

The special meeting of the Ross County Agricultural Society Board of Directors was conducted Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at the Ross County Fairgrounds, 344 Fairgrounds Road, Chillicothe, Ohio.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll call revealed that Corcoran and Elliott were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bryan Bethel.

Guests – Mary Ginther, Anne Cox, Dusty Countryman, Lisa Hill, Melody Young, Curt McAllister, Justin Reutter, Teresa Freeman, Chris Hooks, Marty Lambert, Bonnie Lambert, Troy Stollar, Joe Sharp and Karlton Wheeler.

Bethel announced the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the renewal of the Easyriders Rodeo contract.

Melody Young, representing the Chillicothe Visitor's Bureau, supports the Rodeo. During the 2019 Rodeo there were 473 room nights sold at local hotels bringing in \$130,000.00.

Mary Ginther, a retired nurse, opposes the Rodeo, she is concerned with the drug abuse, and violence that takes place during the event. Also concerned with the deputies not being allowed to police the entire campground.

Troy Stollar, a local veteran, supports the Rodeo. He has attended the Rodeo for the last twenty years and stated that he has not seen the violence that people are concerned about.

Anne Cox is opposed to the Rodeo, she is concerned with what people are doing during the Rodeo.

Teresa Freeman is opposed the Rodeo on moral issues. She thinks having a M.A.D.E. event at the Court House and the Rodeo at the Fairgrounds is sending a mixed message to our youths.

Bethel has talked to the Sheriff, and the issue of not being allowed in certain parts of the campground has been addressed.

RCAS proposed a price of \$100,000.00 to the Easyrider Rodeo and they counter offered \$60,000.00 or 10% of the revenue, whichever is greater. During a Contract Committee meeting on November 12, 2019, Sheriff Lavender agreed to cover the security during the Rodeo with 30 deputies for \$80,000.00. The Rodeo wants a five-year contract but will do a one-year contract with the possibility of extending to a two-year contract.

Clary asked Young how the hotels favored during the Bash for Cash event on Memorial Weekend. She responded that there were 172 room nights sold.

McCorkle is concerned with being paid on a percentage it is hard to know if you are being paid correctly.

Hill reported that the Easyrider Rodeo representatives said that they would be contributing on the free rides during the fair.

Bethel has contacted businesses and was told that the Rodeo brings to the community approximately \$500,000.00. The minimum that RCAS would be paid is \$60,000. The main concern is the safety and that the Ross County Sheriff Department is hired to be the security or there will be no contract.

Hill stated that with a one-year contract for 2020 that this would give the Board time to find a replacement event for Labor Day weekend. Boggs agreed with Hill.

Prater is concerned with the safety of the event and wants what is best for the community. He would like to be able to bring in trade shows.

Haubeil Jr. feels the RCAS could survive without the Rodeo. Concerned with destruction of property and having to make repairs and receiving payments from the Rodeo.

Haubeil is concerned with personal liability.

McCorkle summed up the situation, the Rodeo is financially good for the community and RCAS and negative on the moral issues.

S11-1-19: McCorkle moved to conduct a secret ballot on the Easyrider Rodeo Contract. This motion did not receive a second.

Mr. Benson advised on not having a secret vote.

S11-2-19: Clary moved, Hill seconded to have a show of hands vote on a one-year contract with a two-year option contract for \$60,000.00 or ten percent of revenue whichever is greater with the Sheriff's Department being paid \$80,000.00 from Easyrider Rodeo. 9 in favor, 8 opposed, Cosenza abstained. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was conducted with the following results.

Affirmative votes: Boggs, Chain, Chrisman, Clary, Clever, Gearhart, Hill, Hurtt and Nelson. Total of 9 votes.

Opposed votes: Free, Gray, Haubeil, Haubeil Jr., McCorkle, Pickerrell, Prater and Whitten. Total of 8 votes.

Abstained: Cosenza. Total of 1 abstained.

Clever reported on the cost of the campground electrical upgrade. The cost of upgrading 140 campsites will be \$102,700.20 for labor and materials. This includes three new electrical transformers. The water upgrade will be \$26,601.00.

S11-3-19: Prater moved, Free seconded to purchase three new electrical transformers for the campgrounds. Motion carried.

S11-4-19: Haubeil moved, Chrisman seconded to hire Jeremy Forcum starting December 1, 2019 to begin the water upgrade project for \$26,601.00. Haubeil and Chrisman withdrew their motion and second respectfully.

McCorkle feels that the replacement of the Commercial Building should be considered as a priority project. A committee for replacement of the Commercial Building was formed at the November 4, 2019 meeting, Free is the chairman of this committee.

Cosenza reported that he and Haubeil have met with John Wetzel on starting to have 300 to 400 of the newer campsites to become a certified campground.

S11-5-19: Boggs moved, Hill seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm.
Motion carried.

WITNESSED BY:

RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY:

BRYAN BETHEL
PRESIDENT RCAS

MARY LUDWICK
SECRETARY RCAS