

# Mercer County Fair Association

PO Box 640, Beulah, ND 58523  
www.mercercountyfair.com

**2023 Fair Board Directors**  
Rick Bauman, President  
Rick Skraba, Vice President  
Jeff Klein, Treasurer  
Craig Askim, Secretary  
Billy Anvik  
Valerie Bauman  
Kathy Earnest  
Mark Hafner  
Duane Hopfauf  
Roy Rasch  
Rita Skraba  
Tiffany Weigum  
Cody Wiedrich

## FAIR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bee's Café - Hazen  
January 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Bauman at 6:40 p.m.

**Members Present:** Billy Anvik, Craig Askim, Rick Bauman, Valerie Bauman, Duane Hopfauf, Mark Hafner, Roy Rasch, Rick Skraba, Rita Skraba, Tiffany Weigum and Cody Wiedrich,

**Members Absent:** Kathy Earnest, Jeff Klein

**Guests Present:** Cora Smith, Gaylen Sailer

**Secretary's Minutes** – Mark moved to accept the December 6, 2023 secretary report with one correction that the amount paid for the cooler was \$500 and not \$5,000, as emailed. Val seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Jeff was not present at the meeting. Rick B. stated we had about \$800 in the checking account. The commissioner's approved the Fair Board request of \$61,000, for operating in 2024.

**Correspondence:** None.

### Old Business:

- **Entertainment Update** – All contracts are in place but some need to be signed. We do not have contracts from Rocky Top, JC Hatter, Messy Mania, Laser Tag or Gateway to Science.
- **Hazen Harvest Fest** – The Hazen Harvest Fest committee wants to work with the Fair Board to get the band Hairball to come to their event. The Harvest Fest committee planned to have a member attend our meeting, but a misunderstanding of the date occurred and no one was present. The Fair Board needs to figure out costs before entering into an agreement. Some board members raised concerns that the Fair Board was taking all the risk in this possible adventure. Costs like stage, insurance, lights/sound, ticket sales, food vendors and beer gardens still need to be figured out. The board took no action and will try to schedule a meeting with the Hazen Harvest committee in the near future.
- **City of Beulah Contract for Building** – Rick B. has not met with the City of Beulah yet to discuss this issue. He has requested to meet with them. Hopefully, a meeting will be set in the next few weeks.
- **Scholarships** - Tiffany drafted a scholarship letter and passed it around to board members. The board talked about getting banners or yard signs for people that sponsor so they can post year-round.
- **Open Class Judges** –No livestock judges for large or small animals have been hired yet but the board is starting to look around. Rita made two calls for static judges.

## Old Business (continued):

- **ATM Machine** – Billy will see if we can put the machine in the Country Kettle. He is working on getting keys to unlock it and see what type of paperwork and account we need to get it up and running.
- **West River Judging Contest** - Craig stated the West River Judging Contest will take place on February 17. The Fair Board stated they will take over the set up and clean up of the livestock part of the judging contest. The board could not remember if they approved a sponsorship for the contest so Rita moved to sponsor \$1,000 for the event. Rick S. seconded. Motion carried.

## New Business

- **Carnival** - Rick B. stated the carnival does not want to run on Sunday of the Fair but is willing to run Wednesday instead. The board moved to start the fair on Wednesday, with some events happening on Sunday of the fair, but no carnival will be running. The Mercer County Fair will now be held July 10-14. The fair will open at 3 p.m. on Wednesday. The board looked for ideas for Wednesday. Duane moved to try and hire the Moon Cats band for Wednesday night. Rick S. seconded. Motion carried. With these changes to the fair, some events may get moved to a different time. One suggestion is to move the 4-H horse show and static judging to Wednesday.
- **Fair Ground Improvement Projects** –
  - **Arena** - Rick B. can get steel pipe for the arena. The board's goal is to redo the arena this spring.
  - **Storage Shed** - the board wants to move the old beer garden shed over by the hog barn to use as the rabbit/poultry barn and remove the current overhead barn where the rabbits and chickens are currently penned.
  - **Water to Arena and Hoop Barns** – the board will get an estimate for getting water to the arena and hoop barns.
- **Other Business** – Cora Smith, Beulah FFA, thanked the board for allowing them to use the curtains for the Date Abroad event which raised money for the Ronald McDonald House. The Beulah FFA is planning a kid's day this spring where they are hoping to bring in agriculture animals for the kids to see baby lambs, pigs, calves etc. She asked the board if she could use panels for the event. Rick S. moved to allow her to use whatever panels she would need. Roy seconded. Motion carried.
- **West River Judging Set up** – February 15, 3:30 p.m., at the hoop barns

The next meeting will be February 21, at 6:30 p.m., at the Country Kettle in Beulah.

Rita moved to adjourn the meeting. Val seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Submitted by:

Craig Askim, CEA/Fair Board Secretary