

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society
Minutes of Board Meeting
September 16, 2020 – Virtual/Remote Meeting - 7:00 PM

Call to Order

The September 16, 2020 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Bruce Rapp at 7:02 pm through in-person and virtual/remote means to comply with the state ordered executive orders due to COVID-19 situation. In-person attendance was outside under the Covered Arena

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Susan Baldwin.

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

Board Meeting

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Hope Horton, seconded by Steve Benham, to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.

Secretary's Report of the August 19, 2020 minutes was given by Susan Baldwin. Motion was made by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Jim Olds, to file the minutes. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Bill DeSmet presented the Treasurer's report. August net income was \$27,671. Net income YTD is \$21,878. These numbers include the grants received and the insurance payment. Still sorting out how to recognize camping and other fees paid in FY 2020 and carrying over. Bill is working with the accountant. Cash balances are listed on the report. There is just a small amount left in the available PPP total for payroll and utilities. Bill will begin working on the loan forgiveness process. There is \$38,000 cash available with just a few premium checks from 2019 still out. Bill discussed renewing the credit line and proposes that CCAIS renew for five years. There is an annual fee of \$250.

Bill DeSmet moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Steve Benham seconded. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.

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

- Grant requests update:
 - Battle Creek Community Foundation - \$20K - confirmed/received

- Marshall Community Credit Union - \$750 - confirmed/received
- Marshall Community Foundation - \$10K – pending
- Albion Community Foundation - \$10K - pending
- Cronin Foundation - \$3K - pending
- Michigan Small Business Restart Program - \$20K - pending
- Walmart Community Grants - \$15K - pending
- Consumers Energy - \$5K - pending
- Lions Club of Marshall - \$3K - pending
- Exchange Club of Marshall - \$3K - pending
- Marshall Rotary Club - \$3K – pending

Cornhole Tournament & Camping Weekend – October 16-18 – currently have 19 teams, more coming in every day

Two weddings coming up – next weekend and the first weekend of October, already have three weddings scheduled and confirmed for 2021

Looking at doing a fair food drive through event in conjunction with the Cornhole Weekend October 16-18, stay tuned for details

Winter Storage will be a record year, we have received dozens of new inquiries from the ads we ran in the paper, cost is \$14 per linear foot, putting in the week of October 19-23

Public Comment - requested for any agenda items.

Fred McMillan expressed concerns about extending fair participation for seniors.

Discussion Items and Special Presentations

- A. None

Action Items:

- A. **2020 Aging Out** – Hope Horton shared an email from a fair member. The member did not see how extended the eligibility would hurt. Would not cost much. Hope also expressed that she supports extending eligibility. Lisa Sands moved to keep the fair rules as they stand. Jim Olds seconded. Doug Wildt expressed that this was a tough decision but no one can be sure what will happen next year. All kids need to be treated the same. Roll call vote was taken. Vote was 8 in favor, 2 opposed. Board members in favor –

Baldwin, Benham, DeSmet, Olds, Riddle, Sands, Swafford, Wildt. Opposed – Horton, Rapp. Motion passed.

- B. Credit Line** – Bill DeSmet notified the Board that the CCAIS credit line with TCF bank needs to be renewed. Documents for the renewal need to be executed. The Board discussed the credit line and supported renewing the line for 5 years. Bill DeSmet moved, seconded by Lisa Sands, that the Board authorize President, Bruce Rapp and Treasurer, Bill DeSmet to sign loan documents with TCF Bank for the renewal of the \$45,000 line of credit. Roll call vote was taken - motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

