

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
February 19, 2020 – Marshall Middle School - 7:00 PM

**Call to Order**

The February 19, 2020 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Bruce Rapp at 7:00 pm at Marshall Middle School.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill DeSmet.

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Susan Baldwin.

Present: Bruce Rapp, Steve Benham, Jim Olds, Bill DeSmet, Susan Baldwin, Teri Letts, Chip Riddle, Lisa Sands, Steve Swafford. Excused: Hope Horton, Doug Wildt.

**Board Meeting**

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Lisa Sands, seconded by Steve Benham, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Secretary's Report of the January 15, 2020 minutes was given by Susan Baldwin. Baldwin thanked Hope Horton for taking the minutes in Baldwin's absence. Motion was made by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Steve Benham, to file the minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Bill DeSmet presented the Treasurer's report. DeSmet discussed Budget vs Actuals and the variance report. There was a loss in January due to the usual timing issues at this time of year. Revenues will pick up in the next few months as sponsors come in for 2020 and spring events occur. Currently there is approximately \$36,715.10 in the bank and a mortgage balance of about \$27,584.48. DeSmet also shared the Accountant's Compilation Report from Fisher Spiegel. Following discussion by the Board, Lisa Sands moved that the Treasurer's report be filed. Seconded by Jim Olds. All in favor, motion passed.

Fair Manager Report – Jen Rice provided the Fair Manager report.

Several updates on the 2020 Fair. Jen has been working with Firekeeper's regarding employee day at the fair for this year. Veterans Day at the fair will be changed to Heroes Day to include first responders. Oaklawn Hospital and Hemmingsens have both agreed to continue as Platinum sponsors.

The Celebrity Server event was a success with 50 more attendees this year. Many thanks to all of the volunteers.

**Public Comment** - requested for any agenda items.

None.

### **Discussion Items and Presentations**

- A. Fred McMillen** – Mr. McMillen shared concerns regarding Superintendent matters, removal of Superintendents, and the Livestock Committee. He had questions about the Superintendent review process. He raised concerns about how barn rules are approved. His remarks were shared in writing with the Board. Mr. McMillen also explained the attachments to his remarks. The Board will review the materials.
  
- B. LeeAnn Fischhaber** – Ms. Fischhaber is president of the Horse Leaders Association. This group has been trying to buy better stalls. They are holding a fundraiser on March 14 in the BE Henry Building.

### **Action Items:**

- A. 2020 Budget** – The Board reviewed updated budget documents. Jen Rice shared revised figures for a proposed concert at the 2020 Fair. The Board discussed the budget documents and the proposed concert revenues and expenses. The Board agreed to allow comments from the meeting attendees regarding the concert issue. Motion was made by Lisa Sands, seconded by Bill DeSmet, to approve the budget as revised and presented. Roll call vote of the Board members in attendance was taken. All in favor, motion passed.
  
- B. Draw Down Fundraiser** – Bruce Rapp presented a proposal put forth by several CCAIS members to hold a draw down raffle fundraising event. The event would be in partnership with the Wilder Creek Conservation Club. CCAIS Proceeds would be used for kids' fair premiums leaving certain CCAIS funds to be available to pay down the long-term debt at Chemical Bank. Cindy Thomas also shared information about the proposal and the folks willing to participate in this project. Motion was made by Lisa Sands, seconded by Bill DeSmet, to approve the Draw Down Fundraiser and use of the proceeds (Motion was presented in writing and shared with the Board.) Voice vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.

- C. Livestock Fairbook Changes** – Lisa Sands presented information on proposed changes to the fair book. Motion was made by Lisa Sands, seconded by Steve Swafford, to approve the changes to the fair book regarding livestock. (Motion was presented in writing and shared with the Board.) Voice vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.
- D. Livestock Committee Recommendation for Vacancy** – the Board discussed the recommendation for the committee vacancy. Three letters of interest were received but one was withdrawn. The Livestock Committee reviewed the remaining applicants but the Committee did not have a quorum. The letters were shared with the full Committee. A Committee vote was taken electronically and a recommendation reached to present to the fair Board. Following discussion by the Board, motion was made to postpone the decision. Motion was made by Teri Letts, seconded by Steve Benham. Voice vote was taken, all in favor, motion to postpone the decision passed.
- E. Livestock Auction Grand and Reserve** – at the January Livestock Auction Committee, it was discussed whether a youth could sell two animals (2 large or 2 small) at the auction. It was discussed that if a youth put in the effort to raise and win in multiple categories, they ought to be able to sell both animals. Following discussion by the Board, motion was made by Jim Olds, seconded by Steve Swafford, to allow youth to sell two animals. Roll call vote was taken. Aye votes – Baldwin, Benham, DeSmet, Olds, Rapp, Riddle, and Swafford. Nay votes – Letts and Sands. Motion passed.
- F. CCAIS Committee Members and Board Representatives** – Susan Baldwin discussed that, under the CCAIS Bylaws, it is the Board’s responsibility to establish all committees and appoint committee members for CCAIS. She shared a list of committees and members. The Board reviewed the list and updated the committees to include Board members and additional volunteers. Following the changes, motion was made by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Bill DeSmet, to approve the committees and members as update. Voice vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.

