

**RICHLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

President James Schaub II called the meeting to order at 7:12 P. M.

The Pledge of Allegiance to our flag was said.

Roll call was taken.

Staff Present: Shirley Swihart and Becca Gregg

Guests present: Philip Metzger, Deb Boyce, Judy Villard-Overocker and Ken Niese

Secretary's Report: **Remington Blevins made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Gene Esbenshade seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report: Shirley Swihart reported that all premium checks were mailed out last week. She stated that the office salaries are as follows: Becca Gregg - \$50,000.00 per year, and Shirley Swihart - \$2,600 per month. **Dale Hulit made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as submitted. Gene Esbenshade seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Events Coordinator's Report:

- Becca Gregg thanked the board members who helped with moving the bleachers and walls this past week.
- She needs clarification on Chuck Miller using the buildings 3 times per year at no charge. He said that he talked to someone and they told him that he could have that. A discussion followed and it was decided that since he helps with many of the auctions and events for us and does not charge that he should have the use of them as long as we do not have other things scheduled in the building(s) he wants to use.
- Ben Moody from the health department is supposed to come out to our campgrounds on October 10, 2024.

- The Buckeye Bash is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>. In the past we have not charged for them to use the Youth Hall since we do all of the beverage sales. We will do this again this year. Dave Grauer, Krista Dull and Kathi Mills volunteered to work this event. We will need to start selling at 5 p.m. that day.
- The barns need cleaned out completely to get ready for winter storage.

**Committee Reports:**

**T-shirt** – nothing to report

**Budget** – Dave Dick shared that the budget committee will be getting together soon. If anyone wants to attend that meeting, let him know.

**Livestock** – Dave Dick reported that they did not have a quorum for their recent meeting. They will meet again in November.

**Nature Park** – Gene Esbenshade reported that there is nothing new and he is planning to book local groups for the 2025 fair.

**Campgrounds** – Becca Gregg reported the health department has scheduled an inspection on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Krista Dull reported that we need to winterize the campgrounds and repair a couple of the hydrants that are leaking.

**Racetrack** – nothing to report

**Fair Book** – Shirley Swihart reported for Pam Young. If anyone has any changes that they want in the fair book, they need to get them into Pam in writing as soon as possible.

**Golf Carts** – nothing to report

**JFB** – Judy Villard-Overocker shared that they will start interviews for new members for the Junior Fair Board.

**By-Laws** – David Dick reminded board members according to our by-laws, board members that were voted in this past August would be sworn-in at our annual meeting in October. Officers will be elected in November.

**Sponsorships** – Christy Keith reminded board members that everyone should be seeking sponsorships for the 2025 fair.

**Reverse Raffle** – Christy Keith stated that we need at least 200 tickets pre-sold at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled raffle on October 19<sup>th</sup> or we will have to cancel. We will need raffle things and items for a live auction. Chuck Miller has agreed to be the auctioneer for the auction items. It was brought up that Chuck Miller had been told by someone that he could use a building 3 times per year for auctions at no charge. Dale Bemiller made the motion that he be allowed to use one building 3 times per year at no charge. Dave Fackler seconded the motion. Discussion followed. It was decided that we find out what building(s) Chuck wants to use. Dave Fackler withdrew his second and Dale Bemiller rescinded his motion.

**Admissions** – nothing to report

**Elections** – nothing to report

**Grandstands** – nothing to report

**Parking** – nothing to report

**Antiques** – nothing to report

**Concessions** – nothing to report

**Equine** – Marla Reynolds reported that they will have a Halloween Show on October 5<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for a pony barn superintendent. They are also fixing the walls in the horse barn and adding sand.

**Social Media** – nothing to report  
report

**Safety** – nothing to report

**Infield** – nothing to report

**Grandstand/Grounds** – nothing to report

**Winter Storage** – Bill McFarland reported that we need clasps on some of the barns. The horse barn stalls need to be moved back prior to winter storage drop

off. All items coming into the grounds will be inspected for damage (pictures taken). We will be creating a Winter Storage Gmail account so Kathi does not have to use her personal email account to communicate with our customers. We will be using the Rabbit Barn this year for storage. Bill reminded Board members that if they want to reserve a storage spot, they must pay for the space. Fair board members are permitted to store 1 unit at no charge if there is any room after the last drop off date. If you want to bring anything in after that drop off date, Bill asked that you contact him First! You will be put on a list and brought in as space allows. We need an exact record as to what vehicles are in which building and board members who bring their units for free need to complete a contract and tag for their unit. The benches need to be put away and they should go in the draft horse barn. Nick Fairchild asked if we need to purchase a mover for the 5<sup>th</sup> wheels and goose neck vehicles. Yes, one is needed. **Christy Keith made the motion that we allocate up to \$1,000.00 to purchase mover for the 5<sup>th</sup> wheelers and goose neck vehicles. Sam McKown seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Show Arena** – nothing to report

**LS Judges** – nothing to report

**Kitchen Auxiliary** – Gene Esbenshade reported that he is working with Skelton's and the manufacturer of the pass-thru coolers. They are not working correctly.

