



361275

Thursday, Sept. 10th, 7:00pm at the Fairgrounds in Chinook.

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Agenda:

STATE OF MONTANA BLAINE COUNTY
RECORDED: 10/16/2015 3:25 KOI: MINUTES
SANDRA L. BOARDMAN CLERK AND RECORDER
FEE: \$0.00 BY: *Lauree Sue Riggs*
TO: BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

In attendance: Mike, Linda, Dale, Wendy, Loren, John.

Guests: Julie Terry, representing Chinook junior class; Mary Pyette, Jeni Pula, Denny Overcast, Sandy Miller, and Art Kleinjain, representing Sweet Nursing Home; Robin Allen Jirovski, representing Chinook FFA.

Minutes

Wendy read the minutes and had also emailed them. Dale moved to accept the minutes as read. Mike seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The budget reports that came in today show \$13,521.31 remaining for this year. Premium Money account showed \$2,249.48 remaining as of Aug. 31. There are likely still a number of not yet cashed premium checks out there.

Public Comment/Guests

Julie Terry asked if there was a fairgrounds building that the junior class could use to build their float next week during class time and evening and they need it to stay overnight indoors. Loren clarified it would be under the school's insurance. Julie and Faye Friede are the class advisors and would be here. The board ok'd the use of the commercial building by the junior class to build their float as long as the building gets cleaned up. No rental fee, and no deposit.

Robin Jirovsky said Chinook FFA would like to make their food booth under the grandstands more efficient and large enough to fit all their drink coolers. They are currently brainstorming about how to expand it differently. They will bring any plans to the fair board for approval before building. She wondered if there is any documentation on what can or cannot go on under the grandstands as far as venting, emergency exit routes, etc. Mike and Dale noted we are working on an emergency exit plan before next fair and need to think about getting people safely out the main doors. Robin said one idea was to have one of the large exit doors open right into their booth, but considering that, now wonders if that would interfere with emergency exit requirements. They are also thinking of installing some type of griddle that they may need to vent out. Linda pointed out not having any open flames inside because the building is wood. Robin wondered if an electric griddle would be ok, but Dale noted that a problem might be finding enough breaker power. Possible locations of hoods were discussed. John asked that Robin and the FFA put together some plans for the board to look at. Dale reminded of the requirement that they are not serving the same type of food as other booths on the fairgrounds. Mike asked that the group put together a menu and give it to Wendy ahead of time. That is what we are having everyone do. Robin added that any time the board needs fair improvements to let the FFA know, as they are always looking for community projects for the FFA kids to do. John noted that works well because we trade the FFA in-kind services instead of rent charges.

Art Kleinjain stated that the Sweet Nursing Home crew was in attendance at the meeting just checking up on the road project started over a year ago at the nursing home. When Tom Fairbanks was road crew

