



# PAULDING COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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The Regular Meeting of the Paulding County Agricultural Society was called to order by President Dan Howell on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Paulding County Fairgrounds Secretary's Office. The following members were present: Faith Meraz, Dan Howell, Austin Conlon, Nolan Johanns, Brandon Wobler, Randy Slattman, Bruce Farquhar, Rhonda Bates, Sarah McCabe, Francis Saxton, Rebecca Kessler, and Jonathon Rose.

Lori Davis, Gus Davis, Miranda Leatherman, Chad Manz, Heidi Conlon, and Shawn Hurd were excused.

The guests present were Colton Howell, Kaylie Tressler, Michael Schweinsberg, Myleigh Sheets, Hannah Griffiths, and Ira Good.

## **Guests:**

- Austin Conlon moved to go to guests, and Nolan Johanns seconded. The motion carried.
- Myleigh Sheets and Hannah Griffiths, members of the junior fairboard, shared that the board is awaiting the new goat pens but is otherwise mostly prepared for fair.
- Colton Howell and Kaylie Tressler indicated that the goat pens are supposed to arrive the Tuesday after Memorial Day.
- Ira attended the board meeting to determine the board's needs for cleaning the fairgrounds' restrooms. He requested to come in before the fair to make sure they are stocked and ready to go. He will also need to check the youth leadership building and extension hall, and a gator will be here for his use.

- Michael Schweinsberg needs volunteers for Skillathon on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers should arrive at 3:30, and it lasts from 4 to 7. Rhonda, Dan, Nolan, Faith, Kaylie, and Colton volunteered. FairEntry is coming along, and he is just awaiting a few exhibitors to double-check entries. Vickie Boroff has been getting familiar with the FairEntry system. As soon as tagging is done, she will be able to set the sale order. Michael will need classes for the open shows by the end of the weekend in order to enter this information into FairEntry and prepare individuals to begin submitting entries.
- Austin Conlon moved to return to regular business. Rhonda Bates seconded, and the motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

- Brandon Wobler moved to approve the previous meeting minutes as sent out via email before the meeting. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- Due to Heidi Conlon's absence, there was no treasurer's report at this time.

### **New Business:**

- Nolan Johanns shared that he has a judge for the open swine show. Everything is in place for NTPA and ready to go for fair week.
- Brandon Wobler shared about camping for fair week and asked board members their preference for when to begin camping move-in. The suggestion was to begin on Tuesday night before the fair and have move-in completed by Thursday. He is planning to reach out to campers via phone call as well as have information put out about camping on the Facebook page and website.
- Randy Slattman shared that there are several plugs burnt out on the fairgrounds. Because the campers are growing in size and need more amperage, the 30 amps are burning up. The board discussed moving up to 50 amps for those to be replaced.
- Bruce Farquhar shared about the preparation of the grandstand and horse track area. He would like to put up barriers against parking that would interfere with horse trailers, at least during the days with racing and pulling events on the track.

- Gus Davis had brought to attention that there is severe erosion, and it is washing the track out. The county has recommended cap basins and tile. The county will supply labor and stone, and a donation has been made for the tile. There is a cost of \$1000 for catch basins. In its current condition, the track would not be approved to race. Rhonda Bates moved to approve \$1000 to move forward with the project from the start and finish line to the drain. Francis Saxton seconded, and the motion carried.
- Jonathon Rose shared that he is continuing to work on finding a beef judge – will ask the junior fairboard to confirm judges that can be reached out to. He also shared that he is looking to do banners for the open beef show.
- Rhonda Bates shared that the grange building is almost ready to go. A set of risers has been repaired, the booths are getting finished up, there is a list of names for judges, and she found rosettes and flags for Veterans' Day recognition.
- The board discussed getting the dates changed on the sign at the front gate.
- Rhonda Bates also shared an update on the livestock sale. There is a committee meeting on 5/24/2025 at 9:30 to run through the list of workers and make sure everything is in place and ready to go for the sale. As a reminder, no animals will go through the ring and superintendents of the barns are to mark animals going to the packer at the conclusion of their assigned species selling. There will be morning meetings at the fair at 7 a.m. each day. The board discussed taking turns getting breakfast each morning.
- Sarah McCabe shared that new flyers have been made for the LEGO contest, sponsorship is obtained, and once FairEntry is set, it will be ready to go. The board discussed whether there were any additional venues to send the flyer to.
- Faith Meraz shared that the fair schedule has been sent to West Bend for printing. A spreadsheet has been made to take stock of the sponsorship banners, and there are some banners still needing to be looked through.
- Dan Howell shared about the needed repairs and current bills from the vandalism incident.
- Johnathon Rose moved to pay Pease Construction for the repair of \$307.50 for the door jambs. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.

