

August 13, 2024

The Butler County Agricultural Society met for their regular monthly meeting on August 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the fairgrounds. President Turner called the meeting to order, at roll call the following members were present Turner; Bittner; Gerber; Green; Idle; Mignery; Ross; Simpson; Vollmer and Wells. The minutes of the July 9th and July 26 meetings were approved as read. Vollmer moved to accept the non-fair account financial statement. Second by Green, motion carried. Mignery moved to pay all monthly bills, including payroll. Second by Ross, motion carried. Bittner reported the gate admissions were up from \$381451.00 in 2023 to \$515,900.00 in 2024. This included \$92,000.00 in online ticket sales. Johnny's A-1 Sanitation is going to increase their rates to pump out the campers from \$25.00 per camper to \$40.00 per camper. The board needs to discuss installing a septic tank at the end of the row of campers and let Johnny's pump the tank. The toilets in the goat barn restrooms also need to be replaced. Gerber moved to pay Johnston Fire Safety \$4276.75. Second by Ross, motion passed. Jackie Ponder said some fairs have gone to EID tags and asked if the board was going to start using them. As of now the board will not use the EID tags. It is suggested by the ODA but not yet a rule. Simpson, everyone loved the portable grandstands. In the future the board needs to create an area for better handicap seating. The door in the foyer of the event center also needs a handicap button installed. The sound was an issue this year. The sound in the barns was horrible and the daily announcements did not happen. The combine derby was a success. Turner attended a school bus derby at the Preble County Fair this year and believes it would fit in well in the break between the combine derby heats and feature. Mignery moved to pay the combine derby \$5000.00 in 2025 for purses and prizes. Second by Ross, motion carried. Gerber moved to pay Tony Sterwerf \$1000.00 for hauling all the combines to and from the fair this year. Second by Green, motion carried. Gerber presented the board with two bids to clear trees out in the horse area to add additional camping spots. Steve Beiser gave a bid of \$12,000.00 and Dingleline gave a bid of \$11,500.00. Gerber moved to pay Dingleline \$11,500.00 to remove the trees. Second by Green, motion carried. The board received an email from OFMA that each fair will receive \$50,000.00 from the State. Turner would like to take that money along with \$109,000.00 received from the State earlier this year and move forward with getting bids to remove the old paddock barn and replace it with a new 60X120 pole barn. Simpson moved to pay Gary Gabbard up to \$65,000.00 to cover the open class sheep barn with metal. Second by Gerber, motion carried. Bittner moved to pay \$150,000.00 on the mortgage of the new building. Second by Vollmer, motion carried. There was damage done in the event center on Saturday afternoon/evening of the fair. The event center needs to be locked when 4-H is not using the building. There should not be any 4-H activities in the event center during the County Commissioner's meeting either. Vollmer moved to pay up to \$12,000.00 to have security cameras hard wired in the office,

the event center and on the outside corner of the building. Second by Simpson, motion carried. Wells moved to allow Turner to spend up to \$12,000.00 to have the trees in the carny campground. Second by Gerber, motion carried. Turner reported Pat Posey has given the board \$1000.00 to plant trees on the fairgrounds. Simpson moved to pay Hamilton County 4-H \$250 for using turkey cages. Second by Mignery, motion carried. Mignery moved to spend up to \$2000.00 to purchase 30 turkey cages and 25 rabbit cages. Second by Bittner, motion carried. Vollmer moved to pay the mounted patrol \$2500.00. Second by Simpson, motion carried. Wells moved to pay the Hamilton and Seven Mile chapters of the Izzak Walton \$300.00 per cart. Second by Ross, motion carried. The board discussed ways to help with admissions for vendors employees. In some instances, people have gotten in that were not actually employees. The scholarships the board gives away need to be done before the fair. They are due by June 1st and need to be graded and scored by the July board meeting. The board discussed treating sick animals at the fair. In the past an animal had to be drug free at weigh ins. This forced exhibitors to decide if they wanted to treat their animals and not be allowed to show or sell, or let nature take its course. The board will review and make a final decision. Regarding the livestock sale, there was a suggestion to allow all seniors in each species to sell first and to have an information sheet about the exhibitor filled out and given to the auctioneer to be read as the exhibitor enters the sale ring. The 6-month CD on sale account expires on August 7. Bittner moved to put \$25,000.00 from the sale account into a 6-month CD at 4.75% interest with Somerville National bank. Second by Vollmer, motion carried. Wells moved to increase tent rental per tent by \$50.00. Second by Ross, motion carried. The board also needs to address scooters, skateboards, remote control cars and animals on the midway. Mignery moved to pay the Ice workers \$15.00 per hour. Second by Gerber, motion passed. Bittner moved to pay the ticket sellers at the grandstand \$18.00 per hour and the ticket takers \$15.00. Second by Gerber, motion carried. There were issues with Martech with paying for entries online. There are a couple of other programs that need to be looked at to replace Martech. Green stated the fair book needs to be online only. If there are any corrections that need to be made it makes for confusion. The board needs to meet with the junior fair brad in February to make fair book changes earlier. Jackie Ponder said the 4-H advisor committee will help with the fair book. Jackie also asked what needs to be done to upgrade the electricity in the goat barn. New service for each barn will cost \$12-15,000.00. With no further business to discuss Mignery moved to adjourn. Second by Green. The board will meet on September 10, 2024, for their regular meeting at 6:00 pm at the fairgrounds.