

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Mike Harter, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Patricia Gladman, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jackie Colflesh, Diane Winters, Don Howard

GUESTS: Jeff Crotty, Jessica Miller, Mike Knapp

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

MINUTES:

T. Thomson motioned to approve the May 2025 board meeting minutes adding in the Jr. Fair recipient's names. Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker reported that he had attended the Delaware County Farm Bureau Policy breakfast on Friday.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan reported that she had met with a radio station and company that would like to put up a Holiday light display on the fairgrounds. They are currently at Geauga Co. and have outgrown that location. This would run approximately from 11/17/2025-1/4, 2026. They would pay a percentage per car, additional electric during that time, and any damage done to the grounds.

Jen brought forward bringing up raising the long term off season camping rent from \$400 to \$550 as it hasn't been raised in several years and costs of utilities ect. Have gone up. Jennifer Brown moved to increase the rent to \$550. Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that the format for the financials is a lot different and he personally thinks that it is easier to read. We are a little better this year than where we were last year. Tiffany asked for a YTD because it is only showing for the month of May. Randy will get an email sent out to the board with that information. Morgan will be starting a new job on the 23rd and her last day will be Friday. Finance

committee set out a request last week for a company to cover us. It was originally quoted at \$80 an hour, and the proposal came back at \$85 dollars an hour. Tiffany updated on the contract verbiage. The Ag. Society will only pay for the hours worked so there is no contractual obligation. They do have someone available to start this week. Discussion on hiring the firm was held. Dave Laaksonen expressed concerns about the expenses and asked if we could put a cap on the hours. Tiffany addressed the job description of what this person would be doing. They could also train staff on the new Quickbooks online program if needed. Jennifer Brown motioned to hire the new firm on a temporary basis. Mark Fisher second. Dave Laaksonen voted no. Chip Thomson voted no due to so many unknowns. He expressed that he understand the urgency, but would have preferred Chris to have called a board meeting instead of sending out an email. Chris appreciates the feedback and mentioned that the contract came back higher so it ended up here anyway. Motion carried. Dave Laaksonen asked where we were with hiring a new person for this position and where we were with the job description and who is working on that. Randy is hoping that this new firm could help us with the job description and what is needed for this position.

Benjamin asked to delay approving the financials until they have the full report. Randy will redo and get that back out to the board.

Randy reported that the invoice for the audit from the State is \$12,500 from 5/16-6/17 for what has been done up to yesterday. Benjamin Wenner motioned to approve paying the first part of the auditor's bill on the condition that Randy begins reporting the income and detailed expenses of the bed tax funds. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

Benjamin asked about the Sargent bill and do we have that number as it was not in the financials. Randy reported that it is about \$150k due to them not sending us the bills. We will be paying 2 months at a time until we get caught up.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Minutes were in the board packet. No Report

Benjamin Wenner asked who was sleeping in the llama barn that was mentioned in the exec minutes. It was explained that the owner of the animals was wanting to sleep in the barn with their animals. The board decided they would not allow them to sleep in there and Mark Fisher will relay that message to them.

FAC COMMITTEE:

Benjamin Wenner reported that he had asked for maintenance requests and he does have them and will put them in chronological order and get them to Jeff.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

T. Thomson reported that the minutes were in the board packet. Tom Wright gave an update on Destination Delaware. They are geo fencing locations with information on the Jug that they can see instantaneously. T. Reported that we approved \$2500 to advertise with the OHHA. The billboards are taken care of. Chip updated on the sign companies to get quotes to fix the PA Ave. sign by the 2025 fair.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Mike Harter reported that the emergency OP plan is 98% done pending post times and fair schedule. Tom reported that post times Sunday-Tuesday is 1pm and Wednesday-Thursday is 11am.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

No Report

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that we are still working on getting the tractor for the track and the mowers. We are looking at August of this year for the mowers. They will still honor the trade in values.

Jeff Crotty had asked about getting cement blocks for a shavings containment area. They will be a little over \$100 each plus Ben Lehner's fee of \$800 to pick up, deliver and set them.

Jeff Armentrout reported that it will be about \$3000 to replace the rear end of the brine truck.

None of the air conditioners at the grandstand are working and we are working on getting these up and running by fair time, but are getting the run around from Bodie.

Barn 35 and the rodent issue has been almost completely taken care of and now we need to figure out how to restructure.

Adam mentioned the bleachers by the riding arena need to be torn down and we would possibly look into renting a set of bleachers for the fair.

Jeff is working on getting all the fans up and running for fair.

RACING COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright reported that he had another meeting with Terry and they are struggling to find a dedicated WIFI for back there. We need about \$50 or \$60k worth of new betting to pay for that. This would be only our WIFI. The question is can we get there. We will be doing more automated machines.

Jennifer Brown reported that the qualifiers got cancelled today and will be tomorrow at 10am.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Jon Melvin went over the master plan with Pete Scott. They would like to have something to show for the fair.

They talked about tearing down the midway bathrooms. Chip Thomson motioned to tear down the midway bathrooms. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried. Mark Fisher mentioned that he had talked to a vendor that recommended putting another dump station over there and we need to let Lehner know that could be a possibility so they don't tear everything all the way out in case we want to do that in the future.

Jon brought a proposal for audio visual for the Ag. Center for 90k. They are on a government contract so it wouldn't need to be bid out. Benjamin Wenner moves to approve the audio visual contract with the contingency that the board get a report of bed tax in and out. Chip Thomson asked for a smaller set of speakers and a mic for the Hall of Fame. Jon can get a second quote for that. Kevin Smith second the motion from Benjamin. Motion carried.

Randy mentioned that we had ordered an ice machine years ago that never arrived and we would like an approval to revisit that and get one ordered for the Ag. Center. T. Thomson recommended talking to Olentangy Schools on who they use. Chip Thomson motioned to approve the ice machine with a maintenance agreement up to \$10k. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried.

Chip reported that Preservation Parks would like a new concrete pad over in their area. The current pad is broken up and is a tripping hazard. They are still talking expansion with soil and water and ODNR. They do pay rent to be there. We would also like to repair the sidewalk leading to the Arts and Crafts building at the same time. Chip Thomson motioned for \$10k to get both areas done. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

No Report. Parade will be September 7, 2025 at 3pm

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Randy Turner would like to remove Dan Huffman's name from a couple of the accounts. He was still on there for outstanding checks. Benjamin Wenner moves to remove Dan Huffman from the accounts. Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.

Colleen Smith moved to adjourn. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.