### **Committee Reports**

- A. Operations Committee** – Jim Olds. Bruce Rapp reported that staff is checking into electric bills – usage is running high. Jim Olds mentioned that a

number of lights are out on the grounds. Jen Rice reported that a water line had burst.

- B. Bylaws Committee** – Susan Baldwin. Baldwin stated that the Bylaws require that they be reviewed at least every five years. The Bylaws were last reviewed in 2015 so this will be addressed this year. Baldwin will be scheduling a Bylaws Committee in the near future. If anyone has any suggested changes or items to be reviewed, please get that information to her as soon as possible. Any proposed changes would have to be presented to the membership in plenty of time before the Annual Meeting.
- C. Nominating Committee** – Doug Kiessling. Bill DeSmet stated that this committee would do its work closer to the fall.
- D. Volunteer Appreciation Committee** – Kathy Miller. Kathy reported that the committee was a bit tardy last year but would be more organized this year.
- E. Livestock Committee** – No report.
- F. Livestock Auction Committee** – Steve Benham reported that only one buyer has not paid – it is a multiple buyer group. The group is all in one family. The Youth's parent put the group together. The youth had two animals sold – one was paid, one was not. Benham discussed paying out for the one animal less the fees due for two animals - \$17.50 per animal, \$35.00 if more than one animal. Motion was made by Benham, seconded by Chip Riddle, voice vote was taken all in favor. Motion passed.
- G. Livestock Judges Committee** – No report.
- H. Non-Livestock Committee** – Jen Rice reported that the committee is considering a barrel decorating contest. She also noted that the entry deadline is July 10.
- I. Non-livestock Auction Committee** – No report.
- J. Non-livestock Judges Committee** – Jen Rice stated that the deadline for recommending a judge is April 15.
- K. Fair King and Queen Pageant Committee** – Teri Letts shared there was nothing to report at this time.

- L. Grandstand Events Committee** – Jen Rice reported that the grandstand events for this year’s fair have been finalized. Monday – rodeo, Tuesday – dirt track, Wednesday – tractor pulls, Thursday – concert, Friday – combine derby, Saturday – demo derby.
- M. Membership Committee** – Lisa Sands reported that the Committee will begin working shortly.
- N. Cruise at the Fountain Committee** – Jen Rice reported that the Committee has been meeting. Fifty-six car classes have been set and over 50% have sponsors for the trophies so far.
- O. Golf Outing Committee** – Jen stated she had nothing to report.
- P. Halloween Camping Committee** – Jen stated she had nothing to report.
- Q. Merry Mile Committee** – Jen stated that she had nothing to report.

**Events and Community Reports:**

- A.** 4H Council – Kathy Fischer reported that the welding program was a success. There will be more classes because it was so popular. The classes will be held at Staley Farms. There was also a chocolate class which was fantastic. March 10 is Exploration Days at MSU. Two youth who attended last year received \$2000 scholarships.
- B.** FFA Report – no report.
- C.** Floral Hall Building – John Taylor stated that there is nothing to report at this time.
- D.** Houston School – see below.
- E.** Maple Grove Church – Margaret Taylor shared that they held a big euchre party and auction, with proceeds going to the School, Church and Museum. Both were very successful, raising \$1760 - \$585 each.
- F.** Fair Museum – JoAnne McKeever mentioned the successful event as well.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – three minute time limit and one opportunity to speak.

Chris Landis wanted to say thank you to the many volunteers.

Grant Myers suggested that the concert start earlier than last year.

**BOARD COMMENTS –**

Chip Riddle shared that he attended the Mini-whinnies fund raiser and it was a great event. He asked JoAnne to speak. She stated that all of the money raised goes to awards. The kids work hard every month on activities. The fundraiser is held at the Grange and they received many nice donations. They raised between \$1500 and 1700.

Bruce Rapp thanked everyone for attending the Board meeting.

**Adjournment** – Motion made by Lisa Sands, seconded by Teri Letts, to adjourn the meeting – voice vote, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Submitted by Susan Baldwin, Board Secretary