

**RICHLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**March 25, 2025**

**Members present:** President Christy Keith, V. President Tom Craft, Immediate Past President James Schaub II, Dave Grauer, Gene Esbenshade, David Dick, Dale Bemiller, Bill McFarland and Kathi Cutlip-Mills

**Staff present:** Shirley Swihart

**Guests present:** Zac Tuttle and Remington Blevins

President Christy Keith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Christy shared that the Executive Committee will meet, tomorrow, Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

The Executive Committee will interview two people, with the first one at 6p.m. and the second at 6:30 p.m.

**David Dick** reported the Livestock Board approved alternative plans if poultry is shutdown.

He emailed the bleacher guy on the electric and gave them Dave Grauer's phone number.

Tagging is getting new forms and are using Show Works. He has 840 tags.

He reported that the Open Class for Rabbits will be Thursday at 9 a.m.; Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. will be showmanship for Rabbits and Wednesday for Breeding and Market at 8:30 a.m. if the Senior Fair Board and Junior Fair board approve of these times.

The Livestock Committee approved spending \$35,500.00 from the Arena Phase II funds for the door, roof and breeze-way. They awarded the contract to Zimmerman.

He also reported that they have someone who will do pictures of the livestock for \$2,200.00 and another \$800.00 for poultry and rabbits.

David also reported that the contract with INC looks fine. There may need to be some adjustments with cleaning and such. They will be in on July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> to

start setting up. They will be in from July 18<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup> with some leaving on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Gene Esbenschade** reported that he has 1 act yet to book for the nature park. He is still working on stuff for the afternoon. He is working on getting final quotes for the stage, lights, and sound for the Christian Concert. So far, we have \$3,000.00 in sponsorships.

Dale Bemiller reported that he has the contract for the announcer for the Harness Racing. The starting gates will be the same one as last year. He needs to get a motel room for the announcer yet.

He shared that he had a call from a gentleman who wants to rent 10 stalls, he told Dale that his trainer is Trish Shephard. The executive board agreed that no he could not bring his horses in as we are not allowing Trish Shephard to work with any horses on our fairgrounds.

There are 11 people in our circuit that are involved with Weiner Dog races. Dale wanted to know if we could post circuit information in our division.

Bill McFarland reminded the Board that Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> is take out for Winter Storage. He will need help that day. He will need skid loaders and people to help. Zac will see if he can come up with a tractor. Bill has the take-in and take-out dates for the next 3 years.

Tom Craft stated that he needs dates for when the Grandstand will be used so he can set dates to work on the restrooms and the stands themselves. He will also get a date set for checking on heating and cooling units in the other buildings.

Dave Grauer shared that the Hog Sale Show will need 3 sets of bleachers. They will set up at 6 p.m. on Thursday night. They will need 15 tables and 120 chairs. The State of Ohio has put restrictions on the movement of poultry at this time. The birds are going to other locations for sale.

The manure pit has been enlarged at the swine barn. He needs help setting the cement blocks in place. They need 12-15 more cement barriers (they are \$75.00 each).

ODOT has 35 barrier blocks, they are on an on-line auction currently and so far the bid is \$5.00 each.

He heard from the gentleman from Pioneer about the volunteers to help us. It is set for Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 9a.m.-2p.m. He told Dave that he has 10-20 volunteers. Dave told him that would be enough.

Dave also knows there are some 4-H groups that want to do things. He is working with person to schedule some work days.

He contacted Henry's about the Glass Doors in Fairhaven as the locks are getting harder and harder to lock/unlock. They said that they can't do anything more with them. J&B worked on them. We can go back to 4-Doors and put glass in the sides. The estimate from him was \$18,720.00 if we frame them in, the cost would only be \$14,000.00. The doors need to be done now. Adena would do all of it, 4 doors in center, framing, insulate, paint and masonry, etc. estimate from them is \$44,300.00 and if we did 8 doors with them it would be \$50,000.00. We have \$57,000.00 set aside for building updates. J&B would work with the grounds committee. The inside doors would not be changed. We can either block them out or even chain them. J&B make their own things. Dave is to get prices from All Glass.

Jim Schaub II reported that the Boiler Inspector was out and everything is OK. He wants them in metal when the warranty runs out. Tom Craft stated that the furnaces and the air conditioner (it's the original one) are on borrowed time. He thinks they were installed in 1980 or 1981.

Dave Grauer shared that Brian from Allied is working on 2 coolers for us. He thinks they will be in this week. It was agreed that YES we are interested in them. We need a work day to flip the convection ovens and the ice machines.

Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that the concession contracts have started coming in. If we don't get them shortly, we have a stack of potential food vendors who would like to be part of our fair.

Christy Keith shared that the "Fair Sponsorship" Packet is updated for this year.

A discussion about having fireworks at the fair this year was held. The cost would be around \$6,000.00. We currently do not have a sponsor for that. It was agreed that we need parking for the fair more than we need fireworks.

Gene Esbenshade made the motion to close the meeting at 6:35 P.M. Bill McFarland seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted

Kathryn Cutlip-Mills, Secretary