

**Benton County Agricultural Society
PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379**

The January 19, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held in-person at the fairgrounds office and virtually. The meeting was called to order by President Ted Prom. Directors absent were Jennifer Feldhege and Justin Nieters.

There were no guests or public comments.

The secretary's report for December 2020 was presented with Jody Prom making the motion to approve as written with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried with voice vote. The treasurer's report for December 2020 was presented with Nancy Zupan making the motion to approve as written with Rod Bemboom seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote. The 2021 budget was presented with some decrease in income and expenses due to COVID19 and the uncertainty what the 2021 fair will look like. Al Stemper made the motion to approve as presented with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion approved by roll call.

Committee Reports:

Ag Craft/Premium Book: Laura Falconer reported that the Ag Craft committee had met and discussed having the premium book online only this year and not printing, need to reduce the workers in the building, entry day and judging day and maybe including artist booths in the building depending upon what we are able to do for the fair. Committee will continue to discuss options.

Buildings/Grounds: Al Stemper received the appraisal from Thomas Klein with an appraised value on the 1221 property of \$102,000.00. The property was purchased in April 2009 for \$44,900.00. Ken Beehler made the motion to move forward with the sale of the property and offer to Paul Hinkemeyer, the current renter as he has expressed interest in buying and has put his own money in the property. Asking price of \$102,000.00 plus buyer pays closing costs so that we end up with \$102,000.00. Jody Prom seconded the motion. Motion approved with roll call vote. Al Stemper will discuss with Hinkemeyer and give him a copy of the appraisal as Paul was present when the appraisal was done. Chad Pflipsen reported that the chimney on the 1402 rental property has been repaired with a cost of \$800.00. Rod Bemboom made the motion to open the fairgrounds to have events in 2021 per state requirements due to COVID19 with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote. Rod Bemboom confirmed that the entire board was on the Buildings/Grounds committee but should have a committee that takes care of emergency repairs. Ken Beehler offered that the Executive Committee should handle with Buildings/Grounds committee to do repairs. The Executive Committee will be notified when needed and will respond to handling of situation.

Discovery: Al Stemper reported that the robotics and static demos were being planned for the building as in past years. The book fair has been scheduled to come back. Possible craft vendors in the building depending upon lay out also.

FFA: Al Stemper reported that the committee is moving forward with working on the Ag Ed Center. Building cost with some furnishings is about \$300,000.00. Plans are to make it a year-round building, with local groups using for meetings, safety classes and agricultural events. Working on sponsorship

program. Would need internet, computer and technology available in building. Will look at having information and plans available during this year's fair to let the public and businesses know that it is being planned.

Grandstand: Grandstand committee will meet to go over rules from the 2019 fair for the truck, tractor and demo derbies and update so they can be put on the website as well as other ideas for events. There will be no driver's meetings this winter due to COVID19.

Heritage Building: Nancy Zupan reported that Doug Ohman will be back in 2021 as part of the grant money for the MN Dept of Agriculture Legacy Grant. She has requested a proposal from the FOCl glass blowers to look into coming back in 2022. She is also confirming with the Central MN Arts Board that there is not an active grant for 2021.

Sponsorship: The form will be updated for 2021 and available on the website.

Al Stemper proposed adding a 4-H committee as the need to improve and continue communication between the fairboard and 4-H and help improve the relationship. Rod Bemboom, Scott Morris, Ted Prom and Ken Beehler will be the fairboard directors and Al will contact Ann Olson/Benton County 4-H to select 3 or 4 people on the 4-H side. Per bylaws, directors assigned to the 4-H Committee disclosed that they all are interested persons with 4-H but none have a material or financial interest in 4-H with all decisions being made by the fairboard and not at committee level. Karen Sakry let the board know that the fairboard was on the schedule for the meat raffle at Rollie's on January 29, 2021 with sellers needed. Let Karen know if you are interested.

Old Business:

The proposed bylaws were presented with Article IV, Section 2 (a) A board member must be a member in good standing of the society and has served the society in a volunteer capacity for a period of no less than one year and with a recommendation by a current director. Nancy Zupan made the motion to add to Article III, Section 2 – Any members with dues that have not been paid for the prior three years will not be a member in good standing and will need to reapply for membership with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote with Brian Pozorski, Chad Pflipsen, Karen Sakry, Gary Steffes and Kevin Kipka voting nay (5) and (7) yes.

Rod Bemboom made the motion to change Article III, Section 3 to remove '12 months prior to vote' with Scott Morris seconding the motion. After more discussion, Rod amended his motion to: Members in good standing shall have the right to vote on any matter presented to the society for consideration. New members that have paid dues 12 months prior to the vote shall also have the right to vote with Scott Morris seconding Rod's amended motion. Motion carried by roll call vote. With the above two changes, Gary Steffes made the motion to approve the new bylaws with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion approved by roll call. Al Stemper and Laura Falconer will update the bylaws and email copies to all directors prior to next meeting to confirm above wording changes.

The MN State Fair annual meeting was held virtually with Al Stemper, Chad Pflipsen and Laura Falconer attending as delegates. Jerry Hammer spoke at length about the State Fair not happening in 2020 and what the fair did to have some income during the year. The fair lost \$16M not having the fair but were able to keep their staff employed.

Update to the outdoor skating rink that the Sports Arena East had previously proposed is that they are working on securing boards. They may push doing the arena to this fall if needed. Nancy Zupan asked where the lumber is that was used in the Heritage building when it needed to be braced. Chad Pflipsen said that the lumber is in the garage. The lumber is available to be used for projects on the grounds.

New Business:

Al Stemper brought up the idea of purchasing a laptop computer that would stay in the office and be available for use by directors when in-person for meetings at fair office to connect with those attending meetings virtually due to COVID19. Jody Prom made the motion to have the Executive Committee purchase the computer with a cost up to \$500.00 with Karen Sakry seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote. AL Stemper and Laura Falconer will purchase the computer. Al Stemper has been contacted by car show Chair Bruce Theisen regarding the 2021 car show in August with plans as usual and will change as required per COVID19 requirements. Discussion regarding Becky Kampa, Brian Kleis's significant other and the passing of her son. Nancy Zupan made the motion to give them \$100.00 in place of flowers with Rod Bemboom seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote with Chad Pflipsen voting nay.

With no further business, Rod Bemboom made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Sam Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

Benton County Agricultural Society
PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

The February 16, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held virtually. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice-President Al Stemper. Directors absent were Ted Prom and Rod Bemboom.

There were no guests or public comments.

The secretary's report for January 2021 was presented with Nancy Zupan making the motion to approve as written with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote. The treasurer's report for January 2021 was presented with Scott Morris making the motion to approve as written with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Committee Reports:

4-H: Ann Olson, Benton County 4-H Extension Educator virtually attended the meeting along with several representatives of the Benton County 4-H group. The two groups will be working together to see what the fair this year will look like for 4-H activities and good communication.