**Grounds** – Dave Grauer reported there will be 2 work days: These will coincide with the winter storage move-in dates, Saturday – October 26<sup>th</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup>. Wagons need to be put away, probably in the grandstand. Concrete blocks that were used to keep golf carts from driving through the fairgrounds need to be stored, some are on gravel and some on grass. We will winterize the campgrounds on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The frames that Remington Blevins made for the Arts & Crafts building need to be powder coated. There are 12 boards. They found someone who will do the coating. **Dale Hulit made the motion to have them powder coated. Krista Dull seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Judy Villard-Overocker asked Dave Grauer to get an estimate for the windows in the Dairy Bar area of the John Hartz building. The JFB will pay for the new windows.

Landscaping – nothing to report

**Old Business:**

- **Rental Pricing** – David Dick shared that Becca Gregg had put together a proposed building rental fee price list to go into effect as of January 1, 2025. He read the prices. **Dale Hulit moved that we accept the proposed prices. Nick Fairchild seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Outstanding Fair Supporter Nominations** - The nomination can be an individual or a business. Please see Shirley for the form.
- **OFMA Conference** – Christy Keith reported that she has reserved 3 tables for both Friday and Saturday night festivities. **Christy Keith made the motion for Board members attending the conference to bring their room receipts back and we will reimburse them for their room and that we pay for the executive board rooms. Dave Dick seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**New Business:**

- Dave Dick presented a bill from Phil Metzger in the amount of \$63,177.07. He is proposing that \$32,982.14 be paid by the fair board, \$4,500.00 from the livestock committee and \$25,601.60 from the show arena account. **Dave Dick made the motion that the fair board pay \$32,982.14 of this bill. Bill McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Dave Dick presented a bill from Ken Niese for the fair in the amount of \$3,400.00. Dave proposed that the livestock committee would pay \$1500.00 and the Fair board pay \$1,900.00. **Dave Dick made the motion for the fair board to pay \$1,900 of the \$3,400.00 invoice. Dave Grauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Dave Dick reported that there is more work to be done, mainly with the show arena. The amount is \$26,704.00. Dave Dick made the motion to proceed with this when we get the money from the livestock committee and the arena project. Dale Hulit seconded the motion. Discussion

followed. Dale Hulit withdrew his second and Dave Dick rescinded his motion.

- **Dave Dick made the motion that the fair board pay the bill of \$26,704.00 which would be an advance from the Show Arena fund. Bill McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Dave Dick made the motion that the fair board pay Phil Metzger \$25,601.60 which is to be an advance from the Show Arena fund. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Dave Dick reported that we received an invoice from PIVOT of \$265.00 for all of the signs in the Show Arena. Dave Dick made the motion that we pay this invoice. Dave Grauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Dave Dick shared that he submitted a grant for \$205,000.00 for upgrades with the WIFI and electrical. Phil Metzger got the quotes for him.**
- **Dave Fackler was able to purchase some additional "Crowd Control gates." He got them off an auction. The amount he spent was \$1,813.50. Dave Dick made the motion that we pay Dave Fackler for these gates. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Projects:**
  1. Bleachers on the infield. Should cost less than \$5,000.00
  2. Work on Youth Hall – paint the inside, put in air conditioning. Tom Craft said he can get the split units like we put up in the Arts & Crafts building. Phil Metzger said it can be done, come off the electric on the restroom side of the building.
  3. Paint the roof on the East Gate Horse Barn and finish siding the back side.
  4. Add additional handicap parking in the West Parking lot and have it asphalted. There is a % of parking spaces that are required by law. Tom looked it up, 2% up to 1000 parking spots and 1% above the

1000 parking spots. Jim Schaub will get an estimated cost from Coleman for lining the handicap spots.

5. Campgrounds – the retaining wall needs to be fixed. Make Camping A larger. Update the electric and water. If we change these things, we may have to bring them up to state standards. We are currently grandfathered in, if we do any upgrades, we have to get the state's permission. Remington will get the information. Phil said we don't have the power to make it to 50 amps. It will cost between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00 for fencing and firming up the wall.
6. Speaker systems for the infields and new poles there.
7. Omni Source can provide faster WIFI at about \$1,000.00 less per month. They also provided information on a camera system. We can put cameras in and on all of the buildings where we have internet now. The cost would be between \$200.00 and \$250.00 per camera.
8. Upgrades for sound systems.

Remington Blevins made the motion to adjourn at 8:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn G. Cutlip-Mills, Secretary