

# YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of January 21, 2025

The Board of Directors of the York County Agricultural Society met Tuesday January 21, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the York County 4H Building for their regular monthly meeting. The meeting notice was publicly posted January 14, 2025 or before at: York County Extension Office, York County Court House, York State Bank (York Main Office), Cornerstone Bank (Waco Branch) and the York County Fair Website.

Ten (10) Directors were present; Ditloff, Gloystein, Heine, Heskett, Holtmeier, Jackson, Quiring, Rathjen, Ziemke and Zoubek (8:34 p.m.). Four (4) Directors were absent; Chrisman, Hoffman, Hoffschneider and Jackson. One (1) Director's position is open.

Guest present: Katie Ziemke.

President Ziegler called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Secretary Ziemke announced to all those in attendance that the Open Meeting Act has been placed on the meeting table for one and all to examine.

Pledge of Allegiance

Additional items to the agenda: #14 Seward Tribute Wall, #15 Nate Steever, Time capsule.

## Minutes and Financial

Minutes of the November 19, 2024 York County Agricultural Society meeting were reviewed. Discussion on: the roof leak on the seam where the Chair/storage room was added onto the Cornerstone Ag & Event Center and the \$1,500.00 water bill. No additions or corrections.

The Board reviewed the November & December 2024 Financial Report. Discussion on: November & December profit & loss; January water/sewer bill of \$1,464.00 – Demuth cattle show was in October and is more than likely showing up now on the billing; Pieper's Inc \$1910.72 billing, Heskett will check into what was all done on the grounds. Motion #5 was duly made by Gloystein to approve the November & December 2024 Financial Reports and the November 21, 2024 minutes. Seconded by Ditloff. No further discussion. Nine (9) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #1 carried.

## Under Old Business:

Swapping sheep and goats to the Swine Barn and moving the Petting Zoo over to the sheep & goat area.

- Ziegler – The electricity availability is way more available in the Swine Barn but how do the sheep and goat people feel about their animals being on concrete? He likes the idea of having the Petting Zoo further north on our grounds so that visitors have to tour through more of the animal buildings.
- Gloystein spoke with Jason Hirshfeld who said that he was still hurting from the bad comments online about the sow and piglets that were at the 2024 York County Fair. Jason is also having a hard time finding students and parents that want to help with the Petting Zoo. Even with around 100 students, trying to get them to commit to helping is nearly impossible. Jason was fine with moving the Petting Zoo to the sheep and goat

area if needed.

- Ditloff will mention helping with the Petting Zoo to the Cross County FFA Advisor when she runs into the Advisor. Centennial rotates manning the petting zoo with other FFA Chapters at the Seward County Fair.
- Heskett asked about hiring a Petting Zoo to come in like we did years ago. We need to check into the costs of Petting Zoos at the NAFM Convention this weekend.

#### Stamp Memorial

- Quiring passed along notes from Tanya Crawford – Tanya had talked with Andy Bowman who said that he was going to find out more information and get back to us about the proposed memorial project. No answers to why there needs to be a shade cover over the cattle tie outs during the evening.

### **Under the Building Committee Report:**

#### Ag Hall

- We will need to supply more electrical power to Ag Hall to run the air conditioner units we have now and the additional ones we want to add in the future. Matt Walford from Lincoln Creek Electric will look into the current electrical power in Ag Hall, supply panel we currently have, where on the grounds we can get more electrical, what we will need for a supply panel and additional wiring.
- We also will need to upgrade our door system for Ag Hall. We will need to enclose two of the four existing bypass door systems to two double walk-through door systems and the other two to an overhead or folding door system.

#### Mercantile Building

- Next time Ziegler is in Lincoln he will stop and talk with the spray foam insulation installer.
- Rathjen asked if Ziegler feels that any of the insulation damage could be caused by any roof leaks from prior hail storms?

#### Carnival Cam-lock Power Hook-up

- Lynch Carnival would like to see us upgrade to a new camlock system.
- Ziegler suggested talking with Lynch this weekend at convention about either splitting the cost with them or if we could receive an additional 1-2% in our contract to help offset our installation costs.

### **New Business**

FYI – Coleen is having gall bladder surgery the first week of February.

#### Nominate and approve new director

- Gloystein spoke with Collin Demuth about filling our vacant Directors spot.
- Collin has expressed interest in our Board of Directors in the past.
- Motion #2 was duly made by Gloystein to nominate Collin Demuth and have a voice vote to elect Collin for a three-year term. Seconded by Heskett. No further discussion. Nine (9) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #2 carried. Welcome Collin to the York County Agricultural Society Board of Directors.

#### NIRMA Insurance

- Rathjen said that he has started the insurance renewal process by answering NIRMA's quite involved questionnaire.
- Rathjen stated that our NIRMA insurance premium back in 2019 was \$13,500.00 and last year it was \$35,028.00 with a \$5,000.00 deductible.

- Appraisals have gone up drastically.
- If a tornado were to destroy all the buildings, equipment, electrical and grandstand we are insured for approximately 4.3 million. Which will not rebuild the Fairgrounds as the grounds are now.
- Rathen won't know what our 2025/2026 premium will be until later this spring.
- Rathjen asked if he should continue to work with our figures or stay with what we have now and see what our premium ends up being and discuss the premium with NIRMA?