Building/Grounds: Al Stemper reported that Paul Henkemeyer has requested that a claim be reported to the insurance company regarding the roof on the house to be look at for hail damage. Laura Falconer will contact the insurance company but it may be too late to report the claim from 2019. Paul has offered \$99,000.00 which is under the amount the board previously decided on. Justin Nieters informed the board that two tires on the lawnmower need to be replaced. The price from Midwest Machinery is \$390.00 plus tax and mounting or Chad Pflipsen can order for a cost of \$120.00 plus tax with no charge for mounting. Justin Nieters made the motion to approve with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion passed by roll call vote. Chad Pflipsen let the board know that the propane tank at the Jaycees booth was leaking as the Sauk Rapids Fire Dept was called to the fairgrounds. Justin Nieters brought up requesting a limit that can be used for items on the grounds that may need to be repaired so that a committee meeting does not need to be called whenever something needs to be worked on. Brian usually goes to Chad when maintenance items need to be done. No action was taken as the current Policies and Procedures list was going to be looked at to see if this has previously been decided.

Commercial Exhibits: Vendor agreements for 2021 fair have been emailed/mailed and are also available on the website.

FFA: No new updates on the Ag Ed Building. No recent committee meetings.

Grandstand: Truck, tractor and demo derby rules and registration forms will be available on the website.

Grants: The 2021 MN Dept of Ag grants have been submitted by the February due date which included large and small handwashing stations, displays and presentation areas around the Heritage Building.

Karen Sakry thanked the workers at the last meat raffle with Friday, March 5th as the next meat raffle at Rollies.

Old Business: Bylaws have been updated and emailed to all directors with changes that have been voted on and approved. Before they are signed, Laura Falconer requested that everyone read through them to confirm that the wording and changes are written as approved.

The Sports Arena will not be putting up an outside rink at this time as they have had a hard time finding the boards for outside.

New Business:

Al Stemper mentioned that Century Farms for 2021 are due March 1, 2021 if anyone knows of anyone that is interested and qualifies.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 16th, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

With no further business, Nancy Zupan made the motion to adjourn with Karen Sakry seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

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The March 16, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held virtually and in-person at the fairgrounds office. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ted Prom. Directors absent were Brian Pozorski, Karen Sakry, Justin Nieters and Scott Morris.

There were no guests or public comments.

The secretary's report for February 2021 was presented with Ken Beehler making the motion to approve as written with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote. The treasurer's report for February 2021 was presented with Jody Prom making the motion to approve as written with Nancy Zupan seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Beer Garden/Stage: Jody Prom has secured bands from 2020 lineup and is under budgeted amount. There will be a committee meeting in May. Jennifer Feldhege informed the board that the fair sponsor tshirts need to be ordered about 3 weeks prior to fair.

Building/Grounds: Laura Falconer confirmed with the insurance company that an insurance claim can not be turned in regarding the roof on the rental property at 1221 due the length of time from the 2019 hail storm. Al Stemper will let Paul Henkemeyer know and confirm the price he has offered to purchase the home. Board will need to confirm a timeline that is wanted to sell the home.

FFA: Is only virtual until June 1, 2021. They are looking at different fair experiences that may be done for the fair.

4-H: Ann Olson let the board know that 4-H is planning on in person judging experience for 4-H'ers and working on options for what the county fair may look like.

Grandstand: The demo derby drivers meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22 at 7:00 pm at Rollie's. Chad Pflipsen and Gary Steffes mentioned that there are a couple of areas in the grandstand where hand washing stations should be added this year.

Ken Beehler mentioned that winter storage will be released on Saturday, March 27 from 9 to 11am. Chad Pflipsen asked if the Tinville Lions could borrow about 20 picnic tables to set-up outside at Rollie's for their breakfast. Nancy Zupan made the motion to let the group use the picnic tables with Jody Prom seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Old Business: Conflict of Interest and Harassment policy forms need to be signed by each director for 2021. Copies will be in the fair office and can sign at next monthly meeting.

New Business: Ken Beehler mentioned that Becky Molitor is interested in having a Draft Horse Obstacle Course at the fair and has offered to organize if the fairboard would like to do the event.

The fairboard is scheduled to do the meat raffle on Friday, April 2nd at Rollie's.

With no further business, Al Stemper made the motion to adjourn with Sam Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

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The April 20, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held in person at the fair office and called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ted Prom. Director absent was Justin Nieters. *Sam Morris*

Guest Nathan Oliver was present to discuss having an Open Circuit Swine Show at the fairgrounds on June 11th. They will use the Show Arena and Hog Barn. There will be about 100 hogs with majority showing out of their trailers. They will provide insurance and show permit, bedding, set-up, take down and clean up. There will be market barrows and breeding gilts. Bill from C&L Distributing was present to confirm that 3.2 beer will only be available in cans for the fair this year as 3.2 beer will no longer be made after this year's fair. Becky Molitor was present to discuss the Draft Horse Obstacle Course which will be further discussed to have on Sunday at the 2022 fair as she will not be available to run for the 2021 fair.

The secretary's report for March 2021 was presented with Rod Bemboom making the motion to approve as written with Jody Prom seconding the motion. Motion carried. The treasurer's report for March 2021 was presented with Jody Prom making the motion to approve as written with Nancy Zupan seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Ag Craft: Looking at different entry day and judging day schedules due to COVID as well as staffing of the building, traffic flow and possible craft vendors in the building.

Beer Garden/Stage: Per Bill's confirmation that 3.2 beer will be available in cans for the fair this year, will look at beer ticket prices for 2021. Lions Club will sell tickets but are in need of security to check ID's and monitor alcohol that is brought onto the fairgrounds. Bands for the Beergarden Stage for 2021 are: Tuesday - ? , Wednesday – IV Play \$3250.00, Thursday – Rhino \$2200.00, Friday – Pandemic \$2200.00, Saturday – Mason Dixon \$3500.00 and Sunday - ? along with production for \$7,000.00.

Building/Grounds: Entrance gates at main entrance need to be replaced due to rust and corrosion. Chad Pflipsen priced gates at \$260.00 with using a 16 foot pipe that we already have that can be cut into the two pieces needed with Gary Steffes and Chad doing work. Scott Morris made the motion to replace the front entrance gates with Rod Bemboom seconding the motion. Motion carried. The committee also walked the grounds prior to meeting and noted the following items that need to be done: nails need to be picked up by buildings that had roofs replaced as there are nails on lawn and tarred areas, branches and other debris needs to be hauled out of the manure pit by livestock barns, graffiti on cement in grandstand needs to be cleaned off. There are rotted highline poles in grandstand that are no longer used. Chad Pflipsen has someone that will take them. Board agreed to the removal of the poles. Excel Energy also contacted Chad Pflipsen that there is one leg of a three leg electrical wire that is not working from the beergarden to the transformer by the Sports Arena (southeast corner). We do not currently use the third leg but if something would happen during the fair it would need to be fixed. Jody Prom made the motion to check out the wire to see where it is broke/why it is not working to avoid any problems during the fair. Al Stemper seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chad Pflipsen will contact ESI/Xcel Energy to have it checked out. The Show Arena will be used the first weekend in June for a rabbit show and will follow CDC guidelines that are in place at that time. Grounds cleanup with invite to

4-H club, Benton County Master Gardeners and directors has been scheduled for Sunday, May 16th at 1:00 to clean flower beds and leaf cleanup.