- A. Operations Committee** – Jim Olds reported that they will be pouring concrete next week. _____ **(Jen – I missed what the concrete was for.)** Jim will be meeting will roofers and addressing the insurance coverage.
- B. Bylaws Committee** – Susan Baldwin explained that members have submitted proposed Bylaws changes to the Board Secretary to bring the items to the Annual Meeting for a vote. The information will be sent to members in the Annual Meeting packet.
- C. Nominating Committee** – Doug Kiessling thanked the committee members for working on the nominations. Doug noted that three current Board members' terms are expiring. All have expressed an interest in running again. Four other members have expressed an interest in running. Doug explained the process and asked for anyone else interested to contact him.
- D. Employee Committee** – Bruce Rapp stated no report at this time.
- E. Volunteer Appreciation Committee** – No report.
- F. Livestock Committee** – Hope Horton stated that Doug Kiessling has agreed to help sort out the manure fees. Cindy Thomas also volunteered.
- G. Livestock Auction Committee** – Steve Benham stated no report at this time.
- H. Livestock Judges Committee** – No report.
- I. Non-Livestock Committee** – Jen Rice stated no report at this time.

- J. Non-livestock Auction Committee** – No report.
- K. Non-livestock Judges Committee** – Jen Rice stated no report at this time.
- L. Fair King and Queen Pageant Committee** – No report.
- M. Grandstand Events Committee** – Jen Rice stated no report at this time.
- N. Membership Committee** – Lisa Sands reported that the Committee is still working on new membership levels. Have sold several of the new Patron Plus levels that include parking. Jen added that 140 memberships have been sold for this year, including 42 lifetime memberships.
- O. Cruise at the Fountain Committee** – Jen Rice reminded everyone that the event was cancelled for this year, due to the Health Department. A few cars still showed up. Planning to hold the Cruise on July 2-3 in 2021.
- P. Golf Outing Committee** – Jen Rice stated no report.
- Q. Halloween Camping Committee** – Jen stated that the committee met to go over games and activities with some changes this year for social distancing. The Halloween event is scheduled for Oct 9-11, and they are still taking reservations.
- R. Merry Mile Committee** – Jen stated that work is still going on to prepare the inventory and make repairs. Presale vehicle passes are on sale now for \$10 each. The event will run from December 3rd through December 27th, Thursdays – Sundays 6 pm to 9 pm. Harmony Dawson discussed the event budget. Bill DeSmet estimated that the Merry Mile expenses were about \$8000 in 2019. Hope Horton asked if costs were covered by sponsorships. Harmony stated that the event will need active volunteers to do set up. Cindy Thomas stated this is a fabulous event but is a lot of work. Donations and budgeted funds need to be specifically designated now. Jen said that about \$10,000 in grants have been submitted for the Merry Mile. Harmony also shared that they need more committed volunteers. Chip Riddle asked if any of the money raised by the fundraiser proposed by Cindy Thomas could be used for the Merry Mile. Cindy stated that the fair can't have the same fund raising events every year – people won't come back. Doug Wildt stated that he believes the Merry Mile should have its own account. Jen explained that this is already in place.

Events and Community Reports:

- A.** 4H Council – Kathy Fischer provided the 4-H update: 4-H is still using a virtual format. She recommends that people follow 4-H on the Facebook page. The program year is September 1 through Aug 31. Enrollment is going on now with no participation fees for this year.
- B.** FFA Report – Jen shared the FFA report. Schools are back in session with new safety protocols. The October National FFA Convention in-person event is canceled and will be a virtual event. Broiler chicken contest for Oct/November is still scheduled. Several FFA member throughout the county were still able to go to animal shows and events this summer. Members and families were supportive of the alternative plans for shows. Auction and raffles were supported. Lora expressed her thanks.
- C.** Floral Hall Building – Bruce Rapp shared that an auction is planned for Saturday, September 19 at 2 pm in Eckford for the grounds' historical buildings. The event is outside - bring your own lawn chair.
- D.** Houston School – no additional report.
- E.** Maple Grove Church – no additional report.
- F.** Fair Museum – no additional report.

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

Cindy Thomas spoke about the Sustain Campaign and asked the Board and fair members to share the information with friends and family. The fair will need money to start programs for next year.

BOARD COMMENTS –

Doug Wildt shared that donations for the granary project are being accepted. Bruce stated that he is glad there is support.

Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the meeting, motion made by Lisa Sands, seconded by Steve Benham, to adjourn the meeting – voice vote, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Susan Baldwin, Board Secretary