

Richland County Agricultural Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 24th 2026

President Christy Keith called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was taken for members.

Staff Present: Shirley Swihart

Guests Present: Phil Metzger, Andrea Rees, Deb Boyce,

Secretaries Report, Remington Blevins moved to accept the report seconded by Zac Tuttle, motion passed

Treasurers Report, Scott Smith moved to accept the report, seconded by Remington Blevins, motion passed. There was a question raised regarding a higher than normal gas bill, there had been some buildings that were left with the thermostats high after rentals. Motion passed.

Events Coordinator reported there is the Craft Show and Cat Show coming up, winter storage move out, along with Pioneer Work day will be April 23rd, followed by the Flea Market then Civil War.

Committee Reports:

Tshirts, Budget, Livestock, Campground, Racetrack, Golf Carts, Bylaws, Admissions, Elections, Grandstands, Parking, Antiques, Equine, Social Media, Safety, Infield, Entertainment, Show Arena, Landscaping, - Nothing to report.

Concessions – Contracts are coming in, Gene called on people who have not gotten them back in yet. Question asked how many new spots we will gain with the new electric, Phil Metzger answered more in the grandstand area and in the game area.

Raffles – A big thank you to everyone who helped at the sportsman raffle, so far the number was at \$74,550, but there were still some things to come out, so that number is not final yet. Motion was made to Donate \$1500 each to New Store of Mansfield, and Friendly House by Dave Grauer and seconded by Scott Smith, motion passed. Motion was made to donate \$500 each to Plymouth Alumni, and Lexington Athletic Boosters for their spinner and mouse game use by Dave Grauer, seconded by Zac Tuttle. Motion Passed.

Winter Storage – Move out April 11th starting at 8 am

Livestock Judges – Contracts are all sent out

Kitchen Aux – Kitchen help needed for the Cat Show, Flea Market, and Civil War Weekend

Grounds – Red Barn is all fixed from the freeze this winter, there will be more electric getting installed upstairs to help with rentals. Question asked when the Grandstands need to be opened, answer was not till May. Youth Hall painting is all done, just a couple doors left to do, new heaters and hot water tanks have also been installed. Currently looking in to the price of portable bleachers, looking to get 3 sets, two sets have been approved for purchase by the livestock committee as well for INK. There are a couple poles across the grounds that need repaired along with some downed wires on the Lantz Rd.

side. There will be a lock going on the maintenance door in Arts & Crafts, the main breaker keeps getting shut off. There is a sewer pipe issue found in Fairhaven Hall that Keiths Plumbing was out to try and fix. The drain tile work is complete in the infield, and the ground will be getting smoothed out soon. There was damage to the New Show Arena sign during the last storm and will be looking in to ordering a new sign. There has been some updates to the Jr. Fair office and has been cleaned out. Dave Grauer is working on the round table racks for all the new tables that were purchased. It was discussed about putting down artificial turf in the new show arena, there maybe some available for donation, this will be discussed again at a later date. Currently the board is looking in to quotes for ceiling repair/insulation in Fairhaven Hall. K&A Tree also approached the board about offering to trim trees around the property in exchange for free signage and a drink stand spot in the vendors.

Old Business:

-The Lantz Rd. property will be posting for sale in April, Dave Dick will be getting in contact with them about the possibility of purchase.

-Phil Metzger Electrical Upgrade quote:

- Updating Transformers

- Back up transformer

- Possibility of selling old transformers to put funds towards upgrades.

- Would be looking around \$60k for new transformers and labor

- There has been no word from Ohio Edison regarding the damaged pole

- Would need to earmark another \$30k for repair

Question was raised if this could all be completed by INK, Phil assured the board it would be done.

Motion was made to spend up to \$60k in electrical upgrades for the 500 KVA Ground Unit, made by Dale Hult, seconded by Zac Tuttle. Motion Passed

Motion was made to pay up to \$10K to bore the wire underground by Matt Janish, seconded by Colton Dull. Motion Passed.

New Business:

-A/C in Youth Hall, looking to get mini splits to mount in the corners, the units themselves would be \$25k, MR Heating & Cooling would donate the labor to install, there would also need to be \$6500 in electrical upgrades needed to make this happen. – We will come back to this April Meeting.

- The board has been looking in to new smart thermostats to install in the buildings, it would be \$3000 for the thermostats, labor, and programing. Motion was made by Dale Hult to pull \$3000 from the rental fund to move forward, and seconded by Dave Grauer. Motion passed.

-Roof Repair in Fairhaven Office, discussion was had to either file a claim, or continue to gather estimates for repair. So fair the board has gotten one quote, and is looking in to others.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting made by Dave Dick, seconded by Remington Belvins , Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12PM

Submitted by Sadie Hoyt