

CENTRAL WISCONSIN STATE FAIR
BOARD MINUTES
May 20, 2013
7:30 PM

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Bymers at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: **Board Members:** Bob Ashbeck, Carol Berg-Kappel, Gary Bymers, Larry Gilbertson, Bruce Thorson, Tim Heeg (8:35pm), Andy Keogh, Gary Cummings, Jeff Viergutz (7:48pm), Dennis Stroetz, Ed Wagner, Dan McGiveron (7:40pm), John McPherson, John Garbisch

Executive Secretary/General Manager: Heidi Born-Smith

Absent: **Board Members:** Marilyn Heiman

President Bymers suspended the orders of the day and began the meeting with discussion concerning the meeting with Forward Financial and the re-financing of our loan with that institution. A possible arrangement with the bank would be a \$50,000 line of credit each year for startup operating expenses to be paid back in full each year and a 7 year repayment plan for our current debt. A question was asked what the payment would be. Answered: \$2800 plus per month over seven years. Ed Wagner expressed his concerns and also requested a business plan with a cash flow statement be presented at the next board meeting. Other board members also expressed their deep concerns of our need to find solutions.

The article which appeared in the News Herald the previous week (May 13, 2013) was discussed.

Discussion returned to finding solutions.

Heidi mentioned some prices for weather insurance which was requested at the April meeting.

President Bymers commented on the ongoing audit of the past months books to resolve the discrepancy which occurred in perhaps October 2012. Wisconsin Farm Business of Pittsville, WI has been coming in once a week pro bono to help with this issue. Discussion came forth encouraging more rapid results. If need be, to hire a firm.

Andy Keogh moved that the board requests a professional accounting review of the books to happen ASAP and report back ASAP. This should be at a reasonable cost, be offered to the present firm working on the books, with a limit of a \$15,000. expense. Ed Wagner seconded the motion, and with no further discussion, the motion carried.

The meeting returned to the orders of the day.

Minutes of April 15th, 2013 Board Meeting – approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report- John Garbisch – reported a checking account balance of \$90,805.70. Included in this balance is the \$40,000 received from the Russ Wenzel estate and has as of yet to be directed. The line of credit with Forward Financial stands at \$177,863.30. Due to the ongoing investigation of the books, Andy Keogh offered the suggestion that the treasurer's report not be approved but to say they are received and put on file. No objections were made, the suggestion stands.

Committee Reports:

Junior Fair: - Tim Heeg - no report

Market Animal Report – Larry Gilbertson

An adult meeting was held on April 24 in the Senior High Ag room at Marshfield High School. Planning for the upcoming sale, and youth educational meetings were discussed. A digital monitor for the beef scale will be purchased within \$\$ limits, and the bylaws of the committee were reviewed.

Draft Horse – Dennis Stroetz

Gary Bymers reported the committee met. The committee is working on their sponsor list. The Drums draft horse group wishes to show. The committee approved their request.

Buildings/Grounds/Long-Term Planning Committee – Larry Gilbertson.

Scheduled meeting was cancelled.

Advertising Committee – Jeff Viergutz

The committee met and held discussions on billboards for 2013, newspaper ads, heard a presentation from the News Herald which is ongoing, designed a new format for the daily event schedules, radio ads, and fair book advertising. Jeff concluded challenging us all to think about the question: Are we doing anything to change with the times?

Sanitation/Safety, Signage/Parking Committee – Dan McGiveron

No meeting.

Livestock Committee – Tim Heeg

No meeting

Vendor Relations Committee – John Garbisch

No meeting.

Non-Fair Activity Committee – Heidi Born Smith

No meeting

Fairest of the Fair Committee – Heidi Born-Smith

No meeting. Heidi commented that our current Fairest will represent us in parades this summer at: WI Rapids, Stratford, Pittsville, and Marshfield Dairy Fest.

Grandstand and Other Entertainment Committee – Bruce Thorson

No meeting. Bruce brought forth his wish that we figure out who our customer is. Following discussion offered by many, Bruce volunteered to work on a basic survey and present the board with ideas.

Motion was made by John Garbisch, seconded by Bob Ashbeck, to accept the committee reports. Motion carried.

Manager's Report: Heidi Born-Smith

Heidi offered the following: Attended a Dairy Fest steering committee meeting, Dairy Fest breakfast will again be held in the Expo 1 building, Bruce Thorson represented us at the WI Rapids job fair, Heidi, Gary Bymers and Larry Gilbertson attended the fair commission meeting, met with the Boy Scouts jamboree planning people, will present a scholarship at Pittsville High School, financial books are continued to be reviewed, and the News Herald article.

Ed Wagner moved to accept the managers' report, Dan McGiveron seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Other **Old Business**: none

Fair Commission Report: Bruce Thorson asked the question, what fair commission projects will be completed by fair time? Planned completions include: New windows in Expo 1, Painting in Expo 1, new roof on Expo 1, lighting projects in Expo 1 and the junior fair building, and if time allows, new windows in the upper level of the fair office building. Some discussion followed.

Bruce Thorson moved to accept the Old Business/Fair Commission report. Dan McGiveron seconded the motion, the motion carried.

New Business: Gary Bymers put forth the issue of the phone system. The donated system we received is obsolete. Options were discussed. Jeff Viergutz offered to check the unused equipment at his place of employment for possible donations or low cost. Dan McGiveron moved that the Fair Manager use her best judgment on choosing a replacement phone system. Additional discussion by Bruce Thorson and John Garbisch took place before Tim Heeg seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Ed Wagner suggested that a decision on the use of the latest Wenzel Estate moneys be tabled until we find out where we are with our financial books. No objection was raised to this suggestion and the issue was left at that.

Bruce Thorson raised again discussion on weather insurance. Other discussion on this followed with no decision coming forth.

A motion by John Garbisch, seconded by Jeff Viergutz, and carried to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Larry Gilbertson
Recording secretary for Heidi Born-Smith