#### York County Fair Foundation

- Starting to run some of the Fairgrounds upgrades and construction through the Foundation.
- Crows Nest move and construction
  - Concrete and concrete installation labor were covered by Overland Sand & Gravel and T&D Construction.
  - Electrical was the biggest expense, with relocation of the main electrical power for the horse arena, track, arena and grandstand lighting, that is contained in the Crow's Nest, \$15,964.00.
  - Mike Wright's labor was \$5,375.00
- The Fair Office came in at \$36,032.00
  - That includes the cost of the new windows, front doors and the LP Siding above what we received from the insurance company for damages to the siding and windows from the hail storm.
- Regular checking balance from donations is \$47,634.23.
- Raffle checking balance is \$19388.79 with around \$6,000.00 of that being paid back to the winning raffle tickets through the end of the 2024/2025 Calendar Raffle.
- Gloystein – All the expenses for the Crow's Nest should be paid out of the Foundation since that was one of the main project items when the Foundation got its start.
- Heskett will submit information to the Foundation Board of Director's to allocate the funds necessary to pay the expenses incurred for the Crow's Nest project.
- Ziegler stated that the next project that we need help from the Foundation for will be the air conditioning, electrical upgrades and doors of Ag Hall.

#### Associated Members

- Ziegler and Gloystein have been discussing the York County Agricultural Society having a group of Associate Members.
- Our Constitution/Bylaws state that we can have up to five (5) Associate Members in Article IV. They are to be nominated, then voted upon for a three (3) year term. Associate members do not have voting rights but their view and direction can be utilized and attendance would be asked at each board meeting.
- One item that needs to be clarified is would the Associate Members be required to live within the borders of York County.
- Direction of the addition of Associate Members would be for those members to learn what is involved with the everyday workings of the York County Fair, share their ideas and in turn give the Board of Directors a pool of people to nominate from if a Director's position became available.

#### 2025 Fair Plans – “All Signs Point To The York County Fair” July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 3rd

- Signs and logos are in the works
- Kids Day
  - Kid's day and bubble party approximately \$890.00

- Kid's day horse pulled trailer rides and String Beans \$1600.00
- We will continue looking for entertainment items at Convention this weekend.
- Are we having the Waffle Man? Quiring made a quick check with Tanya Crawford by text and the answer was, no Waffle Man. Decision is now up to the 4H Council if they would like to do a money-making project.
- Hoffman had announced through a text that Tim Zach and Whiskey Bent have been hired for \$3,500.00, they are providing light and sound.
- Gloystein has been contacted by a person that has two camels and provides camel rides for Fairs and other events. He has two programs available: 1. we can hire him and his camels for four (4) hours for \$2,750 and all the rides will be free to the public or 2. He pays us a grounds fee and he charges for the camel rides, costing us nothing. He carries \$2 million liability insurance. He would need a big enough area to walk around in a large circle or oval. He would like to be here for at least two days. Discussion on where we could put him and his camels was over by the Nebraska flower bed or the south side of Ag Hall and then park the pop refer trailer in a different location. Gloystein was going to touch base and get more information from the man.
- Antique Tractor Pull
  - Gloystein had spoken with Cathy Jeager who said that her son Gabe knew of someone in Holdredge who has a tractor pulling sled and wanted to know if we would be interested.
- Tanja Crawford via Quiring
  - Do we need medals for the Kiddy Tractor Pull and Muttin Bustin? Heine said that we need at least 150 total to get us through Fair.
  - Do we need ribbons for the PeeWee show? Quiring said that all we need is 150 total for the Fair.
  - Tanya hopes to have Fair Books ready for February and that she can attend the February meeting.
  - Lindsey Bolton won the NAFM Foundation Scholarship and that her and her family would be attending the NAFM Saturday evening awards banquet.
  - Superintendent letters have been sent out.
- Go Cart Races
  - Rathjen has reached out to Brandon who runs the Blue River Raceway on the Saline County Fairgrounds, Crete, Nebraska but hasn't heard anything back from him.
  - It seems that most of the area Go Cart racing is done at that facility.
  - If Rathjen hasn't heard from Brandon by Convention we will probably have to sign a contract with the same person that ran the Go Cart races on our grounds last Fair.
- Gloystein received a call from a person who is installing a 4H/FFA Tribute Exhibit on the Seward County Fairgrounds. That person felt that York County Fairgrounds were in need of one of the Tributes as well. The Tributes consist of an approximate 30 foot raised fenced off circular area containing fiberglass statues of a cow, hog, goat, sheep and other show animals. Seward received several donations toward the project. The final cost of the project is around \$110,000.00. The big questions were, where would we put the tribute and second, what about security and damages.

## Other Business

Nate Steever – time and weather has not been good to the time capsule on the grounds and the brick enclosure needs to totally be rebuilt. Heine said that Nate will contact us with a bid to rebuild the structure.

Laurie Linabury contacted Ziegler about a Youth Tractor training class that would like to utilize one of our parking lots to do the tractor driving portion of their classes. The classes are being sponsored by 4 Corners Health Department, Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District and the NRCS. Ziegler said that in the past we charged \$200.00 rental for the west parking lot to those instructing tractor training classes.

#### NAFM Convention

- Ziegler's assignment for everyone attending the Convention
  - Find one thing that is different from the way we are doing it now and incorporate it into our Fair System to make it run smoother. It can be a small or large item, but be willing to take control and put it into action.
- Ziemke Convention Comment: he can still get anyone who would like to attend the Convention registered for the event.

IAFE Zone 5 Meeting is February 28 through March 2 in Wichita, Kansas.

- Anyone interested in attending contact Ziemke
- The Nebraska State Fair is sponsoring a commercial tour bus that will make a stop in York if anyone attending is interested in riding. Cost for the bus trip down and back is \$100.00 per person.

#### NAFM District 1 Spring Meeting

- Do we host the meeting?
- It has been several years since we hosted the meeting.
- It is usually held the Sunday after Easter.
- We can host the meeting but it would have to be Sunday April 6, 2025.

There being no further business to come before the Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

*Douglas Ziemke*

Douglas Ziemke  
Secretary