

**Jasper County Agricultural Society**  
**Jasper County Fair**  
**Extension Office - Newton**

The regular meeting of the Jasper County Fair Board was called to order on Monday, February 23rd 2026 at 7:00 pm by Jim Soppe with **14** directors and 2 guests present.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Zaabel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerry Elscott	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Engle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan DeHaai
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kendra Halferty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reed Heimstra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Fosenburg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karla Jordan
<input type="checkbox"/> Chauncy Wiggins-Kain	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Nolin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Maher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janet Townley
<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Moorman	<input type="checkbox"/> Mindy Kerwin	<input type="checkbox"/> Kenny Schlosser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wayne Saak
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Soppe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brenda DeHaai	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Logan Zaabel	<input type="checkbox"/> Lance Moorman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shaun Vander Werdt	<input type="checkbox"/> Kyle Padget		

Motion made by Bob 2nd by Roger to approve Secretary's Report - **motion carried**

Motion made by Jerry 2nd by Logan to approve Treasurer's Report - **motion carried**

The Spring District Meeting was held on February 14th. Janet shared some key takeaways from Ian Hill's presentation about how to change with the times and utilize social media to increase engagement with our communities:

- Use multiple social media platforms
- Highlight the work that goes into making the fair happen
- Make one post each day of the week
  - 'Getting in the algorithm'
- Celebrate different aspects of the fair
  - Sponsor spotlights, promote events, recognize volunteers, etc
- There are also lots of training videos at [youmakethedifference.com/io](https://youmakethedifference.com/io) for anyone who would like to learn more

We decided to form a social media committee to handle the responsibilities of creating and sharing social media posts. The following volunteered to form the new social media committee: Janet, Ann, Brenda, and Kendra.

Kendra shared that the City of Colfax approved our fireworks permit for Sunday, July 19th with a rain date of Monday the 20th.

The City of Colfax also approved our parade permit, but informed us that there will be construction on Walnut St. during the fair. There was some discussion about rerouting or canceling the parade. Kendra offered to reach out to the City for some more information about the timeline/plans for the construction project before we make any decisions.

We are also in need of a new parade superintendent, as Kim Thomas is no longer available. Kim is going to ask around to a few people she knows. Brenda is going to reach out to one of the people who organizes the Old Settlers parade for Monroe.

We switched to a new insurance provider, ICAP. The new policy costs a little more than the old ones, but the new one fits the fair better and allows us to have everything covered under the same policy.

Jim shared that sponsorship letters have been sent out, and many have come back already. A list of sponsorships can be found in the treasurers report.

Brenda and Morgan gave an update on entertainment:

- The wood carver has been booked and they are working on confirming availability with the other vendors.
- We are still looking for a music act for Monday night

Roger suggested reaching out to a glass blower in Newton in the future. They could potentially set up a mobile display and do live demonstrations. It could be a good display to alternate with wood carving.

Morgan gave a brief update on judges. So far we have 6 judges confirmed and are waiting to hear back from superintendents for the following divisions: Dog, Cat, Llama, Swine, Supreme Showmanship, Advanced Feeders, and Dairy.

Shaun gave the following updates on fairgrounds projects:

- The Buildings and Grounds committee is planning to get together to make a To-Do list for when the weather gets better
- We have a quote for \$3,000 to add gutters/down spouts to the GP building.
- Dickerson will be in soon to finish gas hook-up (meter)
- Our name is still on the list to receive a playground from Woodrow Wilson (Newton School District)

Wayne informed us that the padlock on the electric box for the horse arena/tractor pull area has been switched back to the old one. There is damage to the door of the box from someone trying to pry it open. He is going to look into securing that box and other utilities.

Jim shared that Farm Credit Services has donated \$5,000 for sod and concrete by the shelter house. They will be volunteering in May as well, so please be thinking of some projects they can help with.

Ann shared that she is working on a grant for concrete parking/making it ADA accessible

- Please let her know of any needs/grants she can help with

Kendra shared that Lehl Van Daalen named the Jasper County Fair in his will, and we will be receiving \$5,000 from his estate! There was some discussion about placing a memorial plaque/brick on the fairgrounds, no final decision was reached.

- This prompted discussion about replacing older memorial items that are in poor condition with bricks or a memorial wall. No motions were made.

Kendra shared that we need to update the fair dates sign by the bridge.

CoLine plans to donate signs for the GP Building in late March/early April.

Karla informed us that the ceiling tiles in Building 1 have water damage, and Erica will be coming to clean the floor.

The March meeting will be held at the fairgrounds.

Motion made by Kendra 2nd by Shaun to adjourn - **motion carried** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Submitted by

Morgan DeHaai

Fair Board Secretary