Commercial Exhibits: Vendor agreements are due June 1st. Will hopefully know what the Sports Arena inside vendors will look like as well as adding some outdoor vendor spots.

Consumer Protection: Sample of a COVID protocol with details that each area on fairgrounds will follow was given to directors.

Discovery: Scholastic book fair will be at the fair along with robotics at this time.

Entertainment: Entertainment will be booked on the Cottonwood Stage in the afternoon and evening hours.

4-H: Ann Olson was present to discuss the 4-H protocol that she received from the University of Minnesota which will be adjusted as the COVID guidelines change.

FFA: Due to COVID, there will be no interactive exhibits or petting of animals in the FFA barnyard at this time. Protocol will change as guidelines change.

Grants: The 2021 MN Dept of Ag/Legacy grant was accepted and there is still a balance left from the 2020 grant that can be used this year at the fair.

Grandstand: Tractor and truck pull registrations and rules are available on the website with no changes from 2019. Demo drivers had a meeting and want bigger trophies that they would like to sell tshirts for to raise money. There were also a couple of updates to the rules regarding the building of the demo cars.

Guest/Host Relations: COVID signage and notification will also be on the website.

Insurance: Liquor liability and liability insurance for the grandstand events are being quoted.

Livestock/Poultry: Traffic flow in the buildings and disinfection of the buildings were discussed.

Marketing/Promotions: Four Seasons Siding is interested in advertising on the handwashing stations during the fair. Fun facts that can be put on Facebook would be something fun to do to get people talking about the fair.

Midway/Finance: David Mohs is contacting his Knights of Columbus group to confirm that they want to sell tickets.

Off-Stage Attractions: Activity area may be kept open this year incase needed for outdoor livestock judging.

Parking: Laura Falconer will contact groups to confirm that they are interested in doing parking.

Policies & Procedures: The latest copy was handed out to directors.

Premium Book: Due to COVID, the premium book for the 2021 fair will not be printed. It will be available on the website to exhibitors. A plugin is available to add to our website for \$75.00 (one time cost) that will allow us to add the premium book advertisers on a 'sponsor ribbon'. Scott Morris made the motion to approve adding with Jennifer Feldhege seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Sanitation: Antimicrobial disinfecting may be option to use during the fair.

Security & Horse Patrol: Rod Bemboom let the board know that the Benton County Mounted Patrol will be doing training in the pit area from May into June on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Sponsorships: Committee to meet.

Tribute to Serve: Last meat raffle before summer break for the fair board is Friday, May 14th at Rollie's. Help is needed.

Ken Beehler let the board know that most of the storage units will be out by beginning of May. A request has been made to store the Sauk Rapids Ambassador Float in a building during the summer. It will be pulled out for parades as needed. Gary Steffes made the motion to allow them to store the float in a building with no charge for the summer but no key as they will need to contact a director or caretaker when float needs to be taken out of the building with Al Stemper seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business: Directors signed the Conflict of Interest and Harassment policy for 2021.

Al Stemper informed the board that he has talked to Henkemeyer about the purchase of the 1221 rental property for \$103,000.00 plus closing costs and that Henkemeyer is interested. Al asked for a timeline to give to Henkemeyer. Jody Prom made the motion to have a decision with a deadline of May 1st with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Upon further discussion, motion was amended to June 1st and then amended again to May 15th with a signed purchase agreement, simple purchase agreement with Laura Falconer to notarize if needed. Gary confirmed seconding of amended motion. Motion carried. Al will follow up with Henkemeyer.

There was no new business.

With no further business, Rod Bemboom made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Jody Prom seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

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REVISED MAY MINUTES

The May 18, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held at the fair office and called to order by President Ted Prom at 7:00 pm. Directors absent were Rod Bemboom, Brian Pozorski and Kevin Kipka.

Guests Joe Steineman and Steven Hovanes were present representing the Sauk Rapids Lions Club to discuss not having the Bingo building open on Sunday the last day of the fair as it is not feasible due to number of workers needed to operate versus the amount of money that they make for the day. Board discussed with board requesting Laura Falconer send a letter to the Sauk Rapids Lions Club advising that they will need to be open each day of the fair as the other vendors will be asking for accommodations if they are not open on Sunday. It can be revisited for the 2022 fair.

The secretary's report for April 2021 was presented with Scott Morris making the motion to approve as written with correction that Sam Morris was absent at the April meeting. Nancy Zupan seconded the motion. Motion carried. The treasurers report for April 2021 was presented with Nancy Zupan making the motion to approve with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Ag Craft: Will be the same as 2019 with addition of some craft vendors in building if room and depending upon amount of exhibits.

Beer Garden/Stage: There was discussion on size and price of beer with motion made by Jennifer Feldhege that tickets will sell for \$4.50 each and only 1 ticket is needed for a 16 oz tap beer, IPA beer and/or wine with pounders that are only sold in the grandstand during events are still \$5.00 and are paid with cash. Nancy Zupan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Building/Grounds: Manure pit is full of tree limbs, leaves and some wood and needs to be cleaned out. Jody Prom made the motion to get bids to remove and inform the Executive Board with Ken Beehler seconding the motion. Motion carried. Sam Morris mentioned that there are small varmints living under the lunchstand. Need to check into getting rid of them. Chad Pflipsen is working on the electrical break by the Sports Arena. Additional cleaning days of the fairgrounds are needed. Morning cleaning scheduled for Saturday, June 5th from 9am to Noon. 4-H will also be invited. More mulch is needed for flower beds on grounds. Pots and hanging baskets are welcome from anyone that wants to bring to the fair. Chad Pflipsen has confirmed

with Don Rice that he will do sound again. COVID signage and social distancing signage will be done as required at fair time.

Commercial Exhibits: International Robotics Competition is still on and schedule is being worked on. They will be using the Sports Arena from Monday thru Wednesday night during fair week. Sports Arena will have usual layout due to lifting of COVID restrictions as well as outside and food vendor spots.

Discovery Building: St. Cloud Tech College is locked up for summer so unsure if they will be participating this year. Al Stemper will handle the wifi on the grounds so there is just one contact person. Scholastic Book Fair will be back with books in cases only, no tables. Need people to help staff the sale.

4-H: Ann Olson was present and the 4-H protocols will be adjusted per State requirements. 4-H premiums and judges have been included in 2021 budget and will be paid by the fair as in past as the fair for 2021 is looking like it will happen.

FFA: Still waiting to see what the requirements will be for hands on interaction with the animals.

Grandstand: Bleacher check will be done Saturday morning when working in the grandstand area. Laura Falconer will contact Bryan Carstensen to find out about the trophy sponsors as the drivers wanted bigger trophies this year. Pull sled contract has been completed and returned. PU and tractor pulls are scheduled as usual.

Grants: Laura Falconer will confirm remaining grant money with State of MN for the 2020 grant and the 2021 grant.

Heritage Building: Nancy Zupan reported that Mary Ostby is working on finding someone to paint the schoolhouse.