supervisor they had planned to start on the road this winter. Dirk Drugge, the new supervisor, said he thought the fair board was having some issues with the road being changed. John replied that we have been waiting for the plans, waiting to hear back from the nursing home with the previously agreed-upon updates. The original plan was way too wide, and 2 ditches have to be moved. Art said they would like to have the road slope tight against the west barrow ditch. Then the road, then the ditch. They didn't know if the ditch would serve the fairgrounds and Dave Taylor both? John said, yes, that is right. Art clarified, so if we survey that in and got that ditch so it would work for both of you? No sense having a barrow ditch if we are going to have an irrigation ditch. John reminded that a headgate and natural gas line that are there would have to be kept in mind. Art said Dirk is waiting to hear from all of us to see if he will go ahead with it this winter. Wendy asked, weren't we supposed to receive a new drawing of the project with the updates? Jeni will provide copies of the drawing. Art said they did contact the state highway department about the approach, and they said just to build it like you would any approach, no big deal. John asked if the road is going to be paved. Art said not at this time. The approach might be. But the agreement they made with the road department was that Sweet Home would pay them to do the work at their cost, but they don't know if they have enough money to pave it at this time. They need to see what the commissioners think about that parking lot because that belongs to them. Art said, from this original plan, we were going to try to eliminate that 14 feet. Jeni stated that cannot all be eliminated because of code. We can make it 2 feet smaller, but to make code so it does not wash out, it cannot be a lot smaller. It would be just about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre in land loss to the fair board. John asked, what is the 14ft? In the map provided it looked like it was going out a lot further than it needs to be. Jeni said in the new plan the road can move over 6ft of that 14ft. The architect kept the ditch 4ft from the proposed parking lot. Denny noted there needs to be some slope off the parking lot to drain it. John asked where that drains to. Denny said it looks like the pipe into the drain along the highway. So to the north. Dale asked is the edge of the parking lot where it ends now? Denny said he believed so. Jeni said it is really close to the existing area, maybe a few feet over, because the lift station right now is on the edge of their parking area. John asked are they going to have the ditch surveyed so it will flow water? Denny said yes. They need to slope the parking lot because right now water flows toward the building. John reiterated that the board would like to see the right, updated drawings and then Sweet Home should have someone go flag it so the board can go out and take a look at it. Jeni said the Road Dept. has the new drawing. Art clarified, so the only concerns you folks have is to cut that 14ft down as much as we can? John said yes, and we would also like to see it flagged out there, so we can see how it's going to lay. Mike asked, are we donating the land for the road? Art said the parking lot belongs to the county, not the fair board. Sweet Home are supposed to pay \$1 a year lease on that [to the county]. Denny stated they may be able to do the project in a little less than the 14 ft but it is nice to have a nice slope to where you can mow it. Art said he didn't see why you can't slope right down into the borrow ditch. John said 6ft would be a pretty decent slope because it is not being raised much. Denny said that is right, you just have to have a base to make the road solid and that is what we will have to raise it. Might want to use fabric under it. Art noted about the only runoff would be rain. The snow gets moved. Denny pointed out that it will a better exit for the fair when large crowds area leaving. Jeni added, that puts the nursing home residents in danger, having thru-traffic through there right now. Eighteen of the 42 patients have severe dementia. If they get out, they go right into traffic. Kids, big trucks, and fair traffic, goes through there now. Art said, we will try to get the architects to get a better drawing. Wendy asked that they email her then so she could let the fair board know when the new drawings and flags are ready. Art said it should be in a week or 10 days or so.

Old business

Fairgrounds Drainage and water issues: John Pike fixed the water leak by the Ag building. We haven't received the bill yet, Wendy said. Wendy also hasn't heard anything from Jeremy Siemens regarding the survey.

Upcoming events: The multi-county carnival meeting will be held in Glasgow this Saturday at 11am at their courthouse We will carpool in John's Expedition; meet at Town Pump on Saturday at 8 a.m. FFA requests that the fair not be held during the school year, but later in the summer would be better for crops and animals. Sugarbeet Festival is Sept. 25-27. The Chamber is just using the arena for team penning and the back of the grandstand for a drive-in movie this year. They are not using the events center for black pot cooking this year. We have received their deposit and fee already. The Gun Show is Oct 1-4. Barry Murnion didn't think they would need the Ag building this year, after all, just the commercial building and outdoor space like last year. The Events Center has been reserved for the Josh Nordboe wedding Oct. 31. RMAF Fair Convention is in November: 3 hotel rooms are reserved at the Hampton Inn NOT on a credit card, just a hold, under John Skoyen's name and Blaine County Fair. Wendy made the check request with the clerk's office for 3 convention registration fees (\$600 total), for John, Loren and Linda. . Wendy is to contact RMAF and find out how board members' spouses need to register for convention, and also find out if the RMAF board had seen the fair board's complaint letter yet regarding Paradise Amusements Carnival. The Board would like Wendy to find a way for them to get copies of the RMAF newsletters, too. Wendy was asked to make copies of the Convention materials for John, Loren, and Linda.

