

Fair Board  
9/7/17

Present: Brad McGann, Nate Ruth, Cindy Selensky

Guests: Clay Nagel, Commissioner Bob Faw, Sandra Crawford, Kandi Schuman and Marc King

Brad called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Brad read the rules of the meeting.

Cindy moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting as written. Nate seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Cindy reported that the Commissioners had approved the budgets for the county. The Fair Board budget was approved at \$96,273.00 for the operating budget for the current fiscal year. Cindy also mentioned that there are several bills that she has not been called on or received an email concerning that have been paid. Cindy said that the agreement was that any bill over \$100.00 she would be notified of so that she could come in and approve it. Cindy said that one of those bills was for \$586.00 to Northwestern Energy, that was dated 8/24 and was paid on 8/24. Commissioner Faw said that was probably his and Brooke's fault as it was a utility bill that he felt needed to be paid. Cindy said there was another one to Proficient Plumbing for \$275.00 that she was not aware of also. Clay said that that one was for the toilet in the woman's bathroom in the Ag Pavilion and the toilet in the men's bathroom in the in field bathrooms. There was also one to ACE Hardware for \$234.00, which Cindy thought was several smaller bills all added together. Commissioner Faw said that he would talk to Brooke in the morning about this. Commissioner Faw said that Brooke hasn't been here much this summer so some things have slipped through the cracks. Cindy reported that the current budget is 12.24% percent used.

Brad asked Sandra to address her concerns. Sandra started by thanking the Fair Board for the new outlets in the beef barn, but said more power is needed on the outside of the beef barn where the kids fit their cattle for the shows. She also said there may be a need for outlets outside by the sheep barn. Clay said the plan was to do the electricity upgrades in this area in three phases, with the first being inside the barns. Sandra spoke about helping to clean up prior to the Fair and the LED lights that Clay had purchased and placed in the barns. She said the lights in the sheep barn were more like mood lighting and needed to be brighter. Sandra said that it was her understanding that in Clay's contract the grounds and buildings were to be ready prior to the Fair. She said that the open class building needed to be re-cleaned, the sheep and pig pens were filled with animal feces and dead bugs. She said that she was not trying to discredit Clay as he does good work, but the facilities were not ready. The Horse Whisperer barn had some maintenance issues ( a side panel was falling down), a board was hanging from the eaves. Sandra said that Clay was not a fit for the Fair. Sandra had to find Clay several times as there was issues in the woman's bathroom, the toilet wasn't working, and the toilet paper and paper towels were in need of attention. Sandra said there was a bee issue, which she said she had reported

to Clay. Sandra said that Clay had come and asked her about 4-H buying light bulbs for the buildings and she felt that Clay's timing on this was poor. Sandra spoke about clean-up after the Fair and that she had been looking for garbage cans and Clay had put them away, and she asked him three times to get them. Sandra said that Clay's response to her was that she should have brought her own. She also said that he had told her that it wasn't his job, it was the 4-Hers job and his job was actually over before the Fair had even started. Sandra said that it is her feeling that the week of Fair there needs to be someone else in charge of assisting with cleaning the barns. The facilities were not ready this year, and it is an issue that she feels needs to be addressed. She presented some pictures to the Board of the Horse Whisperer barn and a picture of Clay helping during the Round Robin, when garbage cans needed to be emptied. Sandra reiterated that she thought Clay had done a wonderful job mowing the grass and getting the grounds prepared. Brad said that he had tried to speak with Marc during the Fair but he was running around crazy and did not get to speak with him about issues. Brad asked Marc if Sandra had touched on the issues that occurred during the Fair. Marc said that Sandra had hit on the issues very well and that the issue that had caused the most consternation during the Fair was the electrical issues and the breakers blowing while the kids were fitting the animals. Brad asked if this was something new or something that has been happening. Marc reported that this has been happening for several issues. Clay said that as the budget allows this issue will be fixed. Cindy asked if the amperage needed to be adjusted. Marc said that he thought the panel was good, but the issue was that there are not enough outlets on the outside of the building where the fitting occurs. Cindy asked how many outlets were needed. Nate said that in his opinion there needed to be several outlets added from the hydrant down to the pig barn, to fix this issue. Clay spoke about the three phases again. He said that another sub-panel may be added by the scale. Nate asked if anyone remembered the three phases of the project. Brad, Cindy, Marc and Commissioner Faw said they did not remember the phases being discussed. Clay said that Bill Hibnes had talked to him about the phases. Brad asked if people were using more of the dryers than in years past. Commissioner Faw asked if this had been brought up in the past, because he did not remember this being an issue in the past. He thought that the fans in the barns had been the issue. Nate asked if there was budget money for this upgrade and thought that some idea of cost for the up grades was needed to be able to discuss this issue in the future as it relates to the budget. Clay reported that there was a pole by the scale that was rotten and needed to be braced up, which he, Karson Stene, Casey and Geneva Lunceford had done. Karson told Clay that he could get some used poles to replace the rotten ones for \$260.00 per pole. Nate said that in the meantime the poles need to be removed. Nate reported that he had also spoke to Karson about the power running to these poles and had asked him to make sure that the power was disconnected to these poles so that the poles could be dumped. Clay reported that Lonnie had taken the power out to these poles. Cindy asked if there was a need for lights on the back of the barns. Clay said that Karson had told him that there was need for lights back there and several other parents had told him that lights were needed back there. Marc said that there used to be lighting back there. Marc also said that lighting would be nice back there but would not be a priority as compared to the outlets and other electrical issues. Cindy asked if the lights could be mounted to the barn. Clay said that he did not think they could be as it would be hard to get lights back to the pig barn. Sandra said that