Livestock/Poultry: The 4-H lama judging is scheduled for July 17th prior to the fair. Cheryl Pflipsen and Dan Pederson will not be handling the open class lamas during the fair but they will have lamas at the fair for fairgoers. Board decided to proceed with open class lama show and see how many exhibitors are planning on bringing exhibits to make sure there are enough exhibitors for a show.

Marketing/Promotions: Jody Prom and Jennifer Feldhege will work on closer to fair.

Midway/Finance: Ken Beehler will work in the counting room. Bill and Donna Landwehr are planning on coming back. Marie Pflipsen and Jennifer Feldhege will help as needed when able. Laura Falconer will make sure the ATM's are ready to go.

Off-Stage Attractions: No big activities will be planned in the Activity area so it can be used when needed during the week. The 4-H Dog Show will demonstrate on Saturday with Canine Agility on Sunday afternoon.

Parking: Rod Bemboom and Laura Falconer are working on contacting groups/individuals from 2019.

Premium Book: As the premium book will not be printed this year, previous premium book sponsors can be added to the website advertising their business. Laura Falconer will work on getting them on the website and will send a letter to the previous advertisers offering the option. The premium book will be available on the website with postcards being mailed to past exhibitors letting them know the information is available on website.

Sanitation: Disposable gloves and hand sanitizer will be ordered. Cleanup crews are needed for early morning cleaning with \$500.00 payment for each morning which is the same as in past years. Group must be at least 15 students and 5-10 adults. Bigger the group the better. Bathroom cleaning crews are also needed.

Security: Ted Prom picked up the signed contract for the Sauk Rapids PD to help provide security. Rod Bemboom has contact the Benton County Sheriff's Dept and contract will be forthcoming. Benton County Mounted Patrol will be used as usual. Bouncers are needed for the beer garden.

Sponsorships: Laura Falconer will update form from 2019 and will be on the website and also will be emailed to directors to print/use as needed. Copies will also be put on the counter in the office. Completed forms need to be received by June 10th as tshirts need to be ordered soon. The sponsors from 2019 were assigned to directors to contact.

Tribute to Serve: Meat raffles are done for the fairboard until September and board will need to decide if they want to continue before then so other groups can be contacted if needed.

Minimum wage increases on July 1st to \$12.50 for small employers under 100 employees and \$14.25 over 100 employees. Director shirts and name tags are needed. Food booths on fairgrounds should be notified to be open on Monday due to the robotics competition going on on fairgrounds. More information to follow when they have confirmed their schedule.

Old Business: Al Stemper reported that Paul Henkemeyer's son Paul is going to buy the 1221 property and has a lawyer working on the purchase agreement. He requested the document for the meeting tonight but lawyer was not able to get it done.

New Business: There was no new business.

With no further business, Kenny Beehler made the motion to adjourn with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

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PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379**

The June 15, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held at the fairgrounds office and called to order by President Ted Prom at 7:00 pm. Directors absent were Jennifer Feldhege, Scott Morris and Just Nieters.

The secretary's report for May 2021 was presented with Jody Prom making the motion to approve as written with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion carried. The treasurer's report for May 2021 was presented with Gary Steffes making the motion to approve with Al Stemper seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Building/Grounds: Tuesday nights starting July 6 the board will get the fairgrounds ready for the fair. Work will begin about 5:30 pm or whenever able. Jody Prom made the motion to approve having Granite City Sod & Landscape haul the debris that is in the manure pit for a bid of \$1200.00 with Ken Beehler seconding the motion. Motion passed with Chad Pflipsen voting nay. After further discussion, Jody and Ken agreed to rescind the motion. Ken Beehler made the motion to put the \$1200.00 we would pay to Granite City Sod & Landscape towards having additional cameras installed on the south end of the fairgrounds and Chad Pflipsen will clean out the manure pit. Gary Steffes seconded the motion. Motion carried. The underground electric line that was damaged between the southeast corner of the Sports Arena and the northeast corner of the Beer Garden has been replaced. It was damaged when the addition was put on the south end of the Sports Arena but will not be covered by Xcel Energy. The new gate at the main entrance to the fairgrounds will be up by July 4th weekend.

Commercial Exhibits: UB's is unable to staff and open their food booth this per telephone conversation between Wendy Martin and Laura Falconer. After board discussion, Laura will contact Wendy to see if they are open to renting it out as it is the first booth right inside the main entrance to the grounds.

Discovery Building: There are 24/60 teams registered for the Robotics competition in the Sports Arena. No international teams yet. Monday of fair is a meet and greet with competition Tuesday and Wednesday should be complete by 5pm. The arena will then be set-up for the fair vendors Wednesday night, with vendor set-up Thursday morning and building will open at Noon. First Robotics (big robotics) will also be in Discovery building.

FFA: Squirrels and critters have gotten into the building so additional fixes will be needed.

Grandstand: Bleacher check will be done on the first work night.

Heritage: Schoolhouse will be painted before the fair this year.

Livestock/Poultry: Vets need to be secured for the fair. Ken Beehler will confirm shavings and wood chips that will be needed for the fair.

Off-Stage Attractions: Area will be open with some smaller activities during the week of the fair.

Parking: Laura Falconer received a bid from Voigt's Bus for the shuttle during the fair with a cost of \$2,759.45 for the week of the fair. Rod Bemboom said Palmer Bus should be contacted. Laura Falconer will contact. Rod Bemboom has also talked to Al (neighbor) and he will do the parking on the south side of fairgrounds and also secure another person to handle the parking on west side but he has asked for \$3.00 per vehicle instead of the \$2.00 per vehicle in 2019. Board discussed with request to Rod to see if he would do a \$2.50/\$2.50 split.

Sanitation: Nancy Zupan is working on a couple of shifts each day with two people on each shift to clean bathrooms. Board again asked for the football team to come and help set-up before the fair on Thursday or Friday.

Security/Horse Patrol: Benton County Mounted Patrol thanked the board for allowing them to use the pit area for training this summer. Rod Bemboom will set up a meeting with the Sheriff's dept to discuss security concerns at Beer Garden and other areas of the fair.

Sponsorships: Jennifer Feldhege will be ordering the 2021 sponsor tshirts this Friday morning. Any sponsor info must be to her by that time.

Tribute to Serve: Karen Sakry will contact Tom Tauber to see if they want to do the parade on Sunday as in past years.

Old Business: Al Stemper has been talking with David Meyers of Rinke Noonan regarding the sale agreement with Hinkemeyer that was received from Leverman Law Office of which a copy was emailed to directors. Meyers did confirm with Benton County Attorney that the Benton County Agricultural Society can buy and sell land according to bylaws. Per agreement received from Leverman, the closing costs is to be paid by the Ag Society which was not the original request (purchaser to pay). Leverman Law Office is still working on with update at July meeting. Laura Falconer will also confirm that rent that is outstanding by Hinkemeyer. Ted Prom brought up the caretaker review which was not done in the fall of 2020 due to COVID. As several directors have asked questions regarding the job, the Executive Committee met and went through the Groundskeeper Job Description with Al Stemper presenting a Fair Manager Job Description that the board may want to discuss and think about to have them take care of the maintenance of the grounds and coordinate and plan the fair.

