



FAIR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2018

The meeting was held at the Madison County Fairgrounds, Twin Bridges, Montana, on January 17, 2018, and came to order at 6:05 pm. Those present were: Dana Escott (Fairgrounds Manager), Chad Armstrong (Board Chairman), Bill Holden (Vice-Chairman), Tom Leo (Fair Board), Bob Lancaster (Maintenance), Bart Story (Livestock/4H), Stan Olsen (4H Council President), Randy Lowder, Dan Allhands (Commissioner), Ron Nye (Commissioner), Tom Hyndman (Mayor), Caitlin Avey (Madisonian), and Jani Flinn (Grant Administrator). Dana Escott took minutes.

Minutes: Tom moved to approve the November 16, 2017 minutes with no corrections. Bill seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Budget: Cash is \$89,553.72. Commissioner Nye and Caitlin Avey entered meeting at 6:07 pm.

Bills: The list of bills for January, 2018, were presented to the Fair Board. Tom moved to pay the January bills. Bill seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Input on Agenda and/or Non Agenda Items: Commissioner Allhands advised the commissioners had received an email from a concerned citizen regarding Commissioner's meetings. The Resolution 4-2018 (A Resolution Establishing Locations for Posting Public Notice) was read by Commissioner Allhands referencing Section 7-1-2121, MCA, Section 7-1-2122, MCA, Section 7-1-2123, MCA, wherein the commissioners designated three places to post agendas. 1. The bulletin board located at the front entrance of the Administrative Office, 103 West Wallace, Virginia City, Montana; 2. The bulletin board located in the first floor of the courthouse, 100 West Wallace, Virginia City, Montana; and 3. The bulletin board located in the Virginia City Post Office. Further discussion was that emails are not considered as posting agendas, only a courtesy to those requesting an emailed agenda. Randy Lowder advised that a previous meeting a fair board member asked what the duties of the fair board are and that Resolution 12-2017 (A Resolution Establishing the Madison County Fair Board) was signed by the commissioners on May 2, 2017, in which under Section 7-1-201(c), MCA, states the Resolution creating an administrative board, district, or commission must grant the board district, or commission all powers necessary and proper to the establishment, operation improvements, maintenance, and administration of the department or district. Further discussion was Commissioner Allhands is working with MSU to arrange for some classes for Boards and will let the Fair Board know when there is a class.

Communications: Thank you cards from Larry and Verta Dorseth (2017 Parade Marshals), Cathy Spich (2017 fair award winner), and Bridgette Fernandez (2017 fair award winner) were read aloud.

REPORTS:

4-H: Stan advised that there is a new Extension Agent, Kerry Taylor from New Mexico. Stan reported that there will be a spring fair for the small animal groups to get together and encourage more participation in small animal projects in June or July. The chicken classes have grown and may need to remodel to accommodate chickens and ducks. Further discussion was if possibly the 4H book could be a part of the fair book. Tom asked about the classes being on line and when the entry dates for 4H were since our fair book

comes out in July. The fair book has all the 4H shows and times in it and since the fair book comes out in July and times change on occasion, the book will reference “Show times subject to change. Please check with Barn Superintendents.” Stan also discussed that the 4H council was going over grievance policies and discussion was that that if there was a complaint during fair it would be brought to Fair Board. The consensus of the Board is that all complaints regarding 4H/FFA need to be addressed with those organizations not the Fair Board. The Fair Board provides the facility for the shows but has nothing to do with the organization of 4H/FFA shows. The Fair Board is not responsible for 4H/FFA. This item will be on the next agenda to explain.

FFA: None.

Livestock Committee: Bart advised there were 32 members in the market beef project. The Livestock committee would like to build dividers for the barn. Bill Wood is the Beef Chair. June is lamb weigh-in. There will not be a weigh in for hogs. The hogs will just be tagged. Bart asked what the budget is for paying judges and if there was enough money for two hog judges since the swine show is so large. Dana will put together the judges fees for the past couple of years to give everyone an idea of what judges cost. The fair dates are August 8-12, 2018. Since animals are coming in August 7, Dana will advertise fair to be August 7-12, 2018.

