DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2026

ATTENDANCE:
Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, 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, Diane Winters, Laryssa Hook, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Diane Winters, Tom Wright

GUESTS: Mike Knapp, Thelma Knapp, Kayden DeMarco

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

MINUTES:
Randy Turner moved to approve the September 2026 minutes, Jeff Armentrout second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
Chris Welker reported that we should have received the income summary of cash and credit cards that came thru the money room. We are probably down around $40k from the previous year due to the rain. We made a really good rally toward the end of the week. We didn't have enough rain during the time that we needed to collect rain insurance. Chris is going to be meeting with the ticket company in a week to set up for the next year and get it set up the way we need it to work. Leadership Delaware came thru here and they got to see the new asphalt and ramps.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:
Jen McGowan reported that the district meeting is coming up on November 5 at the Union County Fairgrounds at 6:30pm, and anyone who would like to attend needs to let her know by Friday. Jen passed around an election sign-up sheet for poll workers since there will not be another meeting before the election. Jen mentioned that the alarm systems are installed and she will be emailing everyone for a 4 digit code to get them entered into the system so that we can get the alarms set. Jen asked for the board's support to attend the IAFE convention which is in Louisville, KY this year. Chip Thomson moved to approve $2500 for Jen to attend the convention. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner mentioned that we authorized Jen McGowan to contract Hill International as our owner's rep for the grandstand project for up to $5k. They are going over the contract and change orders now. If they board wants to keep to the $5k, we can stop there. We don't know that that will be enough money. Jon Melvin mentioned that this is an opportunity to see how things go to finish up the project and to potentially use them on future projects. If we need to add more money to that before the next board meeting, we can take it to exec. Randy mentioned that we are holding $300k from September to get the project done from ACI. Randy will scan and send out the financial report tomorrow. Jennifer Brown asked if the racing checks had been mailed out yet. Randy mentioned that they are starting to hit the bank so a portion have been mailed out. Randy will also send updated Bed Tax, Star Account, and Meyers spreadsheets out with the financials.
The grandstand loan is at $642, 739.75. There will be 2 more payments this year that will take it to around $550k. It is in the budget with the Commissioners to pay it off next year. He expects it to be paid off by the end of January. The line of credit is at $342.42. We can increase it at any point should we need to do so. The 403B for the employees is set up and the first withdrawals will come out of the next paychecks. All of the employees are participating.

RACE SECRETARY'S REPORT:
Tom Wright had sent the race report out in the board packet. If there are any questions, please reach out to him.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Chris Welker reported that the minutes had gone out in the board packet.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:
Dave Laaksonen reported that we need to look at the souvenir contract and a policy for politicking. So they will be working on those things.

FAC COMMITTEE:
No Report

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:
No Report. Chip Thomson has some proposals from three website design companies. He will kick those to G&A to dig deeper

SECURITY COMMITTEE:
Mike Harter reported that he and Jen had a wrap up meeting with the County. The rain may have helped with some of their issues. There was an incident on the midway involving a gun. They were able to contain the gentlemen that made the threat, and they did find a gun on his person. They are trying to charge him as an adult. Our cameras were just out of view to be able to catch it. We need to do some homework on our cameras and add more and add more bandwidth to operate. It would be nice to allow the City PD and the Sheriff's Department access to those year round.
Mike mentioned that Homeland Security had sent information for a grand for a generator for the Ag. Center. Jeff Armentrout said that it would be nice to have a generator big enough to run the whole building.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:
No Report

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:
No Report

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:
No Report

BED TAX COMMITTEE:
Jon Melvin reported that the minutes were included in the board packet. Jen passed out roof bids and bed tax will review them. Discussion was held on the bids and Patti Gladman motioned to approve M&R Roofing to do the Jug Barn for $74,378.23 for the "better shingles". T. Thomson second. Motion carried. Jon would like to meet with the architects on the master plan, so a meeting for that will be coming up.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:
Diane Winters thanked everyone who helped with her surprise banner. She is still healing from an incident on a golf cart. Next year's parade will be September 12, 2027 at 3pm

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:
No Report

OLD BUSINESS:
Earl Lehner asked where we were on the wash stalls. Jeff Crotty got a new bid from the company that bid them last time and it is still good for the same amount. Jennifer Brown asked if Jeff's crew could fix them. The issue is the black mold. Dave Laaksonen moved to authorize up to $79,999 to fix the wash stalls. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
None

Mike Harter moved to go into executive session regarding a legal matter. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Chip Thomson moved to return to regular session noting that no decisions had been made. Dave Laaksonen second. Motion carried.

Randy Turner reported that our audit came back from 2023-2024 with no findings. We will now start getting ready for the next one.

Colleen Smith moved to adjourn, T. Thomson second. Motion carried.