With no further business, Al Stemper made the motion to adjourn with Ken Beehler seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

Benton County Agricultural Society
PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

The July 20, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held at the fairgrounds office and called to order by President Ted Prom at 7:00 pm. Directors absent were Justin Nieters, Rod Bemboom and Kevin Kipka.

The secretary's report for the June 2021 meeting was presented with Karen Sakry making the motion to approve as written with Nancy Zupan seconding the motion. Motion carried. The treasurer's report for June 2021 was presented with Scott Morris making the motion to approve with Chad Pflipsen seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Building/Grounds: Work night on Thursday, July 22 with Apollo football team coming on July 29 to set-up fairgrounds. Need directors to help direct group on what needs to be done. Chad Pflipsen is installing the security cameras in different locations on fairgrounds to watch the traffic that enters the grounds.

Commercial Exhibits: Will be able to set-up booths in the Sports Arena on Wednesday evening when building is ready. Vendors will be coming in Thursday morning from 8am to Noon to set-up with building opening at Noon for the day. Gilman Creamery has asked to do a dunk tank in their booth during the fair with proceeds going to 4-H. Sam Morris made the motion to approve with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion carried. Robert DiGregerio/ Peter Pan Concessions (mini donuts and slushes) passed away and his food booth will not be at the fair. UB's is going to be open as many hours per day as able.

Discovery Building: First Robotics will be doing presentations in the building as well as 'American Farm' computer activities.

Grandstand: ATV Pull & Garden Tractor Pull group from Paynesville would like to do their activity in the grandstand on Sunday during the fair with a cost of \$500.00 plus mileage. Jody Prom made the motion to approve for Sunday with Ken Beehler seconding the motion. Motion carried. Looking at a 1:00 pm start time. Check of the bleacher and repairs (bolt tightening) has been done.

Heritage: Schoolhouse has been painted.

Livestock/Poultry: Ken Beehler ordered sawdust from Woodcraft and will be delivered on Tuesday and Friday along with 1 load of wood shavings. Adam Scapanski will take care of the milking parlor and help with set-up and cleanup. Cheryl Scapanski will help with dairy open class. Disinfection of all barns will be done with photos taken to confirm that it was done during the fair. Ted Prom has secured Craig Gapinski as the fair vet for the majority of fair week. Scheduling is still being worked out.

Off-Stage Attractions: Sauk Rapids Fire Dept will do their car accident extraction on Tuesday at 5:30pm.

Parking: Ken Beehler made the motion with Karen Sakry seconding the motion to have Voigt's Bus provide the shuttle for the fair with a cost of \$2759.45. The north entrance parking schedule is being worked on with Tinville Lions and Foley Lions as Foley Lions declined to handle this year.

Sanitation: Hand sanitizers will be available in most buildings as well as hand washing stations in all areas of fairgrounds. Need one or two people to empty garbage barrels in the early evenings during the fair.

Security/Horse Patrol: Squad car will be parked at the main entrance where there were bob cats the past couple of years. A fair radio will also be given to a Benton County Sheriff Deputy to have while on duty at the fair with one channel that will be used for emergency calls for on grounds situations.

Sponsorships: Packets are ready for directors to drop off to the sponsors that they secured.

Tribute to Serve: There will be a parade at 11:00 am on Sunday.

Daily meetings will be at 12:30 pm beginning on Tuesday each day of the fair in the fair office. The drinking fountain in the office is not worth repairing due to age as the one in the FFA building is not either. Board will need to decide if want to replace or not.

Old Business: Al Stemper received a 16 page purchase agreement from David Meyer for \$103,000.00 plus seller (fairboard) paying the closing costs. Al will contact David as the original motion was for the buyer to pay the closing costs so needs to be changed.

New Business: Luxemburg Church would like to use 15 to 20 picnic tables for their bazaar. Scott Morris made the motion to allow them to use with no payment with Ken Beehler seconding the motion. Motion carried. Ted Prom will handle. Nancy Zupan let the board know that the 1402 house needs painting on the outside of the home. Discussed tabled to next meeting and will look at it.

Laura Falconer informed the board that she is retiring. With 25 years as the Executive Secretary and with increasing management responsibilities at her full-time job and the fair growing each year, it needs someone that has more time to spend on planning and handling the details of the fair. A replacement is needed by January 1, 2022 at the latest and will be available as a reference and mentor as needed/wanted.

With no further business, Scott Morris made the motion to adjourn with Jennifer Feldhege seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

Benton County Agricultural Society
PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

The August 17, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held at the fairgrounds office and called to order by President Ted Prom at 7:00 pm.

A meeting of the Executive Committee including President Ted Prom, Vice-President Al Stemper, Treasurer Rod Bemboom and Executive Secretary Laura Falconer was held at 6:00 pm along with Attorney David Meyers from Rinke Noonan and director Chad Pflipsen. Meeting was held to discuss situation that happened Monday night, August 2nd at the fairgrounds in which Chad Pflipsen was heard by Rod Bemboom call two female directors 'fucking bitches' regarding the parking of a trailer by Chad Pflipsen on the north side of the grandstand fence where they park their vehicles so they do not have far to walk after closing down the beergarden. Several board members gathered and it was decided to have everyone stay in their areas for the fair and that it would be discussed after the fair. Ted Prom contacted our attorney for direction and an Executive Meeting was scheduled for August 17, 2021 before the full board meeting. At the Executive board meeting, Rod Bemboom said that he heard Chad Pflipsen on the phone, tell him to tell the 'fucking bitches to park somewhere else' with Chad Pflipsen denying he had said that and had said to tell 'whoever is doing the fucking bitching to park somewhere else'. Chad claiming the pop trailer needed to be parked there as it needed to be plugged in and the same area was used by Jody Prom and Jennifer Feldhege for their vehicles. Ted Prom confirmed that he heard Chad say it again Monday night with Al Stemper not clearly recalling the event. Chad Pflipsen would not resign so the Executive Committee meeting was concluded with discussion continuing at the monthly meeting being held at 7:00 pm.

President Ted Prom brought up the Monday night event and reminded the board that it would be handled after the fair and was being handled now. He summarized the Executive Committee meeting that was held with Chad still confirming what he said and Rod confirming what he heard. Chad made some mental health comments towards Jody Prom at which point Jody left the meeting. Jody returned to the meeting. Rod Bemboom made the motion to vote to have Chad Pflipsen removed from the board with Jody Prom seconding the motion. Motion carried. Voting by secret ballot was held with 'yes' that Chad is removed from the board and 'No' he remains on the board. Board voted with 8 'No' votes and 7 'Yes' votes. Chad remained on the board. At this time, Ted Prom resigned as a director and as President of the fairboard, handed in his resignation and left the meeting. Jody Prom and Jennifer Feldhege also left the meeting. Attorney David Meyers also left the meeting.

Vice-President Al Stemper took over the meeting.

Beer Garden Stage: More power is needed for the stage for 2022 fair. There is less power coming out of the Sports Arena since they put the bathroom addition on the south end of the building.

