

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
September 18, 2019 – Marshall Middle School - 7:00 PM

**Call to Order**

The September 18, 2019 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Vic Potter 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: Vic Potter, Doug Wildt, Jim Olds, Bill DeSmet, Susan Baldwin, Steven Benham, Hope Horton, Erik Myers, Bruce Rapp, Steve Swafford. Excused: Chip Riddle.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Bill DeSmet, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Secretary's report of the July 17, 2019 minutes was given by Susan Baldwin. Baldwin thanked Hope Horton for handling the July minutes. Motion was made by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Bill DeSmet, to file the minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Bill DeSmet presented the Treasurer's report. DeSmet stated that he and staff are working to enter final fair information into the system and finalizing categories. He discussed the Profit and Loss statement. CCAIS has net income of \$119,881 to date although there are still about \$27,000 in expenses to enter. He also discussed the P & L statement for the Grandstand events. Overall, the Grandstand took in about \$39,700. CCAIS has a mortgage balance of \$37,344.91. Concerns were raised about how the beer tent was run. Was very busy and service was slow. Following discussion by the Board, Bruce Rapp moved that the Treasurer's report be filed. Seconded by Steve Benham. All in favor, motion passed.

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

Bluegrass Festival was the last weekend in July. Had a great turn out and no issues.

Fairgrounds golf outing was July 26 at the Medalist. 18 teams played. Raised over \$7000 – still finalizing expenses.

Mid-Summer Classic Dog Show was the weekend before fair, lighter turnout than last year. No issues.

Marshall Area Farmers Market Farm to Table dinner was the Monday before fair in the Merchants Building. Over 200 people attended. Since the event, there have been several inquiries for wedding reception rentals in the building.

Welcomed back Darryl McCormick as our Maintenance Supervisor just before fair.

Fair week: replacing Monster trucks with a new event next year. Had three nights of sold out grandstand events (Combine Derby, Billy Ray Cyrus and Demolition Derby.) Carnival company had their best year ever at our fair. Huge thank you to our staff and volunteers who helped to make the fair so successful.

Michigan Sheriff's Mounted Units training/show was prior weekend and had about 60 participants.

Farmers Hall of Fame ceremony last Saturday, great turnout, former Gov. Rick Snyder spoke.

Bewitching Peddlers next weekend

Dream Dollar event is Monday Oct 5.

Halloween Camping event October 11-13

Hosting the Michigan Fair Association Zone 1 meeting on Oct 14

Watson Diesel Michigan Nationals received their next date from Lucas Oil – June 26-27, 2020.

Will be going back to a printed fairbook next year with advertising available

Deadline for Membership dues is October 18 for voting rights at the Annual Meeting on Nov 20.

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

None.

### **Discussion Items**

- A. ShoWorks** – Steve Benham shared information about a new software package to handle fair exhibitor and entries management. He stated that the online registration seems easier. Creating reports is more convenient and

flexible. There are better end user screensThe package would cost \$6100 for a program that would handle 10,000 entries. CCAIS currently has about 7,000 entries. It would cost \$5000 more to purchase and unlimited package. Yearly maintenance fees and updates run about \$550. The Board will vote on this proposal in October.

- B. Fair Manager Review** – the Executive Committee of the Board will be handling Jen Rice’s review. The full Board will be given the opportunity for input.

#### **Action Items:**

- A. Credit Line Balance** – Bill DeSmet reminded the Board that the CCAIS credit line was used to purchase the neighboring property prior to fair. DeSmet would like to pay off the line now that fair is over – there is a balance of about \$34,000. He will get the final numbers from the bank for the payoff. Jim Olds asked that Bill confirm that the line of credit would remain open and available even if paid off. Bill DeSmet moved, seconded by Doug Wildt, to approve the payoff of the line of credit. Voice vote of the Board members in attendance was taken. All in favor, motion passed.
- B. Golf Outing Net Proceeds** – Bill DeSmet discussed that this year’s golf outing netted \$3087.24. As in past years, he would like to apply these funds against the mortgage. Doug Wildt moved to use the golf outing proceeds to pay off a portion of the mortgage, Erik Myers seconded. Voice vote of the Board members in attendance was taken. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Committee Reports**

- A. Operations Committee** – Erik Myers reported that the dump station upgrades worked well.
- B. Livestock Committee** – Hope Horton stated that the committee held a wrap up meeting after the fair. Now doing superintendent reviews. Committee meetings are usually the second Wednesday of the month although October’s meeting is being moved. Fair book changes are due November 1.
- C. Animal Auction Committee** – Chris Landis reported that there was a little snafu but they are working things out. The turkey sandwiches were a hit at the meal.

- D. Non-Livestock Committee** – Jen Rice reported that there were several new supers and they have all indicated that they wish to return next year. Many thanks to the veterans for their assistance in keeping things running smoothly. Superintendent openings for 2020 are: Youth Ceramics, Pee Wee Youth, Barn Decorating and Booth Decorating. Working on a fundraising plan for new Floral Hall display cases.

Gold Ribbon Program – 12 ribbons were available. Recipients were invited to the Michigan State Fair. Ribbon winners included: Garrett Bushre, Hallie Machalka, Liana Sutherland and Annabelle Davis.

- E. Non-livestock Auction Committee** – Hope Horton reported that Michelle Albrecht will be working on some changes for next year.

**Events and Community Reports:**

- A.** 4H Council – Kathy Fischer reported that the volunteer banquet is September 28 and the youth awards will be Oct 7.
- B.** FFA Report – no report.
- C.** Floral Hall Building – John Taylor reported that everything went great during fair.
- D.** Houston School – no report.
- E.** Maple Grove Church – Margaret Taylor reported that they had 5 nights of music during the fair. Everything went well and some of the performers indicated that they would like to return.
- F.** Fair Museum – JoAnne McKeever reported that the museum had great attendance. All of the buildings will be open for the MAFE Zone meeting coming up. There is a euchre party and auction coming up.

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

Kim Lowry shared that the cancer tractor drive is coming up. There will be a hay wagon and a luncheon after the event.

Chris Landis stated that Jen did a great job for her first year on the fair. Regarding the Show of Champions, she expressed concerns about how the species were divided, an apparent mistake in the paperwork and how the event was handled.

Fred McMillan had concerns about the status of his assistant during the fair. Hope Horton and Doug Wildt state that the issue would be addressed in the Superintendent review.

Chris Landis stated that the bathrooms received good comments.

Kathy Heisler expressed concerns about the King and Queen pageant. She felt that the Board was not as involved with the pageant as it should be. Everyone should understand all of the things that the Court does during fair week. She had a number of items to address with the Board.

Marilyn Letts shared a concern about the pageant – she does not think that contestants should be limited to participating for only one year.

Shirley Myers asked which Board members' terms were up this year. Vic Potter stated that those members are Vic Potter, Susan Baldwin, Steve Benham and Erik Myers.

Stacy Coats asked if the Board members went through the horse barns during fair.

Tracy Myers thanked Erik Myers for addressing the horse area.

JoAnne McKeever thanked Erik Myers for helping with the Museum.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS –**

Vic Potter expressed thanks to all of the volunteers during fair. He expressed many thanks to Jen Rice for her hard work on the fair. He noted that Board members volunteered in several different areas during fair week.

Jim Olds noted that fair week had great weather and it was a big plus for the fair.

**Adjournment** – the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by Vic Potter.

Submitted by Susan Baldwin, Board Secretary