money could be saved by the Board going to Home Depot and buying the lights and outlets themselves and then having the electrician installing them. Cindy said that she didn't feel that the quality would be as good. Nate asked about visiting with electricians and the feeling from the Board was to visit with Lonnie. Nate will discuss with Lonnie McDermot about the electrical upgrades. Cindy thanked Sandra for coming the meeting and voicing her concerns.

Clay gave his report. A barn door had been knocked off its track. Clay said that the track needs to be replaced and the wheels for the door also need to be replaced. He thought that maybe he could get new wheels for the unit. The door is closed currently, but it is a lot harder to open and close according to Clay. Commissioner Faw said that the Board needs to clear the air concerning Clay and the work that needs to be done. Commissioner Faw said that he has been upset because there are things that are considered maintenance that Clay is not getting done. Commissioner Faw reported that Clay is feeling that he is over worked and asked to do too much. He said that the work is not getting done for either party. Nate spoke about his personal views and thoughts and that he knows that Clay spends an awful lot of time at the fairgrounds and that Clay needs to prioritize the work that needs to get done and the work that Clay is thinking is important. Nate said that maybe this is a learning year for Clay and that he needs to get stuff done that is on the list of duties. Nate said that he did not fully agree with the comments that Sandra made. Commissioner Faw said that the caretaker's position has changed since the Board went from a wage person to a contractor and that the Board has spent a lot more money since going to a contractor. He said that he thought the Board was getting a person that could do almost anything, to a person that always needs a separate contract or someone else to do different jobs. Brad said that he agreed, and discussed the broken waterline incident. Nate said to Clay that if it was a big issue that took required a backhoe etc, it was a project, but this issue took a matter of minutes to repair. Nate said it was a gray area, but it also required some common sense. Clay said that his understanding was that if it took a couple of hours it was a project and this project did take him a couple of hours. Brad said that he was still confused about how the water line was a major project and not general maintenance. He said that he came to this meeting fully prepared to make a motion to terminate Clay's contract, and he still has not ruled this out. Cindy asked Clay if he felt the beef barn track was general maintenance or a major project. Clay said that it depends on how you fix the door, as he has worked on these before and they have taken him all day to do. Cindy asked Clay if he could do the barn door project at a later date. Nate said he felt the barn door was general maintenance. Brad said that nobody on the Fair Board expected the fairgrounds to look like the Overland Golf Course. Brad said that previously the grass was being cut six or seven times per year and there was not fertilizer applied. Clay said that it showed that it was not being taken care of. Brad asked if it was a fit. Clay said yes, he thought he could do it. Cindy said that if we keep the contract it needs to be amended with more detail, such as cleaning needed to be detailed to mention how the Board would like to have things cleaned. Nate asked how it was done in the past. Commissioner Faw said that his opinion was that the Board did not need to detail what clean was, a clean barn is clean, and we don't need to be running a babysitting service. Commissioner Faw said that he did not check it, and didn't feel that he needed to, he expected Clay to do it and do it