Building/Grounds: Something different needs to be done for the 2022 fair for setting up and cleaning up after the fair as there are not enough directors here before or the Monday after to do all the work that needs to be done. Justin Nieters made the motion to have Chad Pflipsen take the manure and also take the leftover shavings with Sam Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried. Cement flower pots can be put underneath the lene-to. Shade between the cattle barns was very nice to have. Need additional racks for the picnic tables as well as some new picnic tables.

Commercial Vendors: Electric availability outdoors needs to be updated as well as what is available for vendors when completing contracts. Performers need a roadway to the Cottonwood Stage so they are not parking on the grass under the Cottonwood tree.

Consumer Protection: Handwashing stations were plentiful this year. New station with Four Seasons Contracting is very nice with lots of compliments.

Cottonwood: Had sold, duos or bands on stage all week long and was very well accepted. Performers were very appreciative of being able to perform and would like to come back next year.

Discovery Building: Lots of activity in building. Will work on more for next year.

4-H: Lots of compliments from 4-Hers and parents on directors helping and working together.

FF: Al Stemper reported the barnyard went well with 62 individuals working 567.5 total hours.

Grandstand: Summit Excavating would like to donate a bigger flag for the grandstand for 2022 fair. Advance seating/reserved seating was brought up.

Grants: Final paperwork for Compeer Grant will be completed now that the electric work is done in the poultry building.

Heritage Building: The 100 year history books were given out at the Heritage with a free will donation requested and about \$100.00 was collected.

Livestock/Poultry: Marlene and Tracy Hunt have retired as Superintendents of the Open Class Goats. Signs with hours livestock buildings are open are needed for 2022.

Midway/Finance: Lewie Stark presented the fair week income that came through the counting room during the fair. Contract with Gopher State Expositions will be renewing in 2022.

Off-Stage Attractions: Made a lot of use of Activity area with the different activities and attractions. Are looking for new ones for 2022.

Parking: Need to confirm if Al will handle parking along the fence next year again. Will need to confirm group to handle north gate and parking behind the Sports Arena for 2022.

Sanitation: Big thanks to Nancy Zupan and her bathroom cleaning crew. They did a wonderful job during the fair. Will look at getting big rubber bands to put around the garbage cans so the bags don't fall into the cans. Ken Beehler may have more new barrels for next year.

Security/Horse Patrol: The door to the security building on the north side was left unlocked and the Sheriff's radios were still in the building when the handwashing stations were put away Monday after the fair. They were not happy as the radios are very expensive. Keep horse patrol on north end by livestock barns until 11 pm to help with fairgoers bothering the animals.

Tribute to Serve: Parade on Sunday was nice. Need better sound system. Justin Nieters will set-up something for 2022. Next meat raffle at Rollie's is Friday, September 17th at 5:30 pm.

Winter Storage: Ken Beehler has sent out an email or letter to last year's group. Chad Pflipsen made the motion to increase the rental charge \$1.00 on all rentals with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried. Outside room could also be offered to those that would want it. Ken also let the board know that Donita, himself and Laura will help putting in storage this fall but the board will need to decide how they are going to handle going forward as he can't do due to health and Laura Falconer is retiring. Dates will be scheduled for October and help will be needed.

The loan with Farmers & Merchants State Bank renews on August 20th with about a \$27,000.00 balance. Laura Falconer will contact the bank and renew the loan. Board will look at possibly paying off this fall when we see how the fair did financially.

Al Stemper let the board know that the President's position needs to be filled due to Ted's resignation. A meeting will be held at 6:00 pm prior to the regular September monthly meeting to discuss how to fill the Executive Secretary's position due to Laura Falconer's retirement.

Nominating committee is Chad Pflipsen, Karen Sakry and Gary Steffes.

With no further business, Kevin Kipka made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Brian Pozorski seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

Benton County Agricultural Society
PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

The September 21, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held at the fairgrounds office and called to order by Vice-President Al Stemper at 7:00 pm. Directors absent were Rod Bemboom, Jody Prom and Scott Morris.

Guest Mike Iberg was present to request the use of the grandstand area to hold a SCCA/Sports Car Club of America RallyCross Racing event usually held on one Saturday per month throughout the year maybe event during the winter depending upon the snow cover and weather. There are usually about 25 cars at each event. Board decided to have the Grandstand committee set up a site visit with Mike to further discuss the event with all directors notified and can attend if wanted.

4-H Extension Educator Ann Olson presented the 2020 4-H update from the fair. Ann also requested that the board think about closing the animal barns at 9pm instead of 10pm due to situations that arose in the evening during this last fair.

The secretary's report for the July 2021 meeting was presented with Nancy Zupan making the motion to approve as written with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion carried. The secretary's report for the August 2021 meeting was presented with Gary Steffes making the motion to approve as written with Karen Sakry seconding the motion. Motion carried. The treasurer's report for July 2021 was presented with Chad Pflipsen making the motion to approve with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried. The treasurer's report for August 2021 was presented for information only with approval at the October meeting which will give directors time to look through the report due to its length with fair expenses.

Committee Reports:

Livestock: Sam Morris let the board know that he is interested in coordinating an Open ^{Stock}Swine Show as a possible event at the fairgrounds in 2022.

Old Business:

Ken Beehler let the board know that the winter storage will be starting on Saturday, October 2, 16 and 30 from 9am to 11am. Help is needed to put items away in some of the buildings and Saturdays.

Membership applications were received from Mary Ostby and Nick Dahler. Ken Beehler made the motion to approve with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion carried. The Nominating Committee will have the Slate of Candidates for the October meeting. Board discussed changing the night of the meeting along with continuation of taping of meetings. Discussion will continue at the October meeting. The Executive Secretary position was discussed with the board requesting an ad be placed in the Sauk Rapids Herald and Benton County News. Laura Falconer will handle placing the ad in the paper to include request for application resume and salary requirements to be mailed to the fair's PO Box. The resignation from Jennifer Feldhege that was sent by email to all of the directors was confirmed. The 1221 rental property has been sold with a check for \$103,000.00 received from the closing. Laura Falconer will deposit the money and ask accountant how it will affect our taxes.

Karen Sakry thanked everyone that showed up to help with the last meat raffle at Rollies. The next one is scheduled for October 29th.

New Business:

The 6th District meeting will be held at the Falls Ballroom on Sunday, September 26th. If any directors have decided to attend, please let Laura Falconer know so you can be registered. The Benton County Agricultural Society's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Laura Falconer will contact the Sauk Rapids VFW to see if the meeting can be held at the VFW. If not, the VFW on Hwy 10 will also be contacted.

Chad Pflipsen let the board know that Brian Kleis has a power sewer auger for sale if the board would like to purchase for \$100.00. Justin Nieters made the motion to buy with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion carried. Ken Beehler asked to borrow 4 tables with about 20 chairs with the board approving.

With no further business, Kevin Kipka made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Sam Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

**Benton County Agricultural Society
PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379**

The Special Meeting held on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 was called to order by Vice-President Al Stemper at 6:00 pm at the fairgrounds office. Directors absent were Rod Bemboom, Jody Prom, Nancy Zupan and Ken Beehler.

Board discussion on the RallyCross racing that was presented at the September meeting by Mike Iberg. Several board directors met with Mike after the September meeting in the grandstand to discuss the layout and event details. Grandstand committee recommended the following:

Month to month trial for the remainder of 2021 to see how the event is handled.

