

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Mike Harter, Dave Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin (6:39pm) Kevin Simpson, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Don Howard, Patricia Gladman, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Colleen Smith

GUESTS: Jeff Crotty, Jessica Miller, Danny Jones, Rich Farmer

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kiser Sound introduced themselves and brought proposals and discussed their qualifications. They would like to be fully functional by May 1 if they were to get the contract. They would update wires and equipment at no charge to the fairgrounds. They passed out sample forms for each area and department of the fair to put down their sound needs for the week of fair. They are fully dedicated to our fair.

MINUTES:

Jon Melvin motioned to approve the February minutes with the amended language of switching the word move to run after the golf cart description and adding a K to the \$459 in reference to Meyers. Jenny Brown second. Mark Fisher abstained. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker reported that he had reached out to Andy Brenner regarding getting a liquor permit for fairs that would cover all of the 8 days instead of getting 2 separate permits. We haven't seen anything yet, but he was confident that we could get this done

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan reported that invoices went out for tickets and vendors so money should be coming in soon for those. The roof is done on barn 37 and 34 and 36 should be done by the end of the week.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported no significant changes to the financials. The \$500k from the ODA on the original grandstand project would be wrapped into long term assets. The trademark violation with Dave Johnson has been paid. Our charity was the Delaware County 4-H Committee. Randy read the board a letter from

Cheryl Haggarty for the donation. According to our lawyer, the bed tax expense that they County took out for bed insurance was an acceptable expense, so that brings up the question regarding our PEP insurance bill and if we can use bed tax to cover that as well. The new purse account is working out well, we have had 29 checks from 2020-2024 that have been cashed already.

Benjamin Wenner moved to approve the treasurer's report. T. Thomson second. Motion carried. Tom Wright and Mike Harter were not present to vote.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chris Welker mentioned that the quote on the paddock from Mike's Roofing was incorrect and ended up being more expensive so they were awarded barn 32. The Paddock, Jug, and Jugette will go out for bid as a package.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report. Dave Laaksonen reported we are waiting on one more landscaping bid.

FAC Committee:

The committee didn't meet this month but Mike Downerd and Mark Fisher are meeting with Richwood Bank about facilitating the sale. Benjamin submitted a budget to the Finance committee and the cost is going up a little bit.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

T. Thomson reported that they had a call regarding Destination Delaware and their marketing plan and how that will work. We will have \$20k from the Commissioners, and about \$15-\$20k from our budget and whatever Destination Delaware and OHHA puts in to try and get us to the \$50k. Chris mentioned that he talked to Tim Wilson with Destination Delaware and they will have about \$8-\$10k to put into that and we can always cut some areas out of the proposal to be under the amount if needed.

We are working on an 80th logo with Dave Stolz and will send it out as soon as we have it finalized.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Mike Harter reported that he was informed by Capt. Vance that the Sheriff's Department bargaining unit had a meeting and their special duty rates will be going up. In 2025 it will be \$58 per hour. In 2026 it will be \$61 per hour and in 2027 \$63 per hour.

Chief Carr and Chief Pyle are working on putting together an SOP for motorsports. When they get that over to us we will get that to the motorsports committee. There will be another fair planning meeting downtown on April 1.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

Jeff Armentrout reported that the sponsorship packages are updated and ready to go and that their schedule has been finalized

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that Ben Lehner has been up here working on some drain issues. We will be doing some jetting down to the hotel.

The 4 wheel drive is out on the Kubota, we recommend moving that tractor to the maintenance side and getting a new tractor for the track.

Cory is getting boxes for the fiber poles and the fuel pump. The white fence that is everywhere, we would like to determine what is needed and remove the rest.

RACING COMMITTEE:

No Report. Tom Wright expressed his appreciation for attending the Dan Patch awards. We are now into the March payment which is the biggest of the year.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

We have negotiated the contract with Meyers Architect. They approved Chip's requests. They will start on some evaluation work this week.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

Parade is Sept 7, 2025 at 3pm. Diane said she would appreciate any help and they are moving forward. Dave reported that he has the pooper scoopers lined up.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

Don reported that they had talked about the farm grinders and finding a way to safely display those.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris Welker assigned Chip Thomson, Diane Winters, and Jeff Armentrout to the Jr. Fair Scholarship review committee. Jen will send the applications and the rubric to those individuals.

Mike Harter motioned to go into executive session regarding a legal matter. Tom Wright second. Motion carried.

Tom Wright motioned to return to regular session noting that no decisions were made. Mike Harter second. Motion carried.

Jennifer Brown moved to adjourn. Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.