correctly. Cindy asked to see a copy of Clay's contract. Cindy said that according to the contract when is it questionable as to whether the issues listed in the contract were done and completed. Cindy asked about the wall in the Horse Whisperer barn. Marc reported that he had pushed the wall back up and screwed it back together, but it is not considered fixed by any means. Clay said that he thought a lift would be needed to fix the board on the face of the Horse Whisperer Barn. Marc said that he thought a ladder would work. Clay said it is a long ways up there, and he doesn't think a ladder will work. Cindy read the contract to the Board. Nate told Clay that if a board was loose he needed to fix it, if a panel was leaning he needed to fix it, if a barn collapsed it wasn't his problem. Brad said that there are two events that happen every year that it is paramount that things are ready for and they are the rodeo and the Fair, and if he has to discuss this issue and hear from the public that things are not ready, that is deeply troubling to him. Brad made a motion to give thirty days notice to terminate Clay's contract. He said that he feels that it is not working out. Nate said that he would not second the motion, as he feels that we need to let Clay try to work through the contract and that Clay should now know what is expected of him and the Board should let Clay try to make things right within the scope of his contract. Cindy said that she was on the boarder line, she could see where Nate is coming from, but there are issues in the contract that she sees that have not been getting done and with the issues being brought up by the public, she is feeling embarrassed as a Board member. Nate said that he still thinks that the Board needs to honor Clay's contract. Cindy said that she felt that the issue needs to be brought up again when all the Board members are present as they may have a different perspective that needs to be heard and addressed. Brad said that the motion is tabled at this time.

Brad asked about the tree and panel issue. Commissioner Faw said that he remembered that Rocky was going to work on this. Clay said that the hole in the fence was secured with wire panels that he had put up. Nate said that he had talked to Travis Klein in July about building a panel to match what was there, but had not ordered anything or received a bid. Nate said that he also remembered that Rocky was going to work on this.

Brad reported that he has tried to catch up with Dennis Birchell, but has not gotten this done yet.

Brad said that the chute drawings where to be handled by Ronda and since she was not present this would be skipped in this meeting.

Brad said that he was not sure what to do with the policy at this time. It is his feeling that he, nor any Board member has the authority to create the policy, and that he had looked in the Montana Code and found that in 2007 the Legislature had stripped the law regarding Boards. There needs to be an enabling resolution from the Commissioners that grants powers and duties to the Fair Board. Brad said that he is not comfortable doing anything with the policy until a meeting with the Commissioners is held asking them what authority they expect the Fair Board to have and what they are to be doing. Cindy said that she also sees the dilemma concerning the powers and duties of the Fair Board. Brad asked Commissioner Faw what he thought. Commissioner Faw said that he could tell them what had happened in the past was that a policy had been written and that some

had disagreed with it and that some of the Commissioners had decided to place the caretaker under the Road Supervisor. Commissioner Faw said that the cemetery is also under the Road Supervisor, but the person that takes care of the cemetery does the work without having to be supervised. He further said that the Road Supervisor, Cory, had sat at a Fair Board meeting and had told the Fair Board that he did not have time to supervise the fairgrounds caretaker. Commissioner Faw said it was his personal feeling that if the Road Supervisor was asked to babysit the caretaker, he would not be able to do the work that needs to be done on the roads. Brad said he was not just speaking of the caretaker, but also was concerned about the budgeting, paying bills, setting fees, signing contracts, etc. Commissioner Faw said that what brought this about was the fact that the old Board had wanted to do a performance appraisal on the caretaker and that some of the Commissioners had taken the caretaker supervision and put it with the Road Supervisor. Brad said that there is a whole page in the Montana Code that talks about the way the resolution should be written and what it needs to state to make the Fair Board legal under the Montana law. Commissioner Faw said that if the right person was at the fairgrounds, none of this would be an issue. Cindy said that since her time on the Board there has been no guidance and the Board has just gone around in circles, and she used the Treasurer position as an example. She said in her opinion the Board is wasting their time. Commissioner Faw said that when Bill Hibnes was treasurer, he spent a lot of time in Vicky's office and he stayed on top of the bills and contracts. Cindy said that she has felt that she has not accomplished anything. Commissioner Faw said that he has seen more positive changes in the past few years as compared to the past twenty years. Brad said that maybe true, but he feels that the Board is operating under assumed powers and he is concerned with what would happen if the Board was called to task for an issue. Brad asked what the Board felt in regards to the fees. Commissioner Faw said that the policy had been written by the County Attorney and had come back and at least two of the Commissioners had signed off on it. Brad asked again if anybody had any feelings concerning the fees, and if they need to be put on the agenda for discussion. Nate said his feeling was that the fees were in line with what the Fair Board has to offer, and that if fees are changed much it may inhibit usage of the facility. Nate said that he does not see any reason to change the fees in his opinion. Cindy said that her feeling was that the Board needs to know what the Commissioners would like to see from the fairgrounds, and she spoke about the idea of a master plan. Commissioner Faw asked what the revenue looked like this year. Kandi reported that she has not updated it yet. Commissioner Faw said that he was specifically asking about the donation box. Kandi said that they last time there was about three hundred. Commissioner Faw said that since Bill Hibnes and himself had quit going down there and talking to visitors, they had not and will not put money in the donation box. Nate asked Commissioner Faw what his solution would be. Commissioner Faw said it won't pay to have a person down there policing this. Commissioner Faw asked Kandi if she had checked the donation box lately. She said that she had not.