Either party can cancel the contract at anytime

Planning on one Saturday run in October and maybe November depending upon weather

Portable toilet will be supplied by RallyCross at their expense.

No electric is needed.

There will be no spectators.

RallyCross will dray and rake and put grandstand area back as found

Races are one vehicle, time trial, one car at a time. No multi-car racing.

Course will start on south end of pull track as no dirt can be mixed into the pull track.

Cars only go up to 50 MPH, use factory seatbelts and approved helmets.

Insurance to be provided by RallyCross including Benton County Agricultural Society/Benton County Fairgrounds as Additional insured.

RallyCross will be responsible for any damage done to grandstand area.

Will average 25 cars to start with, with Benton County Agricultural Society being paid \$10.00 per car per event for use of the grandstand area. Hoping to increase to 35-40 cars in 2022.

Will only plan on Saturday per month with any additional events being held due to weather or rain must be confirmed by Benton County Agricultural Society prior to event held.

With the above information confirmed by both parties, Justin Nieters made the motion to move forward and have a couple events yet this year to see how it goes with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried.

With the business of the Special Meeting being handled, Gary Steffes made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 pm with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

**Benton County Agricultural Society
PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379**

The October 19, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held at the fairgrounds office and called to order by Director Nancy Zupan at 7:00 pm. Directors absent were Rod Bemboom, Jody Prom, Scott Morris and Al Stemper.

Guest Frank Sullivan was present to introduce himself to the board and let him know that he is a candidate for District 6 Minnesota State Ag. Society/State Fair Board of Managers. Voting will be during the Minnesota Federation of County Fairs Convention in January 2022.

The secretary's report for the September 2021 meeting was amended to Open Stock Show instead of Open Swine Show under the Livestock committee reports per request from Sam Morris. With the correction as noted, Gary Steffes made the motion to approve with the correction and Kevin Kipka seconded the motion. Motion carried. The treasurer's report for August 2021 that was presented at the September meeting was approved with Kevin Kipka making the motion with Sam Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried. The September 2021 treasurer's report was presented with Justin Nieters making the motion to approve with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion carried. Chad Pflipsen also made the motion to move the \$103,000.00 that was received for the sale of the rental property to a separate bank account with Farmers & Merchants with Sam Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Beer Garden/Entertainment: Laura Falconer presented to the board that IV Play would like to secure Wednesday night for the 2022 fair with an increase in payment from \$3250.00 to \$3500.00. Switch would also like to play at the 2022 fair with the preference for Tuesday night for \$2,000.00. Board discussed with Chad Pflipsen making the motion to approve both bands for nights and cost noted with Karen Sakry seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Sam Morris asked the board if they would like the folding chairs that 4-H has in the lunchstand as they have gotten new chairs. Sam will find out how many chairs are available. Sam will also put out feelers to find out the interest of having a Livestock Show in the summer of 2022. Karen Sakry reminded the board that the board has a meat raffle at Rollie's on Friday, October 29, 2021. Please let her know if you can help.

Old Business:

Justin Nieters let the board know that the RallyCross Racing will have their first event on Sunday, October 24th. Several directors will be there to watch the first event.

The annual meeting will be on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Laura Falconer is looking for a place to have the meeting with no luck yet. The meeting will be at the fair office if another place is not available. Notice of the meeting and annual membership dues will be mailed the beginning of November to all active members.

Board discussed changing the night of the meeting from the third Tuesday of each month to the third Wednesday of each month. Justin Nieters made the motion to move the meeting night to Wednesday with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion passed with Nancy Zupan and Karen Sakry voting nay. *until December*

The Nominating Committee presented their Slate of Candidates that included Scott Morris, Alan Stemper, Rodney Bemboom and Justin Nieters who are the directors running for re-election. Two director applications were received from Marie Pflipsen and Mary Ostby. After board discussion, Karen Sakry made the motion to approve Marie Pflipsen to the (one) three-year term beginning in 2022 and Mary Ostby to the (one) one-year term to fill the director position vacated by Ted Prom. *Motion carried.*

Laura Falconer let the board know that the ad for the Executive Secretary will be in the Sauk Rapids Herald and Benton County News and is also on the website.

New Business:

The 2022 Agri County Fair Grants from the MN Dept of Agriculture is due February 2022. Board should be thinking about what they want to do for the grants.

Chad Pflipsen presented a quote for installing a sprinkler system in the Heritage Building as a reference only so the board knows what the pricing is for the project.

With no further business, Justin Nieters made the motion to adjourn with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

Benton County Agricultural Society
PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

The November 16, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held at the fairgrounds office immediately after the annual meeting. Vice-President Al Stemper called the meeting to order at 8:30pm. Director absent was Gary Steffes.

New directors Mary Ostby and Marie Pflipsen were welcomed as newly elected directors to the board.

The secretary's report for the October 2021 meeting was amended to add to the motion by Justin Nieters that the meeting night would move to the third Wednesday beginning with the December 2021 monthly meeting with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion and motion carried was added to motion made by Karen Sakry to approve Marie Pflipsen to the (one) three-year term beginning in 2022 and Mary Ostby to the (one) one-year term beginning in 2022 to fill the director position vacated by Ted Prom. With the above corrections, Mary Ostby made the motion to approve with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried with Marie Pflipsen abstaining due to not being present at the meeting. Laura Falconer presented an amended treasurer's report for October 2021 that corrected the actual deposit amount for April 2021 to \$ 5,807.00 and adjust the ending bank balance with a debit of 119.74 for August 2021. Nancy Zupan made the motion to approve the amended report with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Mary Ostby presented a letter that was sent to the MN Attorney General by Joe Scapanski regarding the boards handling of the agreement with the University of MN Extension and the cattle, horse, exhibit and lunchstand buildings and not keeping the Ag. Society's best interest and fiduciary duty. Joe also included a written request for a response from the board to add to the file at the Attorney General's Office regarding the complaint with response sent directly to Joe. A copy of the letter, request and a copy of the Directors of Charitable Organizations/Guide for Board Directors was given to each director. Board discussed with Mary Ostby making the motion to continue the discussion at the December meeting after everyone has been able to read through the information that was provided and decide how to respond and what action the board wants to take.

The 2022 committees were assigned. Marie Pflipsen made the motion to merge the Consumer Protection/Emergency Management committee and the Security and Horse Patrol committees with Sam Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried. Sam Morris made the motion to merge The Off-Stage Attractions committee and the Tribute to Those That Serve committees with Marie Pflipsen seconding the motion. Motion carried. Several current board directors will check with everyone on committee to confirm that they want to continue on the committee. Anyone interested in other committees, please let Laura Falconer know so the list can be updated.

Committee Reports: Laura Falconer gave the band contracts for IV Play to Jody Prom along with email from ACTS-TREME for additional information wanted for the contract with Switch to handle.

Old Business:

Al Stemper let the board know that he has had multiple conversations with Steve Behrenbrinker who is interested in the Executive Secretary position. The Executive Committee will meet and interview Steve before the December meeting. Al Stemper will schedule a meeting.

