

Morton County Fair Board Minutes

February 2, 2026

7:00pm Morton County Fairgrounds

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm central time by board President Shawn Feiring after the Annual meeting.

Directors presented: Shawn Feiring, Trina Gress, Peggy Brandt, Barry Schulz, Luke Dukart and Annie Gartner. Directors by zoom: Brooke Kunz and Nathan Boehm.

Associate Members presented: Amanda Noel

Guest: Don Lafleur- MCF Accountant (zoom), Luke Shafer ND Country Fest (zoom), Brandon Ralph ND Country Fest (zoom).

Country Fest: Luke explained about the two different projects; crushed asphalt, electrical on the fairgrounds and dirt work. ND Country Fest would like to extend the crush asphalt by the stage area west to the NW service gate and add crushed asphalt to the roads on the grounds.

Electrical proposal- add 6 more 200 amp electrical panels, one by the west side by tree rows, one on the north side along chain link, one by crow's nest west side of track, and one on the east side of track. Country Fest will pull from their 3 phase power.

Luke made the motion to approve the improvements that ND Country Fest wants to make with the electrical and crushed asphalt on the fairgrounds, Peggy 2nd motion passed.

Public Relations Committee will work on something to acknowledge the improvements that ND Country Fest have made to the grounds.

Custodial Report: no report

Additions/Approval of Agenda: Barry moved to approve agenda, Peggy 2nd motion passed

Secretary's Report: Nathan moved to approve secretary's minutes as presented, Peggy 2nd, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: In the checking account per bank \$84,036.38, Savings Account per bank \$27,979.66. Loan balance is \$276,960.11, next payment due 12/26/2026 (\$27,498.81).

Don informed the Board that we received our first ½ of our money from the county. Shawn informed the Board that everything at Security First Bank has been switched over. Discussion on what to do with the credit card in Thomas's name, Brooke has a new credit card. Board was fine with leaving the credit card in Thomas's name.

Trina moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented, Luke 2nd motion passed.

4-H Report: no report

Bills to pay: none

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Amusement & Youth Activities: Trina informed the Board that we received \$5,000.00 grant from BNSF railroad. The grant will be applied to the petting zoo and would like to build a wooden train for the kids play area. Instead of the power wheels derby, going to do a kiddy pedal pull-Josh Hoesel with Angry Calf Pedal Pull from New Salem.

Beer Garden: no report

Camping: no report

Capital Improvements: Talked about where the concrete is going to get poured, Mark is going to lay it out and put the bids together. Discussion on the roof on the entertainment building among other projects.

Peggy informed the Board on the Destination Development Grant and what projects that the grant can be used for on the fairgrounds. Committee will meet and will pursue the grant.

Facility Maintenance: Peggy informed the Board that Ruds Corporation are going to donate the light towers for the fairgrounds, we can store them, and Ruds will maintain the light towers. She booked the spiffy biffs, will add another cleaning of them on Saturday, roll offs are ordered.

Country Fest: no report

Gate & Parking: no report

Music & Small Acts: Annie informed the Board that Magic Joe will not be at the fair due to work conflicts. Thads Amazing Magic will perform 2-30 minute shows on Friday July 31st for \$1,000.00, will do 2 hour bubble extravaganza for \$350.00, mileage surcharge of \$337.50 total of \$1,687.50. Also will need a hotel room night of July 30th and a deposit of \$400.00. Parker William-magician will perform on Saturday August 1st 2- 45-50 minute shows for \$3,500.00, no deposits and a room for the night of July 31st. Board was in agreement on both contracts, President signed both.

Public Relations & Advertising: Trina informed the Board that the sponsorship letter went out to 6,800 businesses in Morton and Burleigh County and that sponsorships are starting to come in.

Annie presented radio advertisement contract from Townsquare, 1st contract is for 210 30 second ads, July 26-August1, and 2026 for \$2,205.00 and 2nd contract is for 150 30 second ads July 21-July 25, 2026 for \$1,500.00. Board agreed to do the first contract but have the dates

adjusted to July 25 to July 31st, will not do the 2nd contract. Annie will get in contact and have the new with Townsquare and have the new contract at the next meeting.

Rodeo/Draft Horse Competition/Ranch Rodeo: Barry informed the Board of changes with NDRA Rodeo and the changes could possibly up the cost of the rodeo.

Power Pull: Shawn will contact Casey to get contracts put together.

Competitive Events/Awards: Committee will meet

Commercial Exhibits/Concessions/Vendors: Thank you to Peggy for helping reconstruct the indoor and commercial vendor applications. She will have both applications go live this week and the vendors that were here last year, theirs went in the mail on February 2nd.

Security: no report

New Business:

None

Next meeting: March 2, 2026 at 7:00pm at the fairgrounds in New Salem.

Luke moved to adjourn the meeting, Trina 2nd motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm central time.

Submitted by Annie Gartner, MCFB Secretary: Signature Annie Gartner Date 3-2-2026