner led the pledge of allegiance and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ginger Williams read a letter that her daughter had written regarding Wayne Byus. Jessica Miller passed out a letter to the fairboard from all of the employees. Chris Welker addressed Ginger's letter regarding Wayne and said that we would not be addressing a personnel matter in a public meeting. Benjamin Wenner asked for a minute to read the letter from the employees.

MINUTES:

Adam DeMarco motioned to approve the January minutes. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker mentioned that he and the office staff had met with our ticketing company. They have a new program called fairs.com. We are going to see if we are able to transition to that program.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan mentioned the OFMA Spring District meeting is coming up in April and to let her know if anyone was interested in attending.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner went over the financials and reported that we are better than we were last year at this time and will be better when the horsemen come back. The Star account is at \$2.6 million, but we will be moving with Meyers soon so that money will go down. There is no tote bill this year. Last year we hired a gentleman to help us know how to better time our races for betting. This time they owed us money instead of us owing them.

The insurance bill has gone up again this year to \$82k. We are currently going thru it with a fine tooth comb. We want to make sure we are insuring vehicles that we are actually using. Chip mentioned that the County insures the buildings and does that include the contents. Randy said the County insures the

buildings and PEP insures the contents. Tom Wright asked if the County had paid us the insurance yet. Randy mentioned that he has a call into Traci with the County and that conversation will be coming. He expects to get bed tax for that for the last 2 years.

The purse account is closing at PNC and letters are being sent out to owner and drivers who have uncashed checks. There is about \$90k outstanding dating back to 2020. We will be transferring to First Citizen's National. The trouble has been getting addresses for everyone.

Benjamin Wenner moved to approve the treasurer's report. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Dave Laaksonen reported a productive meeting in February. We have decided to go with Kiser Sound which will save us \$5k. Jen will get with them on detailing the scope of work.

Dave Laaksonen motioned to approve the pest control contract for \$6400 for the year. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Dave Laaksonen motioned to approve Sunshine Cleaners for the same amount as last year at \$19k. Tom Wright second. Motion carried.

Chip Thomson motioned for the motorsports contracts for COPTA for \$1750 and KOI Drag Racing for \$4k to be approved for 2025. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

Landscaping bids are coming in and that will be TBD. We have one and are waiting for 2 more.

FAC COMMITTEE:

Benjamin reported that he got the expenses and needs to get with Morgan, but those expenses might be going up several thousand dollars. Benjamin motioned that we spend up to \$5k on wand readers and tags for 4-H. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

They will be touching base with security on parking flow.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE: No Report

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Mike Harter mentioned that there was a meeting on the 30th. They discussed getting some more water barriers. He has a current price of about \$5200, but he is waiting on another quote for those. There was a discussion on golf carts. We discussed not allowing anything other than a golf cart on the grounds. A golf cart is anything that you have to push a gas pedal to run. We need a motion that only golf carts are allowed on grounds. If there is an exception, it needs to be brought to the Fair Manager for approval. We also would like to keep the registration at \$100 and remove the handicap requirement piece. Chip Thomson motioned to not allow anything other than golf carts on grounds keeping registration at \$100 and removing the handicap requirement. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

Mike mentioned that he sent Jen to a security meeting with EMA, Sheriff's Dept., EMS, and City and County FD. He would like to address some of the comments in exec session.

Jon Melvin introduced a flyer that we would like to hand out at the gates every day. It would have a bar code on it with our guest code of conduct and important policies. We will need input on this as we build it.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco mentioned that the meeting notes were in the board packet. A tentative schedule is set but there still might be a few changes. The 2 contracts they needed approved, were approved tonight.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that we got the sand truck going and wire and lighting is done in the paddock. The maintenance building is organized and looks great. Jeff did a great job organizing everything. Jen got a quote from Ben Lehner to fix the drainage issues behind the barns. Dave Laaksonen asked about the white fence around the grounds and repairing some of that. Chip Thomson said that he would hate to repair something that needs to be replaced. We should look into that and put in into the Master Plan. Drawings for the midway electric should also be part of that plan.

RACING COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright mentioned that payments were due today. He will meet with Morgan to make sure they were on the same page. Tom will be attending the Dan Patch awards on Sunday and he will be presenting an award which will be fun.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright mentioned that they had 4 items that were discussed in bed tax. The log cabin has one proposal in for that and we are trying to get at least 2 additional.

There are 8 roofs that are needing replaced. The Jug and Juliette will require 2 more bids. Barns 34, 36, and 37 need metal roofs and we are recommending Frazier Roofing. The 3 barns together will be \$71,500, although if we order before Feb 28 we get an additional 5% discount and no delivery fee. This comes with a 40 year warranty.

We recommend Mike's Roofing for the Paddock and barn 30 with a 5 year warranty. The paddock has some bad spots and might be additional money for repairs. Cost on this is \$72,263

The last barn would be 32 and the committee will come back at a later date to address that one.

The committee recommends that we move forward with the architect proposal from Meyers. The total is \$459k. Chip asked that we ask them for 2 copies of the prints, no paid mileage, and signs made of the different areas at no cost. Committee will reach out to Meyers with those requests.

Benjamin Wenner motioned to approve up to \$7500 for Ben Lehner to repair the drainage issues. Mike Harter second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to approve Frazier Roofing for \$71,500 for barns 34, 36, and 37. Bryan Mellen second. Motion carried.

Jackie Colflesh moved to approve Mike's roofing for the paddock and barn 30 for \$72,263. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to approve \$459k to Meyer's pending the exec committee working thru the requests from Chip. Randy Turner second. Motion carried.

ALL HORSE PARADE:

Parade is Sept. 7, 2025

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

Chip Thomson updated on the east/west bike path. He got the final email with an additional \$989 owed. He recommends writing one check for everything to finish up with the city. Mike Harter motioned to pay the overage to the city for \$989. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jen McGowan asked to nominate Wayne Byus for a lifetime pass. Chip Thomson moved to approve. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to go into executive session. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Chip Thomson moved to return to regular session noting that no decisions were made. Tom Wright second. Motion carried.

Jennifer Brown moved to adjourn. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.