New Business:

Any 2022 budget requests need to be sent to Laura Falconer by December meeting as the budget will need to be done by the January 2022 meeting. Laura Falconer let the board know that the MN Federation of County Fairs Convention will be held January 14-16, 2022 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. Directors must let Laura know if they are planning on going by Sunday, November 21 as the hotel reservations must be done on Monday, November 22 at 9:00 am. Convention delegates will be directors attending the convention.

Director appointments were discussed to replace Ken Beehler who passed away after being a director for 25 years on the board, Rod Bemboom who withdrew from being re-elected due to the board's meeting night being moved from the third Tuesday of each month to the third Wednesday of each month and Chad Pflipsen who was removed from the board during the annual meeting by the membership. Several ideas were discussed to do a dedication to Ken Beehler for his years of service on the board.

With no further business, Scott Morris made the motion to adjourn with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society

Benton County Agricultural Society
PO Box 118
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

The December 15, 2021 meeting of the Benton County Agricultural Society was held at the fairgrounds office and called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice-President Al Stemper. Directors absent were Jody Prom and Karen Sakry.

Guests/Public Comments: Stephen Behrenbrinker was present and introduced himself to the board as the applicant for the Executive Secretary position. Al Stemper and Laura Falconer had previously met with him after the November 2021 meeting for an interview. Stephen provided a resume as well as a completed job application. He then left the meeting. Vicky Molitor was present representing the 4-H Livestock committee to request that the board consider closing the livestock barns at 9pm instead of 10pm during the fair due to safety concerns for the animals and 4-Her's that are in the buildings. She thanked the board for the updating of the fans in the Poultry Barn. There are two extra fans that are not needed in the barn that can be used in another building. One fan does not work and will need to be looked at.

The secretary's report for the November 2021 meeting was presented with Mary Ostby making the motion to approve as written with Gary Steffes seconding the motion. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was presented for November 2021 with Gary Steffes making the motion to approve as written with Mary Ostby seconding the motion. Motion carried. Justin Nieters presented a bill from Chad Pflipsen for the four new tires and antifreeze for a total bill of \$573.00. The tires were new that were on the skidsteer that has been used on the fairgrounds that has been used for snow removal for the last seven years. Mary Ostby asked if there was a written agreement regarding the use of the skidsteer and who was responsible for maintenance, etc. There is no written agreement. Justin Nieters made the motion to approve payment with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion carried with Mary Ostby voting nay due to no written agreement. Written agreements/contracts need to be done moving forward. Justin presented another bill from Chad Pflipsen for \$91.76 for a new battery from Midwest Machinery that was needed to replace the old battery for the lawnmower. Mary Ostby made the motion to approve with Sam Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried. Justin presented a final bill from Chad Pflipsen for the updates that have been done to the Beer Garden Stage with a total of \$12,250.45 along with an Indemnification Agreement that he requested that the board sign waiving him of all liability for work that has been done on the fairgrounds. Justin Nieters made the motion to pay the bill for the stage with Brian Pozorski seconding the motion. Motion carried with Mary Ostby voting nay. Scott Morris made the motion to approve signing the Indemnification Agreement with Justin Nieters seconding the motion. Motion carried with Mary Ostby and Nancy Zupan voting nay.

Laura Falconer read a letter from Al Stemper informing the board of his decision to resign from the board effective Friday, December 17, 2021.

Committee assignments for 2022 need to be finalize yet.

Committee Reports:

Laura Falconer received the renewal contract for the midway from Randy Forcier of Gopher State Expositions for a three-year renewal contract. No changes were done to the contract. It is the same as current contract. A discussion with Randy will be done concerning the number of campers and sizes that

are brought in by the midway workers. Scott Morris made the motion to sign the renewal contract with Marie Pflipsen seconding the motion. Motion carried. The President and Vice-President will sign the contract at the end of this meeting and Laura will send back to Randy. Al Stemper brought up the snow removal per his conversation with Brian Kleis/caretaker. Brian mentioned that Jeremy Jansen might do it as he is the one that plows for the Sports Arena. Al told Brian to talk to Jeremy and get a price.

Old Business:

The Executive Secretary applicant, Stephen Behrenbrinker was discussed with Justin Nieters making the motion to approve hiring him effective January 1, 2022 with an annual salary of \$14,400.00 (\$1,200. Monthly) which is the same amount that the current Executive Secretary is being paid. Position will be part-time (15 hours) per week except for months of June, July and August which will be full time (40 hours) per week as work load is lighter some months and heavier getting ready for the fair and after the fair. Motion carried. Retiring Executive Secretary Laura Falconer agreed to help Steve with his processing of business that needs to be done for the fair and will keep track of her hours for payment by the Ag. Society. Per Laura, she will assist as needed but is not planning on a huge amount of time as she wants to give Stephen room to make the position his own. Reminder that any budget requests for the 2022 budget are needed by the end of December as it will be worked on prior to the January 2022 meeting. The Minnesota Federation of County Fairs Convention will be held January 14-16, 2022 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. Scott Morris, Sam Morris and Nancy Zupan will be attending the convention with Scott and Nancy attending the ECOLI training on Thursday prior to the start of the convention. Hotel rooms have been reserved. Ag. Society will reimburse attendees for the hotel and mileage but must turn in hotel bill for reimbursement. The letter that was presented to the board from Joe Scapanski at the December 2021 meeting regarding his letter that was sent to the MN Attorney General was discussed with Marie Pflipsen making the motion to contact Attorney David Meyer for legal advise before responding to Joe's letter. Mary Ostby seconded the motion. Motion carried. Laura Falconer let the board know that she did not receive any responses from the letter that was sent to the membership asking if any members were interested in becoming a director.

New Business: Justin Nieters gave a letter of resignation to Laura Falconer to read to the board effective at the conclusion of this meeting and request to remove him from all committees. Marie Pflipsen gave a letter of resignation to Laura Falconer to read to the board effective at the conclusion of this meeting and request to remove her from all committees. Kevin Kipka gave a letter of resignation to Laura Falconer to read to the board effective at the conclusion of this meeting and request to remove him from all committees. Brian Pozorski gave a letter of resignation to Laura Falconer to read to the board effective at the conclusion of this meeting and request to remove him from all committees. Gary Steffes gave a letter of resignation to Laura Falconer to read to the board effective at the conclusion of this meeting with request to remove him from all committees and as a member of the Ag. Society. The election of officers was held with Nancy Zupan nominated as President, Sam Morris as Vice-President and Mary Ostby as Treasurer. Scott Morris made the motion to close nominations with Marie Pflipsen seconding the motion. Motion carried. Mary Ostby made the motion to approve the nominations with Scott Morris seconding the motion. Motion carried. Marie Pflipsen reported that MN State Rep. Dan Wolgamott is working on special legislation with MN State Rep. Tim O'Driscoll as he was already working on the project to take care of the liquor change for county fairs regarding no 3.2 beer availability in 2022.

Meat raffles at Rollies will be January 21, March 18, April 29 and May 27.

With no further business, Scott Morris made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Kevin Kipka seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Falconer

Laura Falconer, Executive Secretary
Benton County Agricultural Society