

## Morton County Fair Board Minutes

January 17, 2023

7:00 pm Morton County Fairgrounds, New Salem

Meeting called to order at 7:24 pm central time by board President Shawn Feiring.

**Directors presented:** Mark Isaacs, Peggy Brandt, Shawn Feiring, Annie Gartner, Kristine Koeplin, Barry Schulz, Nathan Boehm, Robert Boehm, Thomas Freisz and Taylor Freisz

**Associate Members:** Trina Gress

**Guests:** Luke & Brandon from Country Fest, and Renae Gress- Extension Agent

**Custodial Report:** Doors to concession building have been rekeyed, door to the office a key pad has been installed, all members need to write down a four digit code, and Kristine will give to Mary to have the codes entered. We will need a 2<sup>nd</sup> person to hold the list of codes, Changes to winter storage contracts she would like to have soon, so she can let renters know of the change.

**Additions/Approval of Agenda:** Barry moved to approve the agenda with additions, Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed.

**Secretary's Report:** Barry moved to approve October 2022 minutes with spelling corrections, Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** In the checking \$89,698.19, Savings account \$191,380.08 and in the web Activity Account \$500.10. Nathan moved to approve the treasurer's report, Peggy 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed.

**4-H Report:** Renae talked about the 4-H concession, over 8 years profit for the concessions has declined, looking at is it worth doing the concessions. She discussed the expenses and profits. Looking for suggestions so that both parties can work together. Anyone that has any suggestions to let her know. A few suggestions is to maybe have a 4-H club work the gate to help supplement the income, more signs on the building, maybe stay open a little later, have a group of older kids or alumni work.

**Bills to pay:** Glen Ullin Times for \$9.60 for copies made and the USPS box fee

**Country Fest:** Luke and Brandon from Country Fest answered questions and concerns. Luke discussed the long term contract and the reasons to why they want the long term contract. Luke stated they are committed to the area for the long term. Once contract is approved by both parties, it will be taken to an attorney for review. Discussion was had on grants, do a long

term contract over 5 years more likely to receive the grants than you would on a shorter term contract. Few improvements, the roads and the area where we park they would like to upgrade and the area where the stage sets like to have it level. Barry moved to have the committee negotiate for a contract up to 20 years with 5 years increments to make sure everything is up to legal standards, Mark 2<sup>nd</sup>

Discussion: Peggy would like to have permission for an attorney to look at the contract. No improvements will be made without the whole board, weigh station and park board knows about the improvements and are voted on before work starts.

Roll Call vote: Nathan yes, Peggy yes, Barry yes, Mark yes, Kristine yes, Thomas yes, Taylor yes, Robert yes, Shawn yes and Annie yes. Motion passed unanimously

### **Old Business:**

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Amusement & Youth Activities:** no report

**Beer garden/Liquor:** no report

**Camping:** Had people parked in the right camping spot but hooked up to the wrong amp. Need to have a statement that the Morton County Fair has the right to remove an individual from the grounds when conflict arises. Was discussed that the 20 amps need to be removed.

**Capital Improvements:** Owners to the land to the north are in an agreement to extend the contract till May 1, 2023 due to the current situation with another part. Need to know the configuration of the land, we will not know till March at the latest when current situation is resolved. Barry moved to have the president and secretary sign the extension, Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed. Working on the plans for the water project.

**Country Fest:** Weigh Station wants to be a part of the contract but will not come to the meetings or sign the contract. Committee asked if anyone can reach out to them to try.

**Facility Maintenance:** Peggy presented a proposal from New Vision Security Systems for installing cameras on the grounds. Country Fest is willing to take on the expense except for the cameras inside the concession and entertainment building. There is an option to live stream meeting or events, \$300.00 for this, onetime fee for life.

**Fair Dinner:** no report



**Gates & Parking:** Nathan will get some bids on speed bumps to slow the traffic coming down Cowhill Road. Spoke to several groups for working the gate.

**Music & Small Acts:** Contracts with Hooked up Enterprise, Frank Fletcher band and the Urbandale band have been signed. Looking at a tentative schedule for small acts by next meeting, have two more acts to reach out and get either a yes or no.

**Public Relations/Advertising:** Need to go thru the sponsorship fee to see if we need to increase, work on getting the letters sent out. Have any suggestions on a website let Kristine know, there is a local person who can update our site including the online store. Peggy will check into prices and bring back to the next meeting.

**Rodeo:** Has been a few changes, good to go.

**Power Pull:** Working with Wayne Hoyer to get him scheduled to have the blade there both Saturday and Sunday. Need to double check with Mandan Progressive for the rental of both sets of bleachers.

**Competitive Exhibits:** Looking at additional training with the fair entry program, like to get more people trained. For the 2 day livestock shows, have 2 judges lined up. Open horse show cannot find a qualified judge, instead of the show would like to do a kiddy rodeo, stick horse races for example for one event and for older kids and adults do speed events. Kristine moved not to have the open horse show on Saturday and have the committee come up with an alternative horse event in its place. Mark 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

**Commercial Exhibits & Concessions:** no report

**Buckles & Awards:** no report

**Security:** no report

**Budget:** Like to have committees meet and get an idea on spending. Don and Kristine will put budget together and bring back to the next meeting.

**Insurance Claim Update:** Need the rest of the bills so we can submit them to the insurance company. Have not meet our deductible.

**Storage Rental Person Commission increase:** The board at the last meeting raised Mary's commission for winter storage from 5% to 15%, Mary stated that she is already at 15%, and would like an increase to 20%. Kristine moved to do 20% storage rental commission for Mary Doll, Peggy 2<sup>nd</sup> roll call taken: Taylor yes, Thomas yes, Robert yes, Kristine yes, Mark no, Barry yes, Peggy yes, Nathan yes, Shawn yes and Annie yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

Annie presented a thank you from the Morton County 4-H kids.

Annie showed the board the plaque for Alex Hager, need to find a picture for the plaque, Peggy will take care of it.

**Replacement items in office:** Kristine will get prices on a gun safe and bring back to the next meeting. Hold off on the Wi-Fi hot spots and tablets.

**Rental Update:** Made corrections to the rental agreement, ready to go to print.

Mark made the motion to remove Melanie Gaebe's name from the savings account, checking account, and web activity account at Security First Bank. Leave Kristine Koeplin treasurer, Don Lafleur accountant and Shawn Feiring president on the savings account, checking account and web activity account at Security First Bank. Peggy 2<sup>nd</sup> motion passed.

**Next meeting is February 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Morton County Fair Grounds in New Salem.**

Thomas made the motion to adjourn, Nathan 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:57pm central time

Annie Gertner  
MCFB Secretary  
Jan 17, 2023