

Custer County Agricultural Society

Regular Board Meeting

April 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by President Nelson. President Nelson informed those present of the location and availability of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act publication. The meeting notification and agenda were posted in advance at the Custer County Courthouse, on the CCAS Website, the CCAS Facebook Page and mailed to each board member.

Members present were Blair Hartman, Rodney Lamb, Casey Cooksley, Ira Spanel, Kent Nelson, Becky Pearson, & Marla Stallbaumer. Absent were Shane Ryan & Steve Horn.

Others present were Administrator Michelle Nelson, JJ Martin, Mona Weatherly (Custer County Chief), Dwayne Bryner (Custer County Supervisors), Custer Public Power & NPPD representatives and other Custer County residents.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 11, 2021 regular board meeting were reviewed. Spanel made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Pearson.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Hartman, Lamb, Cooksley, Spanel, Nelson, Pearson & Stallbaumer

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Ryan & Horn

Motion carried.

(7:02 PM – Ryan entered the meeting)

Minutes of the March 26, 2021 regular board meeting were reviewed. Spanel made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Cooksley.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Hartman, Lamb, Cooksley, Spanel, Nelson, Ryan, Pearson & Stallbaumer

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Horn

Motion carried.

Extension Report – Troy Walz

Walz reported that the Premium Book has been sent to press and there are 379 kids who have already enrolled in 4-H by the April 1st early entry deadline.

4-H Council – Stallbaumer

No report

Grounds Manager Report – JJ Martin

- Working on barn #2.
- Opened up the bathroom on the hill for the auction.
- Had to replace both front tires on the tractor - \$185/each.
- Events have been going well.

Administrator Report - M. Nelson

- Noted that the work Martin has done on Barn #2 was funded by the Custer County Swine Preview which donated \$500.
- Donna Cahill w/State Farm donated a water slide to the fairgrounds years ago. If the CCAS is not going to use it, she would like it to be donated to another organization that will use it or give it back to her. M. Nelson noted that it is just the water slide, there are no fans to blow it up. The CCAS has never actually used it.
- Quickbooks costs \$50/month for the software to do invoices only. Should we continue with that or look at Quickbooks Online which would allow the Ag Society and Dana F. Cole to have access to the books.
 - Pearson suggested looking into Quickbooks Online as it may be less expensive and give M. Nelson more access to the reports.
 - Spanel asked M. Nelson to look into the costs and report back at the next meeting.
- The flag needs replaced which would cost \$1100.00. The newest one was from 2017.
 - M. Nelson asked if she needs to get approval or handle this type of issue.
 - Spanel asked if there is anything in the By-Laws that states an amount that needs to be voted on.
 - Hartman asked M. Nelson to contact the Rotary, as they may be willing to replace the flag or partner with the CCAS to purchase a new one. She also suggested putting a new flag purchase on the agenda for the May 13th meeting.

Financial Report - Spanel

Treasurer Spanel presented the financial report. Following are the account balances in the various accounts as of March 31, 2021.

Events Account:	\$7,344.05		
Livestock Account:	\$11,926.37	Capital Fund:	\$-30,453.20
Memorial Funds:	\$7,195.03	General Fund:	\$138,454.16
Storm Damage:	\$134,808.11	Savings Account:	\$11,095.02

Ryan made a motion to pay the bills seconded by Hartman.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Hartman, Lamb, Cooksley, Spanel, Nelson, Ryan, Pearson & Stallbaumer

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Horn

Motion carried.

Old Business – President Nelson

- A loan has been secured through NSB for 7 years with the payments being due November 15th. The skid steer is at the fairgrounds and being used.
- The manure pile is gone. No bill to date, however will be less than \$15,000.00.

New Business

-Lineman Rodeo – Pete Hurlburt

- Grand Island has decided to no longer host the Lineman Rodeo. Hurlburt, a Lineman with CPPD, would like to see it be held at the Custer County Fairgrounds.
- Trevor Roth w/NPPD said that to hold there needs to be an area 300'x200' where they would resurrect 25-28 poles which would each have 4-8 anchors.
- Cooksley asked if the poles would be permanent.
- Roth stated that the poles would be pulled out and the holes filled and tamped.
- Rick Nelson, General Manager at CPPD would like to bring the even to the Custer County Fairgrounds.
- Spanel asked what date they were looking at.
- R. Nelson suggested July 23rd or 30th but was willing to work with the CCAS.
- Roth stated the timeline for the days events would be:
 - 9:00 AM – Registration
 - 10:00 AM – Mystery
 - 11:00 AM – Opening Ceremony
 - 3:00 PM – Anticipated conclusion
- *Poles would be stripped Friday and pulled out and the ground tamped Saturday morning.
- Pearson asked if a rental fee had been discussed.
- Spanel asked Roth what they were charged in Grand Island.
- Roth said that GI actually have them a \$10,000 sponsorship, but they had to use the NSF vendors.
- Ryan noted that CPPD helps the CCAS quite a bit.