Brad asked if there was any other old business. Clay reported that during the Fair the concession stand was very hot and the cooler was having a hard time keeping things cool. He suggested adding an exhaust fan or a swamp cooler to help keep the heat down and circulate more air in the concession stand. Nate said that the FFA would like to finance

and help put a awning over the windows at the concession stand. Marc reported that the Sargent family had memorial money to help with this project. Commissioner Faw asked what it would look like. Nate said it would be a pole building stile that would extend from the door over the windows. Brad said that the Board would need to see a proposal and drawings before they could approve the construction of the cover. Commissioner Faw told the Board to keep in mind that anything that is done would need to be inspected and have the blessing of the building inspector. Clay asked if they were thinking about putting sides on this structure. The answer was no it was an open canopy. Brad asked if Nate would ask the FFA to come to the next meeting. Marc will check on the Sargent Family money. Clay asked Nate what the timeline was on the table rack. Nate responded that he and Rocky were going to finish this in October. Clay said that the tire was bad on the Ford 8N. Commissioner Faw said that he had checked on this and locally it was \$159.00 and if it was needed right away it would be an additional \$65.00, but he could get it in Columbus for \$70.00 and he would recommend a new tube which would be \$10.00 and they would have it there tomorrow if Commissioner Faw called them. Commissioner Faw said that if Clay would take it off he would take it and have it put on. He said there would also be a tire disposal charge, but the whole bill will be less than \$100. Brad made a motion to have Commissioner Faw take the tire to Columbus and get it replaced. Cindy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Faw said that Daryl from the cemetery would like to use the tractor and the spreader to put grass and leaves above the ditch at the cemetery. Brad said that the equipment was county equipment. Marc said that the manure spreader actually belonged to the Engle family and the use was donated to the 4-H Fair. Marc will check with Keith Engle and let the Board know if the use by the cemetery was ok.

Brad reported that he had a friend look at pricing a PA system for the fair grounds and the guy thought a good system for the grounds could be purchased for \$1000 to \$2000. The original bid was close to \$10,000. He said that he still was not convinced that it was necessary. Nate said that most of the renters had brought their own systems. Nate said that it was his feeling that the policing of the system would be an issue and that most renters used their own. Cindy said it was her feeling to let it be at this time. Marc said that he had not had many people ask about a PA system. The Board decided to not move forward on the PA system.

Marc showed the Board the contact list that would be posted at the fair grounds. Brad said it looked fine.

The Board read the Thank-you cards from the Fair. Cindy said that the Board may hate her because the line item had been moved from the Fair Board budget to the Extension budget, thus the Fair Board would no longer be receiving Thank-yous from the Fair. Commissioner Faw said the issue was where free lunches for the judges should come from in the budget.

Cindy read the contracts: Vanderveer Family Reunion – June 22, 23, 24, 2018 with an alternate date to not be on the rodeo weekend. Brad moved to approve the contract. Cindy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

July 28, 2018 – Mary Parker Family reunion. Brad moved to accept. Cindy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

July 14, 2018 – DeHart wedding; October 28, 2017 – Mass and Potluck; October 20, 2017 Kaphan wedding; Women’s Club Rummage Sale – September 30, 2017. Brad moved to accept all of the contracts. Cindy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Nate moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 pm. Cindy seconded. Meeting adjourned.