Events Center/Kitchen: Wendy reported the keypad lock has stopped working, even after she tried new batteries. The board advised her to try another set of batteries, and if that doesn't work, contact Casey Jones to look at it.

The board asked that Wendy check the tractor hours. At 100 hours, we will need to service it with John Deere filters.

Building & grounds repairs/maint.: Wendy reported the toilet in grandstands is fixed. Darius and RRR Plumbing worked on it and replaced the back of the toilet with a used one. It had cracked from someone pushing a lot of pressure against it, so Darius plans to put some boards behind to reinforce it. Darius had to order a new lawnmower blade from Ace, \$34. Many times he has sharpened the old ones but they are just too far gone now. He's been keeping things mowed, cleaning up weeds, etc. and only works 20-25 hours/month now. Wendy noted we'll need to set a date to turn off the water and blow out the lines by early October. The next Fair board meeting will be Thursday Oct 8th. We will meet at the fairgrounds to blow out the lines the next day, Friday Oct. 9th at 1:00pm. Darius and Wendy will drain and antifreeze the toilets as usual then, too.

Budget: Regarding the Sponsorship packages, Wendy asked if any changes should be made to the flyer and how to proceed with selling the packages. Loren reported he found that aluminum sign costs were above \$300 each. Mike said he will check with his brother to see if he can get a better price. John thought if a sponsor is going to pay that much money, they are going to want their logo on it, even if it's 5 or 6 colors. Loren will ask Heather tomorrow about the details of the boards she can do, if she can do aluminum and for what cost.

To sell the sponsorship signs, we'll start with a letter, and see how much response we get. We may then need to follow up in person and maybe follow up with an ad in the paper. Ask to get an article in the paper. Make sure it's clear that it's separate from the derby. We'll also have announcers at the fair read

the list of sponsor names. Wendy will have a booth during Sugarbeet Festival to tell people about the sponsor signs, and hopefully sign them up. Wendy will contact Moxley's for their business info, and how they would like it on an 8x4 sign, so we can get a sample made ASAP. Mike thinks Heather has Moxley's logo on file. Wendy will call reporter Steve Edwards and ask if the newspaper will write a story on this for us. Wendy will put together a letter mailing about the sponsor signs ASAP. Write an intro letter – with tight budgets and the increasing cost of getting a good carnival for kids to enjoy, we need to raise money. Explain what we are doing, why we are doing so, that we need support if we are going to be able to bring a fair to the community as we have very limited resources and are also trying to improve the fairgrounds. Linda will help Wendy stuff and stamp envelopes. We should also go through the phone book, etc., and send the letters to ranchers and farmers, bull breeders, and feedlots. Linda will help with that. Include Harlem, Chinook/Blaine County area, and Havre businesses. Wendy and Linda will meet to stuff and stamp the letters Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Fair Office at 10:30 am. Wendy will post it on the fair website and Facebook page, too. Robin will send letters home with the FFA kids and post in on their Chinook FFA Facebook page. Wendy will ask Denie at the Extension Office to put it in their 4-H letter, too.

Wendy will follow up with Yesco and see if they are interested in leasing a billboard on the fairgrounds property. On the topic of billboards, Wendy wondered what are the details on the sign for the Wildlife Museum on the fairgrounds property, and the Welcome to Chinook sign. Were they originally donated that space, or are they supposed to be paying us some type of lease?

Loren suggested a fundraising idea, hosting a Brewfest at the fairgrounds. We could invite Triple Dog, and the breweries in Belt, Great Falls, etc. Malta had a brew fest, some vendors selling hors d'oeuvres, and charged people at the door. Loren will go talk to Triple Dog to see what they think. Someone used to have a microbrewfest in Havre every year and they always sold out. Maybe people could get 3 brews with their door entry fee, and after that, they buy the beers from the breweries.

Loren will invite James DesRosier to next fair board meeting to help come up with fundraising ideas.

