

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

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

ABSENT: Mike Harter, Jon Melvin, Colleen Smith

GUESTS: Jody Bennett, Jeff Crotty, 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:

None

MINUTES:

Benjamin Wenner moved to approve the December 2025 minutes, Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker reported that the convention was a good time, plenty to learn and do. He talked about renting out the Ag. Center and he thinks that we can go ahead and rent it and we will push forward on this in the near future. We would like to set up a separate website for rentals and get it done.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan updated on the keycard system. A part has been ordered from the company and should be installed and up and running in the next week or so. Everyone's cards should be working at that point. Update on the Christmas lights, we are waiting on final numbers from the organizers so that we can get paid. They are in the process of getting some of the lights taken down. Jen handed out conflict of interest forms to be filled out by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner pointed out that the balance sheet and the profit and loss are for the whole fiscal year. Jody is here to answer any questions that anyone might have. Overall there are still things to fix from the transition from desktop to online. We also went from three desktop Quick Books files to one online file, so there are a few things out of place on the profit and loss. Tom Wright asked about account 1490 it says \$137k revenue and last year it was \$12k. Jody is aware of that and it needs to be recoded and moved to the right place. Don Howard asked what are we calling product income. Randy mentioned it

might just be a classification error. Once Jody gets the payroll sorted, we can work on getting the other things cleaned up. We will talk about payroll service and ODA report under new business.

Randy reported that the amount collected in bed tax thru November was \$2,426,532.41. We spent \$600k in payments to the grandstand loan, \$380,892.56 for operating and \$544,606.42 on other permanent approved projects. The total received from bed tax was \$1,525,498.98

The Star account is currently sitting at \$2,606,831.54. The dividends paid to date on this account are \$158,800.31. The dividend money is for us to use, but these will go toward the tractor that should be coming in at the end of January. Jennifer Brown moved to approve the treasurer's report. Chip Thomson second. Benjamin Wenner opposed. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Dave Laaksonen reported that we were all set to approve three contracts and something came up where someone was not on board. What is came down to was the issue of getting competitive bids. In the past it came down to are we happy with their work on the renewals. We are going to put these off until next month and determine what constitutes a renewal and what constitutes a competitive bid request. Chris Welker asked if there was ever a policy on renewals. Don Howard mentioned that a lot of times, there is a renewal clause in the contract. Chip Thomson mentioned that we are not regulated to bid everything out. Diane Winters mentioned that when Benjamin Wenner was President, he wanted three bids on contracts. Benjamin confirmed that it was not a policy, but we wanted to be fair. Don mentioned that we should look at the contract to see if there is verbiage in there for renewal. Kevin Simpson mentioned that his issue with electrical was having someone that can do high voltage. Chip reported that we are working with AEP to remedy that and they would take over all of the high voltage and service the transformers etc. Let's consider look at all of that for pricing. Doing that with bed tax would be doing a favor for our kids. Chip mentioned that Morco has been very reliable and can help guide us in this process. Jeff Armentrout brought up that we would have to give right of ways to AEP, and that anything past the meter, we would have to locate. Chip mentioned that we should be doing that anyway. Benjamin mentioned that we have another electrician wanting to bid which is how this came up. He has more concerns with the sound company increase. He is also unhappy with the pest control company and would like to get more bids on that. Dave said that going forward we will be proactive about reaching out to get feedback from other board members.

FAC COMMITTEE:

Benjamin Wenner reported that the minutes were in the board packet. Most of their time has been spent talking about the pig issues during fair. Earl Lehner mentioned that we have secured Link's to be our official processor for this year's fair.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

T. Thomson reported that the committee will be meeting on February 5, 2026

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

Jeff Armentrout reported that they went over 2 contracts, one was tabled until after convention and the other one was sent to G&A and we should be having motocross this year.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that the committee did not meet, but that we got a letter about our control issues in the grandstand and that these should have been done upon completion. This need to be brought to 2K's attention to complete the project. Chip Thomson said we need to get this to Matt with 2K to come up with a resolution and give them a timeline. Chip will send out an email.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright shared with everyone the most recent set of plans on the barns. Pete with Meyers thinks that the ramps for the grandstand are doable before the fair. They sent us a guestimated price for that and the question is do we want to do one end or both ends of the grandstand. There were a couple of adjustments on the barn drawings. The next discussion on that will be how much do we do at once. There was some discussion on what seats we are tearing out for the grandstand ramp. We need to clarify before invoices go out in February. Don Howard asked if we can get volunteers to take out the green chairs in the box seats instead of paying \$16k. Chris Welker asked that Tom meet with bed tax to discuss what handicap seating looks like and what seats will be removed.

Tom mentioned that the east ramp would be about \$250k plus \$15k for asphalt repair. The west ramp would be about \$175k plus \$15k for asphalt repair. Demo and haul away would be around \$35k, new asphalt was estimated at \$70k and general painting at \$40k. Tom mentioned we need to see him bidding this so that we can see what it is actually going to cost. Dave Laaksonen asked if we could go ahead and vote on the ramps tonight. Chip Thomson motioned to move forward with Meyers for getting bids on the two ramps. Randy Turner second. Motion carried.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

Diane Winters reported that they have not met but that it is the 40th anniversary on Sept 13, 2026 at 3pm.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

Don Howard had a question about signs on the grandstand. There is a Mike's Roofing sign up there. Discussed a better place to put them as to not cause damage to the building. Don Howard moved that we do not put advertising signs on buildings as we build them and to take down the Mike's Roofing sign and relocate it. Patti Gladman second. Motion carried. Jen will contact them before we remove their sign.

NEW BUSINESS:

Randy Turner has copies of the ODA report if anyone would like to look at it. Randy Turned made a motion to approve the ODA report. Jennifer Brown second. Benjamin moved to table it until everyone has a hard copy to review. Jeff Armentrout second. Motion to table carried. Benjamin Wenner moved to un-table the ODA report. Chip Thomson motioned to approve the ODA report. Jeff Armentrout second. Motion carried.

Randy is asking to consider a payroll company taking over our payroll service. Quita was really good at it. Since then there have been some errors with the temp service. We have looked at a few companies. One was Pay Entry. It would be \$215 a month. We already pay QuickBooks \$92 a month. Earl Lehner motioned to approve Randy, Dave, Jody, and Chris for up to \$300 a month to negotiate a payroll company. Chip Thomson second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to go into executive session on a personnel matter. Kevin Simpson second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to return to regular session, noting that no decisions were made. Tom Wright second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to charge exec with forming a new board liaison. Earl Lehner second. Motion carried.

Chip Thomson moved to adjourn. Randy Turner second. Motion carried.