



# Saginaw County Agricultural Society

PO Box 449 • Chesaning MI 48616 • 11350 Peet Rd • 989.845.2143 • Fax 989.845.2682

www.SaginawCountyFair.org • SaginawFair@Yahoo.com

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Saginaw County Agricultural Society

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bruckman. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called.

**Present:** Jim Askins, Letitia Birchmeier, Dick Borm (late) , Ed Bruckman, Patti Copes, Howard Ebenhoeh, Sara Engelhardt, Donna Felton, Rosie Garcia, David LeCureux, Beverly Newton, Valerie Newton, Lana Robinette, Pennie Tomac, Keith Valentine

**Absent:** none

**Guests:** Bill Berg, Marvin Birchmeier, Dean Boivin, Dan Copes, Bob Corrin, Brian Mitchell, Maureen Roe, Tim Rosencrans, Gretchen Schulte, Rachel Wirostek

#### **Public Comment:**

None

#### **Additions to the Agenda:**

Motion by Askins and supported by Felton to move the audit and QuickBooks up the agenda to the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Motion by Garcia and supported by Birchmeier to accept the agenda with changes. Motion passed.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

Minutes of the December 13 regular meeting were presented. Motion by Copes and supported by V. Newton to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Engelhardt reported that postcard reminders to those with late membership fees (87 members) had gone out January 1, and 12-15 payments had been received so far.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- No report was available.
- Engelhardt gave a summary of the meeting with Hoerner's earlier that evening. They are willing to look at our books, help us with the changeover to QuickBooks, and assist in preparing documents for the audit. They will begin looking things over and provide a quote next month.
- It was suggested that Hemenway in Owosso may also be a firm to consider since they handle Shiawassee County Fair's books. Bruckman will look into it.
- Motion by Ebenhoeh and supported by Garcia to move forward with Hoerner's Accounting and to have a formal proposal from them next month. Motion passed.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Buildings and Grounds** – LeCureux reported that he continues to work on cleaning.

**Horse Department** – A resignation letter from members of the committee was read. Felton requested a meeting with the committee before the resignation is accepted, and Garcia agreed. Askins pointed out that the Horse department raises and creates its own money and equipment. B. Newton suggested that the department have its own board and account. Ebenhoeh suggested that Hoerner's may be able to help separate accounts and reports. Bruckman reported that the junior livestock department at Shiawassee operates as a separate group. Copes agreed that Newton's idea of separating is good. The current committee works hard to raise money and wants control.

A joint committee consisting of Felton, Garcia, B. Newton, Ebenhoeh, V. Newton, Copes, Birchmeier, Boivin, Wirostek, Roe, and Askins will meet on Tuesday, January 29 at 6:00 pm at the fair office to consider changes to the horse department.

Motion by Felton and supported by Garcia to table the letter of resignation from the committee. Motion passed.

**Livestock Department** – Tomac reported that there will be an Animal Advisory meeting on January 22.

**Technology** – A written report from the committee was provided recommending the continued transition to QuickBooks and a re-evaluation of the credit card processor for online entries. Garcia asked about whether we should continue to pay the credit card processing fee or pass it on to our exhibitors. Copes asked if using QuickBooks with Showworks would change how we handle credit cards.

**Santa's Village** – No report.

**Entertainment** – V. Newton reported that there are 4 contracts to be signed for fair week entertainment.

Tues – dog department show

Wed – Next Generation Leahy was proposed as a new act. They are a family of 6 kids and 2 parents from Canada who sing, dance, and play music. We would need to borrow a stage from Ovid. They can do a 90 min show or two 60 min shows for \$7,000. They may also need housing (depending on their tour schedule) and will need food.

Thur – SJO motocross for \$6,500 (same as last year).

Fri – Unique Motorsports derby for \$5,000 (same as last year).

Sat – Lost Nations Rodeo is sending an updated contract for \$9,500.

Animal Oasis will be on-grounds entertainment for \$2,500 (same as last year).