Mike suggested we could do a team penning, or a team roping. There is nothing like that close-by; people have to go to Billings or Kalispell to rope. This would be something for the spring, an open roping, like a jackpot. We would want to check with the guys in Malta to make sure our dates don't conflict. Mike will check on this and will talk to Shane Schwenke about how to put one on. Linda noted the biggest expense is the cattle, not easy to find and expensive. Mike will also talk to the barrel racing association to see if we can do something for them as a fundraiser. If we sponsored it, they wouldn't have to buy the insurance. Only problem, they want to pay out in prizes all the money that they take in. Robin said she thinks the board could also videotape events at the fair and sell the DVDs, like to kids grandparents, etc., to raise money. Wendy suggested some type of raffle, and wondered if the board wanted to work on setting a date for a Boxing/Mixed Martial Arts fundraising event yet.

Regarding the sale of the land to Triple T that they lease from us annually, Wendy shared with the board the email from county attorney Kelsie Harwood. The commissioners would have to approve it. We would need an appraisal first. If it is more than \$2,500 in value, it would need to go to public auction, likely. The commissioners have the authority to decide where the money goes. We would also need to find out if that piece needed to be subdivided off from the rest of the fairgrounds. John will talk to Dave Taylor. We'll hold off on doing anything for now.

Wendy had also asked Kelsie about selling, leasing out, and getting out from under the tax burden of the excess water rights. Kelsie said she didn't have much background on water rights so asked for some extra time to work on this and check with other attorneys who do.

Wendy reminded the board that a bill should be coming for Ralph and Wendy Page's car repairs but we haven't received it yet. The repairs are done and they are happy.

Wendy just received the electric bills from during the fair and will invoice the concessions stands ASAP. Regarding an invoice for past usage of electricity by the Road Dept. – Loren and Wendy planned to work on that tonight. Wendy wondered if she should give the invoice to both the Road Dept and the Commissioners. The board advised her to give it to the commissioners, particularly as Delores Plumage was who advised us to put it in writing when we last met with the commissioners. Wendy reported that the commissioners denied our \$29 bill from Shores Floral for the roses for the Ammen family. Wendy asked County Clerk Sandi Boardmann about any additional money that we make through selling sponsorships or fundraisers, etc. and how we would have to handle that. We would go ahead and deposit it at the courthouse and it would go into our "Cash". But before we could spend it, we would have to have a public meeting with the commissioners, advertised in the paper two weeks in advance, according to the law.

Since last meeting we've received some additional checks that were due from derby sponsors but still haven't yet received the following, so Wendy will be invoicing them again: Bear Paw Title, Black Butte Electric, Finley's Food Farm, Fisher Seeds, Frontier Lawn & Landscape (Scott was going to do), Havre Ford, Heflin Fencing, JF Welding/Josh Frank, Little Kritters, LT Trucking/Lee Farmer, Miller Motors/Harold Miller, Nu Wave Oil Tools/Darren Huestis, Rainbow Irrigation, Showtime Fireworks. Wendy will also invoice any remaining arena banner sponsors who haven't yet paid and the two 4-H families who haven't yet paid for their RV camping fees. Also, Larry Surber called from Rainbow Irrigation and objected to the \$75 outdoor vendor fee. They felt that they should not be charged that fee since they put on the breakfast and haven't been charged before. Wendy went ahead and told them she thought we could waive it as an in-kind, then, as she just hadn't been aware that it was always handled as an in-kind for the breakfast in the past.

Loren reported that Northwest Energy did get the poles redone over by the concessions stands.

Rodeo arena, Indoor arena plans: Regarding events that the fair board hosts in the Grandstands, Wendy checked with Mike Inman and there is NO insurance requirement that we fence off the beer garden. He said that was a fair board decision years ago that could be changed by this board. The board members were glad to hear that and plan to no longer fence off the beer gardens in future fairs.

New Business

Next meeting will be Thursday October 8th at the fairgrounds.

"Any public comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the board will be heard."

