

February 11, 2020

The Butler County Agricultural Society met for their regular meeting on February 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the fairgrounds. At roll call the following members were present Turner; Bittner; Hiltbrand; Mignery; Robinson; Simpson; Vollmer and Wells. Gerber and Minges were absent. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. Mignery moved to accept the financial statements from January and February. Second by Hiltbrand, motion passed. Vollmer moved to pay all monthly bills including payroll. Second by Mignery, motion passed. Turner present the board with costs for 8 new round tables and 100 new chairs for the event center. Bittner moved to spend up to \$3200.00 on 8 tables and 100 chairs. Second by Vollmer, motion passed. The board discussed door prizes for the open house on February 20. Wells moved to give 20 sets of seven day passes and grandstand admission passes. Second by Mignery, motion passed. Wells informed the board about what he had learned about online ticket sales at the OFMA convention. The biggest advantage to the online sales would be presales for general admission and to grandstand events. Wells moved to contact 168 tickets to find out costs and what needs to be done to have online ticketing. Second by Mignery, motion passed. Wells stated the Born and Raised hog show in 2019 showed by breeds and the show went well and would like to look into having the junior fair show switch as well. Amy Darner of the Butler County Swine Breeders proposed if an exhibitor brings a purebred pig, they should be allowed to bring a total of three (3) pigs. Wells moved to change the junior fair and open class market hog shows to show by breeds, and any exhibitor who show a purebred hog has the option to bring a third hog to the fair. Only two pigs will be allowed to go through the junior fair livestock sale. Second by Vollmer, motion passed. Mark Mignery presented Erin Simpson-Sloan with thank you card and gift card in appreciation for all of her hard work and dedication to working with the junior fair program. Hiltbrand reported that after the open house on February 20 work will begin on redoing the parking lot. Bobby Eason, with the horse department thanked the board for the use of the building for the horse advisors tack sale over the weekend. He also asked if the board would be willing to allow the horse advisors to purchase trees and have them planted to replace ones lost in the storm that hit the prior to the 2019 fair. Vollmer stated the board had discussed investing in trees the last couple of years. The board will have final say on what types of trees and where they are to be planted. Mike Green of the Butler County Swine Breeders asked if clover buds would be allowed to show in the Born and Raised show. After discussion the board decided to keep the rules the same as junior fair and not allow clover buds to show. Amy Darner brought to the attention of the board a couple of issues with the Grand Showman of Showman. First the contestants are not placed 1 thru 5. Instead they are rated, meaning all contestants could receive the same score. Adult advisor Tim Hesselbrock stated that is how the scoring had always been, but the junior fair board would look into changing it. Darner also brought up the issue there are years when there are not enough junior fair dairy animals for all the contestants and open class animals have been use. She felt this put some contestants at a disadvantage. Turner opened discussion on ractopamine. Everyone has seen the emails and texts so we need to make a decision. After a long and thorough discussion Vollmer moved to have the Butler County Fair be ractopamine free beginning in 2020. All pigs showing at the 2020 Butler County Fair must sign an affidavit stating they have never feed ractopamine, even if they plan to take their pig home. If they do not sign the affidavit they will have to take their pig home and will not be allowed to show. The motion was second by Wells. Roll call vote Turner-Y; Bittner-Y; Hiltbrand-Y; Mignery-Y; Robinson-N;

Simpson-Y; Vollmer-Y and Wells -Y. Motion passed 7-1. Erin Simpson-Sloan reported on the upcoming quality assurances. There will be different stations for attends to work through, and she will need the board members to help. Wells and Hiltbrand reported on the beer and wine tasting event at the fair. They are going to reach out to local breweries and the cost to enter their product will be \$375.00, the cost of a banner sponsorship. The event will be held on Sunday of the fair from 6:30-9:30 in the West wing of the event center. Mignery moved to spend up to \$1500.00 on two workstations for the front desk in the office to include an ipad, stand and printer to help speed up the entry process and make daily reports easier for the auditor. Second by Vollmer, motion passed. Vollmer moved to spend \$500 on a cart to haul trash cans to the dumpster. Second by Wells, motion passed. Hiltbrand brought up the possibility of adding an eleventh board member to help spread the workload. After looking into the society's bylaws, an amendment to the bylaws has to pass with a majority vote at the annual election. Hiltbrand also stated he would no longer be heading up sponsorships for the fair grounds. Turner appointed a sponsorship committee. Wells-chair; Robinson;Mignery and Gerber. With no further business Mignery moved to adjourn, second by Wells. The board will meet on March 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the fairgrounds for their regular meeting.