Fair Board Report: None.

Fair Manager Report: There have been some people dumping Christmas trees off in the back of the fairgrounds. We have asked them not to dump them since it is a mess for fair personnel to clean up. The County Safety Coordinator did a safety inspection with Dana and some of the things that everyone needs to be aware of is that you cannot block power boxes, electrical panels, or fire extinguishers. Broken outlet covers were fixed, bad extension cord ends fixed, and extension cords from where Christmas lights were attached were taped so water could not run off roof into connections.

DISCUSSION and/or ACTION ITEMS

1. **Sr. Pro Rodeo:** No Action
2. **Wrangler Roping:** Dana advised that Pete Novich had talked to her and asked if the Fair Board would be interested in hosting the Wrangler Roping since the Arena Club possibly was not going to run it this year. It is a great event and the Fair Board would like to see it continue. Bill will call Wrangler.
3. **Water Line (under river):** Commissioner Nye advised that there was some core drilling done and that the engineers are working on a geotechnical report to move forward with fixing the water line. The commissioners are working on some emergency funds to help with the project. The line will hopefully get replaced with an eight inch line with the meter on the fairground’s side so the fairgrounds will be able to have some fire protection. Chad asked about the water/sewer bills and Tom (Mayor) advised that those bills were a maintenance and operational fee (base rate). The city was notified about the extra charges and extra water usage in August and each month thereafter. When the meter was being read, with the previous concerns of extra water usage, no water surfacing, the meter readings being high, and the Fair questioning the city clerk, the question of where the water was going from the meter should have been checked. Further discussion was why doesn’t Fair Board get a break in the rates when there is no sewer access during winter months for six months? Tentatively the meter will be placed on the fairgrounds side with a fire hydrant at the blow off. The city will install the fire hydrant.
4. **Great West Engineering Master Plan:** After the meeting at the school, the Master Plan was presented to the commissioners. The Fair Board is not interested in an indoor arena. It would have to be built in

the back of the fairgrounds where the demo derby was per the flood plain study and the Fair Board is not in favor as it will take away from the rest of the fair out in that vicinity. There were some other plans and questions the fair board had about fixing other buildings. The commissioners have not accepted the Master Plan as yet.

5. **Mower Bids:** No Action.

6. **Fair:**

- a. **Vendor Closing Time:** For safety reasons the fair board will leave the vendor closing time as 12:30 pm on Sunday of the fair.
- b. **Dogs in Barns:** For safety reasons, there will be no dogs allows in the barns or buildings unless they are registered service animals.
- c. **Open Class Entry Fees:** There will be no fees charged to open class exhibits in the buildings, only stall fees for the animals
- d. **Open Class Superintendent Fees:** There was a study done with the Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs as to what other fairs do for their superintendents. After discussion, the Fair Board agreed to keep the superintendent fees the same as previous years.
- e. **Parade Marshals:** Tom will check into a couple of people in Ennis and get back to the Board.
- f. **Miscellaneous:** Dana presented offering a youth group a small fee to help with the Bounce off the Wallz entertainment at fair. The Fair Board needs to provide five volunteers for three days to help save on the initial cost of bringing in the entertainment. Tom moved to offer a donation of \$500 to a youth group to help with fair. Bill seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Stan mentioned that there was a person consuming alcohol in the petting zoo at the fair and abusing an animal. If the barn superintendent recognizes problems, they should immediately call the sheriff's department, let a Fair Board member know, or tell Dana. Dana discussed the need for some more tables in the Pavilion and Jeffers. Tom moved to purchase 10 six foot tables from Montana Broom and Brush for approximately \$67 each. Bill seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. Next meeting, February 15, 2018, at 6:00 pm. Minutes typed and prepared by Dana Escott.

Approved: Fair Board Chairperson Date
And/or Vice Chairperson