Motion by Copes and supported by Felton to approve Next Generation Leahy contract and all others as presented. Roll call vote with all present voting yea.

**Office Manager** – Rosencrans reported that he is in the process of scrubbing and waxing the floor in the hallway and meeting room. The new printer is in. Our new fax number is 888-845-3035 and it is toll free. He is currently working on resolving an issue with Waste Management. They had billed us for an extra dump and had also swapped our dumpster for a smaller one.



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Copes and Birchmeier pointed out that the website needs updates: dates, sponsors, camping (it says reservations are being taken online).

**SVAA Report:** Ebenhoeh reported that their annual meeting is next week. Copes reported that the sponsorship flyer is ready and they are looking for new sponsors.

## President's Report:

- Bruckman reported that he had seen Francis and Sandy Sloan in Florida, and they send greetings.

## Unfinished Business:

None

## New Business:

- Motion by Tomac and supported by Borm to remove Eric Frahm from all bank accounts at this time. Motion passed.
- Several members provided reports from MAFE convention:
  - Copes reported on the meeting with Matt and Kelly McDonagh. They are pleased on the return of VIP passes. Kelly would like a daily ticket sale report. They are planning a privacy fence near the livestock arena. We need to remember to review vendors with him prior to fair. Matt would like a key to the stock gate to use from 7-9 pm. Matt will need 4 portajohns near his campers. They would like more sales of megapasses. They suggested we consider moving fair dates to late August (20-25). Matt asked if veterans get in the gate free (yes) and active military get full admission which is reimbursed by St. Charles Legion.
  - Copes also reported that Matt suggested we consider Carolina Helicopter as an added attraction during fair. Written information was presented. The company would need a 100x100 space and space/hook ups for equipment. The fair would receive 10% of gross revenue. Motion by Birchmeier and supported by B. Newton to bring Carolina Helicopter in. Motion passed.
  - Garcia asked the board to consider a beer tent in the future.
  - V. Newton provided a written report. She said we are good on swine vaccine requirements. In terms of BQA, kids can use their parent's number. If they are showing additional species then they will need YQCA. We will need to confirm that with Bellinger Packing, Bernthal's Packing, and UPI.
  - Copes reported some ideas for attracting youth exhibitors: connecting with schools or ISDs to encourage school projects to come to the fair, producing a shortened version of the premium book, and adding still exhibits to the livestock auction.

**Correspondence:**

Thank you note has been received from the Broad Street Events.

A letter from Dean Boivin was read.

**Public Comment:**

- Corrin is concerned about adding adult entertainment (beer tent) to a youth-focused event. As a member of the budget committee he is concerned about finances.
- Berg suggested a 50/50 raffle.
- Roe thanked the board for their willingness to work with Copes and horse committee this month.

**Directors' Comments:**

- Birchmeier expressed concern that a copy of private electronic communication had recently been circulated and she asked for discipline.
- B. Newton reminded the board that we need to work together for the kids.
- Felton commented that many fairs have experienced embezzlement and we need to get our finances in order.
- V. Newton requested that more members of the executive board be present at convention in the future.
- Ebenhoeh would like to move forward and do what is best for the fair without micromanaging departments.
- Tomac wants to build bridges in the future. She also reported the passing of member Lloyd Schmiede.
- Borm expressed support for Ebenhoeh's ideas.
- LeCureux suggested that many other fairs have difficulty, but we need to keep moving forward.
- Copes expressed disappointment at our employee verbally lashing out at a board member during a meeting. She requested an executive session.
- Garcia reported that she enjoyed the MAFE convention.
- Askins suggested that we let experts in each department/area do their job.
- Valentine is pleased to see the move with Hoerner's.
- Bruckman reported that his experience with the junior livestock department in Shiawassee being independent was a positive one. He suggested we consider it for the horse department and junior livestock department.
- Robinette requested a change in next month's meeting date due to Valentine's Day. It was agreed to keep the date.

Motion by Tomac and supported by Askins to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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Sara Engelhardt  
Secretary

APPROVED