

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, January 26th 2026 at 7:00 pm by Jim Soppe with **18** directors and 1 guest present.

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

Motion made by Kendra 2nd by Kenny to approve Secretary's Report - **motion carried**

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

On the 23rd, Kendra, Jim, and Morgan met with the Jasper County Board of Supervisors. They shared what improvements have been made at the fairgrounds in the last year and talked about improvements we are planning to make in the future. The Board of Supervisors agreed to provide us \$30,000 in funding again this year and to allow us to receive it sooner (hopefully in July) so that we can begin working on the grounds before winter.

State Convention:

- Karla gave an update on how the Convention went and what she learned. She shared that we should check where all of our fire extinguishers are located and move them if needed to align with safety guidelines.
- Reed shared that at the livestock updates meeting, they asked that we be more diligent in checking registration papers for proof of ownership. According to State Extension, this means that the paper should say the exhibitor's name or the owner has to have the same last name as the exhibitor.
 - This applies to any livestock that is required to have/show registration papers
 - This does not apply to equine or dairy cattle (can be leased).
- Karla spent \$268.00 at the silent auction
- The Forklift sculpture sold for \$60, and no one could recall how much the painting sold for.

The 2026 Spring District Meeting is February 14th. Karla, Reed, Jim, and Janet plan to attend.

Shaun proposed two potential dates for storage-out, April 12th or April 19th. After some discussion the group came to a unanimous agreement to have **storage-out on April 12th.**

Jim asked for recommendations for 2026 Friend of the Fair. After some discussion, Logan made a motion, 2nd by Morgan, to have Dan Keeney, Ed Machin, and the Leonard Family (Ann, Eric, Ben, Kaleb) as the 2026 Friends of the Fair - **motion carried.**

Jim asked for recommendations for the 2026 Parade Marshall. After some discussion, Jerry made a motion, 2nd by Chauncy, to have Ed Machin as the 2026 Parade Marshall, remove him from the 2026 Friend of the Fair list of recipients, and add John Halferty as a 2026 Friend of the Fair instead - **motion carried.**

Shaun opened the discussion of increasing the price of storage. He shared that the last time the price increased was in 2022. Motion made by Shaun, 2nd by Kenny, to increase the storage prices by \$20 at each increment - **motion carried**

Lance shared that the price of camping was last addressed about 5 years ago. Motion made by Kenny, 2nd by Janet, to increase the cost of camping for the week of fair by \$25 bringing it to a total of \$175 - **motion carried.** After brief discussion of non-fair camping prices, there was a motion made by Kendra, 2nd by Kenny, to increase the price of non-fair camping to \$25/night - **motion carried.**

Kendra informed us that we need to come to a decision on what will be in Building 1 and Building 2 during the fair.

- Building 1 is the former Youth Building and Building 2 is the former Open Class building
- There was discussion about which building would allow enough space for the vendors and which would better accommodate displaying the open class entries.
- Motion made by Mindy, 2nd by Kenny, to have the Open Class in Building 1 and Vendors in Building 2 - **motion carried**

An information sheet showing the 2025 project premium amounts and proposed increases to project premiums was distributed before the meeting began. Kendra shared that it has been at least 20 years since the last time premiums were increased. Motion made by Brenda, 2nd by Mindy, to approve the proposed premium increases - **motion carried.**

Morgan shared that the poultry judge has asked for an additional mileage fee. She proposed a \$65 increase to the judge's payment which was calculated using the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate. Motion made by Mindy, 2nd by Brenda, to approve the \$65 mileage reimbursement, bringing the total judging fee to \$315 - **motion carried**

On the back side of the proposed premiums sheet, there is a summary of proposed schedule changes for the 2026 fair. Events in the summary include: Communications, Awardrobe, 4H/FFA static exhibits release, Dairy Cattle Show, Goat Show, and the Cattle Fitting Clinic.

- There was clarification that these proposed changes should not alter the other scheduled events on their respective days.
- Chauncy suggested leaving the Thursday morning static exhibit release time on the schedule in addition to the proposed release time to allow exhibitors more time to pick up their exhibits.
- Motion made by Jerry, 2nd by Mindy, to approve proposed changes - **motion carried**

Jim shared that he has a letter prepared to send out to sponsors and plans to start sending them out later this week. Please let him know if you have any new sponsors to reach out to.

Chauncy, Brenda, and Morgan gave an entertainment update. The planned events are:

Friday - Corn Hole Tournament

Saturday - Rodeo

Sunday - Power Wheels Derby

Monday - Drone Show, looking for an act to perform before the drones

Tuesday - Foam Party

Wednesday - Teen Dance

There will also be a wood carver on Sunday and Monday. They are looking at potentially having an educational exhibit/presentation in the GP Building one day of the fair as well.

Shaun gave the following updates on grounds projects:

- Bleachers:
 - 4 trees from the south side of the arena were relocated elsewhere on the fairgrounds to make room for the bleachers. He warned that these trees will not survive being moved again.
- GP Building:
 - He has a quote of \$10,000 to pour concrete around the GP building, it would be around \$3,000 to do a few of the sections instead of all of it.
 - Gas is being installed February 12th.
- Ed is working on tile and getting tree stumps ground
- Ed also reached out to George Dickerson about sponsoring the bleachers project, but he hasn't heard back
- Shaun reminded us that the playground from Newton Schools should be on our minds for the near future

Associate Board:

- Logan and Morgan found no leads on forming an associate board at the State Convention.
- After brief discussion, it was unanimously agreed that further discussion on this topic will be left to the committee.

Karla proposed waiving the fee for Dan Keeney to rent Building 1 for an event this spring. She suggested that we waive it in return for Dan chopping down trees for us at no cost. Motion made by Kenny, 2nd by Logan, to waive the rental fee - **motion carried**

Logan shared that Roger suggested we buy equipment for the fairgrounds from Smith Rentals, as they are closing. There was some discussion that led to the suggestion that it is not the right timing for us to purchase equipment.

Kevin shared that Jeff would like to ask about using the tractor pull track to test pull trucks around Memorial Day weekend before pulling events start up. There was discussion about insurance coverage - Kevin will talk to Jeff about having his own liability insurance for this.

Karla reminded us to turn the lights off before leaving a building/the grounds.

Motion made by Kenny 2nd by Shaun to adjourn - **motion carried** to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm.

Submitted by
Morgan DeHaai
Fair Board Secretary