

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Mike Harter, Don Howard, David Laaksonen, Earl Lehner, Jon Melvin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Patricia Gladman

GUESTS: Matt King, Mike Knapp

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Matt King introduced himself. He has been involved in 4H since he was 8 years old. He is here for one purpose. We have a problem with our sale that relates to our meat processing. This issue has been ongoing for 2 years and is getting out of hand. He understands that this is a sales committee issue, but wanted to bring it to the senior fair board's attention. He mentioned that if we proceed with Hoffman's, he will not buy here again. He is asking for us to make something happen with a different processor and is here to support if need be. Benjamin Wenner mentioned that the pig & lamb committee met and decided that they would rather send to nowhere than to send to Hoffman's again. Earl Lehner mentioned that he has been in contact with Links. He likes the way they operate and will be recommending them to the sales committee in January. They will hold slots for us until after the January meeting. Benjamin Wenner motioned to support the sales committee moving away from using Hoffman's. Don Howard second. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Jon Melvin moved to approve the November 2025 minutes. T. Thomson second. Benjamin Wenner abstained. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker reported that he, Jess, and Jen met with our online ticketing company. Jen and Jess are working out the next steps to put all of our renewals online. They can still purchase in the office as well. When we get to those steps, we as the board can be the testers.

Chris would like to appoint Adam DeMarco and Benjamin Wenner to the executive committee. Jennifer moved to approve Adam and Benjamin to be added to exec. Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan passed around the sign-up sheet for the OFMA convention starting January 14 and asked everyone to let her know by December 30 if they are wanting to attend.

The holiday craft show was a success and brought in \$4700. The Christmas lights have been operating for a few weeks and they seem to be going well for our first year.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that we do not yet have a Quick Books report. It keeps giving us trouble and they are not accurate. We have Buckeye Bookkeeping coming in. We are not going to use Acclarity, we were not happy with them. For example in our credit card account, when money comes in it sweeps into the operating account nightly. Right now it is showing a negative amount and that is not correct. All of this is coming from switching to online from the desktop version. Right now we have \$180k in our operating account and money that we can move if need be. The Star account currently has \$2,514,246.61. We earned \$18k in interest and were able to pay off the remaining balance on the line of credit, so that balance is now zero. Chip recommended to make sure that they don't close the line of credit now that it is paid off. Randy is in contact with the bank to make sure that doesn't happen.

We are now below \$1.5 million on the grandstand loan.

Randy would like to bring forward fair and Christmas bonuses for the employees. He is recommending \$1000 for Jen, \$750 for Jeff and Henry, and \$500 for Jess, Jackson, and Tab. Also \$100 for each employee for Christmas. Mike Harter moved to approve the both the fair and Christmas bonuses for the employees. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

The total bed tax collected this year was \$2,235,373 and the disbursements were \$1,525,498.98. The current sitting balance is up from last year. We are hoping to have the Quick Books issues solved pretty quickly. If anyone has any questions please reach out. Jennifer Brown moved to approve the treasurer's report. Earl Lehner second. Benjamin Wenner voted no, Chip Thomson abstained. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Dave Laaksonen brought forward an agreement for Pott's Power Washing to lock in prices for the next 4 years. Jen took it down to 3 years since we normally do 3 year agreements. Maintenance committee had no complaints on their work. Tom Wright moved to accept the power washing pricing agreement from Pott's. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried.

FAC COMMITTEE:

No Report

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

No Report

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Mike Harter mentioned that they did not meet, but he does have a recommendation now that we do not have a tenant in the cabin, we need an alarm system. He will work on getting bids for that, the grandstand, Ag. Center and maintenance office as well.

Benjamin asked if security could discuss the need for the barriers that block the roads in the 4H areas for the future.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

No Report

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that the committee met to see if Jeff had any needs from them. We had a hydrant that broke and with help from the city, we were able to shut it down until we can get it replaced. The pipes from the boiler in the cabin froze and we have drained them to prevent any more freezing. There is an air handler upstairs and we can possibly get an electric heat pump, but we have ongoing issues with the logs that we need to address. That issue will be a maintenance/bed tax issue. The grandstand furnaces are an ongoing problem. We are waiting on a letter from AON. Jon Axhlem still has an offer on the table to get rid of 2 of our trucks in the back and the unused dumpsters. Maintenance will be discussing that.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Jon Melvin reported that they went to Bixby and they got some good feedback on the barns. They will be having a follow up meeting with Pete.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

The 40th All Horse Parade will be September 13, 2026 at 3pm

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

Don Howard reported that Louise Warner passed away. She was one of the founders of the Stratford Ecological Center.

OLD BUSINESS:

Randy Turner reported that the committee to discuss stall rent increases met. There is a yearly cost of \$353k that we expect the horsemen to cover. The stalls are currently at \$175 a month. They discussed raising to \$200 a month but decided that we need to go a little higher than that. The committee is proposing \$225 a month per stall. We would offer a complimentary stall for any horseman (or combination of horsemen) paying for 10 stalls at \$225 and no more than one stall without a horse for \$150 for horsemen with fewer than 10 horses. Chip Thomson moved to approve the increase of stall rent to \$225 with one complimentary for 10 or more horses and one tack/office at \$150 for fewer than 10 horses. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Chip Thomson has met with Dave Carroll regarding the bike path. He feels comfortable with what has been discussed. What would make this go quicker, is if the committee could make the decisions on the easements. We have to provide them an easement. We should as good neighbors pay to move the fence or build the bridge to save us some acreage. Chip motioned to allow the bike path committee team to

work out a solution with Dave Carroll for the bike path with the city. T. Thomson second. Jon Melvin voted no. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris Welker handed out homemade cinnamon rolls and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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