DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2026

ATTENDANCE:
Present- Jeff Armentrout (left at 6:15pm) Adam DeMarco, Patricia Gladman, 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 (6:16pm), Laryssa Hook, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jennifer Brown

GUESTS: Joseph Yerian, Lauren Brenner, Lisa Brenner, Jeff Crotty, Jessica Miller, Jody Bennett, Eavan Clark

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:
Chris Welker called the meeting to order, Mike Harter led the pledge of allegiance, and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Joseph Yerian, Lauren Brenner, and Eavan Clark introduced themselves. They were recipients of the 2026 Jr. Fair Scholarships.

MINUTES:
Mike Harter moved to approve the May 2026 minutes. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
Chris Welker reported that he wanted to brag on Jen and Jess for successfully getting all of our race tickets online. All in all we are up to $2500 in online ticket sales so far. He mentioned that he and Benjamin attended the Farm Bureau breakfast and it is good to see what the industry is doing.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:
Jen McGowan reported that she had met with Melissa and R from the grandstand to go over the changes with the ramps and what the tickets will look like this year being digital.
An update on the grandstand ramps was given. We need a motion for exec to be able to act on behalf of the board to make decisions on future change orders to not stall the progress. We currently have $97,640.50 in change orders to approve. Chip Thomson moved to accept the current change orders for $97640.50. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried. Jon Melvin made a motion for the Executive committee to handle the change orders up to 10% of the project. T. Thomson second. Motion carried. Jon Melvin motioned for the Executive committee to approve the railing change order when we receive it. Benjamin Wenner second. Motion carried.

Jen is still working on getting quotes for the bath stalls. We have one and are expecting a second. We are having trouble finding people to look at them.

RACE SECRETARY'S REPORT:
Tom Wright mentioned he had sent out an email report. The Governor has accepted our invite to be the honoree on Tuesday and Thursday. Tom reported that the Racing Commission has a new executive director which he is in favor of. Update on the race sponsorships, we are at about $140k and still have quite a few to work on. Right now we only know of one that isn't coming back. Jennifer Brown mentioned that the qualifiers went smoothly. Benjamin asked if we had the autopsy report back from the incident on the racetrack. Tom said he will reach out to the lab and see where it is. Chip would like to add to the stall contract to request and pay for an autopsy if needed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:
Randy Turner mentioned that there was a copy of the balance sheet and profit and loss in the board packet. He is happy with the balance sheet and feels it is a good representation. The profit and loss needs some work, there are still some things showing up that should not be. As of today, the grandstand loan has an $827,387.78 balance. With our $50k a month payment, we should be at $555k by the end of the year and can look at getting that paid off. The balance in the Star account is $2,366,935.12. The bed tax is sitting at just over 2 million dollars, and our credit line has a balance of $2,366.66. We are in a good position looking toward fair. Randy has a meeting tomorrow with Todd Everingham to get our employees set up, and thanked the board for getting that passed.
Tom Wright mentioned looking into getting our own dumpsters to save on manure hauling. Discussion followed. Tom Wright had some questions about some of the horsemen owing and showing up in the financials and asked about writing them off. Jen mentioned that we keep them on there in case they want to enter a horse in a race, they wouldn't be able to unless we collected the past due amounts.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Chris Welker reported that the committee met at the beginning of June. Jen sent out the notes. Nothing to note at this time.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:
No Report

FAC COMMITTEE:
No Report

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:
T. Thomson mentioned that the committee had not met, but if we decide to have the Clydesdale event, we may have some expenses for mailing.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:
Mike Harter reported that he has a meeting next week with Capt. Vance to see what price increases there will be. He will also get the security company that we would like to move forward with to do the alarm systems to bed tax.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:
Adam DeMarco reported that the committee met to go over some rule changes.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:
Adam DeMarco reported that the committee did not meet but did solve a few problems. We are waiting for the city to come in and jet the drain in front of the maintenance shop. We have also located old phone lines that we can get rid of. The topic of manure came up and looking for solutions to save some money. Earl Lehner mentioned that he can talk to FSA and Soil and Water.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:
Colleen Smith reported that they did not meet. She mentioned that the 40th anniversary planning meeting went well. Depending on what we hear on the Clydesdales, we will determine what direction we will go with that. We should know by July 1st. More to come on that.

BED TAX COMMITTEE:
No Report

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:
Diane Winters mentioned that entries were coming in slow. The parade will be Sept. 13, 2026 at 3pm

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:
Don Howard mentioned that his current project is working on pages for the museum. Benjamin asked if there had been any follow up about finishing the upstairs to be able to rent it out. We will need a set of plans from Meyers for that.

OLD BUSINESS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
Randy Turner mentioned that Dick Shivley passed away and his wife Anita is selling some things that we could use. There is a 2011 utility tractor John Deere with attachments, a roller, a tandem axle trailer with removable side rails, Hobalt Mig welder with supplies. He would like permission from the board to negotiate a deal. We are looking to submit a bid on everything. Chris Welker recommended that Randy, Adam, Jen and Jeff handle this. Chip Thomson motioned for Randy, Adam, Jen, and Jeff to work out a deal. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.
Chris Welker announced that the senate bill was signed on Monday and we will receive $400k for the Jr. Fair barns. We will put that money in the Star account.
Benjamin Wenner mentioned that the Jr. Fair ribbon bill is double this year.

Benjamin Wenner moved to go into executive session for a legal and personnel matter. Mike Harter second. Motion carried.

Jon Melvin moved to return to regular session, noting that no decisions were made. Dave Laaksonen second. Motion carried.

Randy Turner moved to adjourn. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.