- A contractor had volunteered to look at the end of the grange building, which was damaged. The repairs would include a new entry door, residing the steel, fixing corners that had been previously damaged, and putting up a white seal. The quote is for \$821.03, and the contractor asks for volunteers to assist. The board further discussed fixing the electricity during this project. Affordable Home Improvement LLC. Francis Saxton moved to go forward with the project and approve the quote of \$821.03 from Affordable Home Improvement, LLC., to repair the grange building. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- An overhead map of every building on the fairgrounds with labels for each building was made by Sarah Noggle for use in the vandalism court case.
- There are doors still holding remnants of damage from the spray paint. Ed Kincaid Painting and Sandblasting provided a quote of \$2665 to paint the damaged entry doors and garage doors. The board discussed that this cost will go to court to recoup. It was also mentioned that the panels could not be replaced for less than that. Francis moved to approve the quote of \$265 from Ed Kincaid Painting and Sandblasting to paint the affected garage and walk-through doors. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- Francis Saxton moved to pay the bill of \$717.28 to Gary Mielke of GT Lubricants for the citrol used to clean up the spray paint. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- The board discussed continuing to sell ice to vendors and campers. A cut-off time of 5 p.m. for campers and 9 p.m. for vendors was suggested. One individual from the board would be responsible each day, taking the office cell phone in order to have a consistent number to reach out to.
- The ATM company is coming back to the fair this year. There will be one machine in the extension building and one in the poultry barn.
- For the maintenance building, the board discussed having the building power washed and spray-painted or painting it themselves. Lippert has reached out on this project to have the company do so as a community service project.

- PC Workshop reached out about doing some footage during the fair, such as for the Animal and Me show. They make movies promoting the programs for their personnel. Jonathon Rose moved to grant permission for PC Workshop to film. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried.
- The board was contacted by the Crescent News for the summer guide. It is \$500 to include the schedule and a story about the fair. There are physical copies and is available online. Brandon Wobler moved to approve advertising with Crescent News in the summer guide for \$500. Austin Conlon seconded, and the motion carried.
- It was discussed that there was a problem with the schedule: the Showman of Showmen contest was changed to 11 a.m., and Horse Contesting at 4 p.m.
- For the track lighting project, funds have not been received. The board does not have sufficient fraud insurance on the treasurer. The board needs to go to the \$50,000 limit, increasing the cost around \$400. The board discussed that this would allow for the receipt of the lighting grant and to move forward with the project. Rhonda Bates moved to approve moving up to the \$50,000 limit on the fraud insurance. Francis Saxton seconded, and the motion carried.
- The board discussed options for purchasing a new popcorn maker for the concession stand.
- The secretary's office refrigerator has gone bad and needs to be removed. Brandon Wobler offered to look into a used fridge to replace the one in the office.
- The Paulding Fire and Antwerp EMS is sorting out coverage for fair week, and packets will be ready for them. It was discussed that Oakwood is covering the horse races.
- There was discussion of reviewing the emergency procedures. The EMA and the sheriff's department are involved in potential occurrences. The board discussed the importance of using radios during fair week. It was suggested to have this demonstration on move-in day after weigh-in is complete.
- The board is looking into options for getting water out to the open show parking area. The county will provide cones if requested. The board discussed having a sign made to state: OPEN SHOW PARKING. On open show days, the gates would be closed to

prevent individuals coming for the open show from crowding the areas around the barn. Campers would be alerted of this closure, and information would be put out for those attending the open shows. The board is also looking into roadblocks to allow animal crossing from the open show parking area safely onto the fairgrounds.

- There was discussion of the contract to be offered to the Paulding County Festival. In past years, the contract for the Flatrock Festival was \$4500 last year. Rhonda Bates moved to offer a contract of \$4500 to the Paulding County Festival for the use of the grounds with a clear move-in date and times, with a move-out of Sunday morning. Jonathon Rose seconded, and the motion carried. It was discussed that the contract includes that water and electricity will have to be paid by the festival afterward.
- Schlatter's Plumbing was called in to fix the west end restrooms for breaks in copper lines. The technician recommended getting rid of copper wire for these shower house restrooms. The restroom is working, and the access valve is currently off in case of leaks. This project will be looked into further after the fair.
- It was discussed that board members should attend work meetings if able.
- The board discussed developing of schedule for workers in the secretary's office. Brittany Turner and Alexis Howell were previous approved to work in the office. It was discussed to have them attend the emergency protocol meeting and demonstration, as well as Vickie Boroff and other fairgrounds workers.
- The board discussed asking the junior class prom committee to work grandstand gates as well as other area groups that may be interested.
- A few fire extinguishers were missed in the check earlier this year. Those that have not been checked need to be collected and sent in. There are missing brackets for the extinguishers that will need to be found or replaced.
- If board members have not done so, they need to see Dave Kline for an ID at the courthouse.
- Brandon Wobler moved to go into an executive session. Nolan Johanns seconded, and the motion carried. The board moved into an executive session.

- Brandon Wobler moved to return to the regular meeting from the executive session. Randy Slattman seconded, and the motion carried.

**Adjournment:**

- Rhonda Bates moved to adjourn the meeting, and Nolan Johanns seconded. The motion carried.

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_