Spanel made a motion to allow the Lineman Rodeo to be held July 30th at the Custer County Fairgrounds free of charge. Seconded by Cooksley.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Hartman, Lamb, Cooksley, Spanel, Nelson, Ryan, Pearson & Stallbaumer

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Horn

Motion carried.

-Free Style Bull Fights/Possible Beer Garden – Josh Call

- Curious about the possibility of a beer garden at the event during fair.
- Spanel asked if there was a rule or anything in the By-Laws prohibiting beer gardens during the Custer County Fair?
- Pearson noted that maybe 7 years ago the topic was brought up and was met with much resistance.
- Pres. Nelson felt that with a beer garden the drinking could be policed more.
- Hartman agreed.
- Call noted that many places fund their events by the beer gardens.
- A. Lymber asked how much Mid-States beer garden profits.
- Stallbaumer asked Call if he was asking permission to do the beer garden or if he was wanting the CCAS to do so.
- Call would like to work with the CCAS.
- Stallbaumer voiced that being on the 4-H Council she would vote no.

(7:44 PM – Horn entered the meeting)

- Cooksley wondered if the CCAS would lose support from any businesses if it was decided to have alcohol during fair.
- Spanel noted that many other fairs have beer gardens. Can see a lot of benefits and we should look into it.
- Bryner asked why bring alcohol into the one week a year that is dedicated to the kids?
- Lamb voiced that he has a strong 4-H base and doesn't really know why everyone is so worried about a beer garden. There is alcohol present during fair in the camping area.
- Bryner noted that the alcohol in the camping area is not sponsored by the CCAS.
- Spanel felt that if pursued, the alcohol would be sold during the events which are after all 4-H events are finished for the day. Parents would have control over whether or not their kids stayed.
- G. Sinner noted that there is alcohol present at the evening events at fair.
- Call noted that the State Patrol would provide assistance during events.
- Cooksley noted that during the racetrack era alcohol was sold.
- Spanel suggested tabling the discussion. M. Nelson will work with Call to come up with a plan to present to the board at the May 13th meeting.
- Pearson asked if the beer garden would be during every event?
- Spanel voiced it would be up to the producer.

Purchase dirt for holes in stalls

- Martin requested dirt to fill in the holes in the stalls.
- Pearson suggested acting quickly as events are coming up.
- Pres. Nelson excused himself from the meeting to contact Myers Construction.
 - Was quoted \$6/T and \$125/hr trucking (25-28T/side dump)
- Cooksley asked if \$500-\$1000 would cover it?

Spanel made a motion for Martin to go purchase two loads of clay through Myers Construction, not to exceed \$1000, to fill in the stalls as well as Barn 6.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Hartman, Lamb, Cooksley, Spanel, Nelson, Ryan, Horn, Pearson & Stallbaumer

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Audit (YE 6/30/20)

- Spanel reported that the audit found nothing criminal. There is a lack of segregation of duties as we are a small organization. Dana F. Cole is working with M. Nelson to better the CCAS accounting practices.
- Spanel stated that although there was no criminal activity found in the accounting, there are issues with fines that the CCAS owes the IRS, and questioned proceeding with a forensic audit.
- Horn wondered even if we spent \$5000 for the forensic audit if the CCAS would even be able to get anything back.
- Weatherly asked how much the fines were.
- Spanel does not know because he can not get through to the IRS to get any answers.

- Weatherly asked for clarification that payments have been paid to the IRS.
- Spanel confirmed that payments had been made to the IRS.

Other Concerns

- Pearson wondered about forming a committee to look into moving Trotter Arena as discussed at the March 26th Special Meeting.
 - Spanel asked M. Nelson if she thought it was justifiable to move Trotter Arena.
 - M. Nelson expressed that she is looking outside the box to see if she can come up with more options. She would like to see a committee put in place to investigate. Bud & Josh need the grandstands for their events. Chris Ogle has also approached her and said that he could do it. Ogle feels he knows the arena better than anyone else and could make it happen.
 - B. Miller suggested digging a berm around a different area and trying a derby there to see what kind of crowd it draws before moving the arena. Make it work for everyone.
 - Horn suggested possibly doing as Miller suggested and having an afternoon derby as there are no lights.
- M. Nelson had someone call about a Tractor Pull. When it comes to events does she need to ask permission from the board?
 - Horn voiced that as the manager it was her job to handle events. Maybe ask Martin if he is willing to work with the event producer and type of event.
 - Pearson felt that anything requiring a lot of modifications should be discussed. Who foots the bill to put everything back?
 - Horn stated that you (M. Nelson) don't need to ask permission just give us a heads up.

At 8:28 PM Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Spanel.

Roll call vote:

Voting Yes: Hartman, Lamb, Cooksley, Spanel, Nelson, Ryan, Horn, Pearson & Stallbaumer

Voting No: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Stallbaumer, Secretary