

BAKER COUNTY FAIR BOARD
Minutes of January 03, 2007
Board Meeting

Members Present: Chairman Ron Rowan, Vice Chair Dean Defrees, Ann Kniesel, Mark Johnson, Rob Ellingson, Andy Barr

Members Not Present: Tony Britt

Advisory Board Members Present: none

AB Members Not Present: Bob Borgen, Mary Ellen Anderson, Janice Cowan

Others in Attendance: Andi Sexton (staff); Fred Warner, Jr. (County Commissioner), Terry Kerby, Plant Mgr. Ash Grove Cement Co., Mike Ferguson, Reporter (Baker City Herald), Donna Lowry, President, 4H Association, MaryLynne Evans (new staff)

The Meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Chairman Ron Rowan.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Rob and 2nd by Ann to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion passed with all in favor. **Note: The Board did not meet in December.**

Financial Documents:

A motion was made by Dean and 2nd by Andy to accept the financial documents as presented. The motion passed with all in favor. Discussion: The Gun Show folks still owe \$30 for additional chairs rented on the day of their event. The board also approved the Thews Sheet Metal bill for the recently installed heating system in the small room, total \$2,616.70. The amount is to be applied to repairs/maintenance in the Extension Building, not capital improvements.

OLD BUSINESS

Fair Grounds Manager Position – Progress to Date, Next Step

The Fair Grounds Manager's position has been filled by MaryLynne Evans, who was present at the meeting. She will begin on January 16, 2007. Andi will be in the office to work with her that first week. Andi will also be available via phone for any and all questions and guidance after that.

Fred Warner, Jr. trip to Salem with General Caldwell. Fred still does not have any news from General Caldwell regarding additional project funding from the State Parks. Fred did say the \$300,000 grant is still on the table.

Fred Warner, Jr. meeting with the Forest Svs and OMD regarding Forest Svs move to Military Readiness Center. The Forest Service is looking at adding onto the readiness center. If they get approval to spend money in this fiscal year then the project will move forward. Fred gave them the training center plans, with the hope that the plans will be purchased. If the project does happen, they will need additional parking, and the Blue House Lot would meet their requirements. There was no discussion in regard to the corner lot being included in the project. However, the commissioners have Dan Van Theil, County Council, reviewing the covenant documents to see if the Corner Lot can be sold. The Forest Service is interested in relocating to the Fair Grounds location because they need a place to park horse trailers. The total project is estimated to cost \$6,000,000, and the BLM would also relocate. Fred said he should have an answer from the USFS within the month. If the commissioners get solid assurance from the USFS then the commissioners will entertain getting us moved to the Old Armory facility.

Fred Warner, Jr. discussion with Leo Adler Committee - \$70,000 Grant Match contingency

The County does not have any existing funds for the match, however, the sale of the blue house lot is appraised at \$80,000 and Fred thinks this will meet the match requirements and that we should go ahead and consider it the County's match. Discussion: some members voiced concern that the blue lot is 50% owned by the Fair Board and thus only 50% should be considered part of the match, however, this would reduce the Leo Adler grant match amount. Further discussion required.

Blue House Lot – Board members asked Fred what steps were being taken to put the Blue Lot on the market. The County has not taken any steps. Fred said the Fair Board can do anything they want, meaning, the board can put the property on the market without having to go to bid. Discussion was to have the best realtor assist with this process. The deed is in Baker County's name. Consensus of the board is to get the Blue House Lot on the market in March. Procedure: 1. Contact 3 or 4 realtors. 2. Pick best realtor. 3. Present to Commissioners plan. Discussion: the board required from Fred a memorandum from Dan Van Thiel stating documenting this procedure, and stating the board did not have to have the sale go out for bid or an RFP. Fred is to contact Dan Van Thiel.

NEW BUSINESS

Grant award from Ash Grove Cement Co. Terry Kerby, Plant Manager for Ash Grove Cement Co., presented a \$10,000 check to the Baker County Fair Board to be applied to Phase II of the Baker County Events and Community Center project. Mr. Kerby shared Ash Grove's mission of contributing to the communities where they operate, and he gave an outline of the Sutherland Foundation based in Kansas. Mr. Kerby stated that he appreciated the efforts of the Fair Board and is very supportive of the Baker County Community and Events Center project.

OFA January Convention – No one from the Board or staff could attend the conference this year.

BiMart Charge Account – Andi indicated there was no need for this charge account. That it had minimum use. She suggested that the account be closed. It was unanimously decided to close account.

Heating System in Small Room update - Thews Sheet Metal installed a used gas heater in the small room. The system can be moved to the new offices at the time we move. Total cost was \$2,616.70, which was approved during the financial report discussion.

Other Discussion – Donna Lowry, Incoming President of the 4H Association was present. The Board asked if the Dog Show could be moved to Fair Week. She expressed concerns that many of the 4-H members/volunteers would have a conflict and be unable to participate as extensively as they would want. The Board asked that Donna visit with the association to see if the Dog Show could be moved during fair week so that patrons had another event to see, and to reduce maintenance man hours being spread over a two week period. Donna said she would follow up on the request.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next Meeting: February 7, 2007 at 5:00 pm for a Budget Workshop. The Regular Board Meeting will meet at 6:00 pm. Both meetings will take place at the Extension Bldg.

Respectfully submitted,

Andi Sexton, Fair Grounds Manager