

MINUTES  
**White County Agricultural Association Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 3, 2024**  
**4-H Building, Reynolds, IN**

**Present-** Keith Altman, Ashley Clark, Maddie Clark, Clint Federer, Deb Foutch, Randy Freshour, Roger Geisler, April Hall, Rodney Hall, Trent Hall, Hillary Hawkins, Scott Hood, Jr. Leader Rep., Betty Kelly, Jeremy Lemming, Caleb McClure, Doug Morehouse, Kimberly Neuenddorf, Bob Oliver, Steve Schemerhorn, Baily Tanner

**Not Present-** Molly Childers, Jon Coy, Lauren Dimmitt, Luke Furrer, Josh Robertson, Jon Tebo

**Guests-** Meradith Dondlinger, Kalisa Baker, Lisa Gooding, John Gooding, Don White, Candy White, Jeff Campbell, Cindy Campbell, Ivy Owens, Cami Owens, Issabella Owens, Andi Hedrick, Jason Hedrick, Michael Thompson, Laura Thompson, Ross Clark, Heidi VanMeter, Chanda Byroad, Josh Humphreys, Becky Clothier, Jeremy Clothier, Craig Byroad, Ada VanMeter, Hudson VanMeter, Ross Howard, Colton Stockment, Cohl VanMeter, Brian Furrer, Ron Byrd, Mike Altman, Natalie Altman, Shannon DeLosh, Jacqui DeLosh, Kristin Dreblow, Lela Dreblow, Jason Dreblow, William Suhr, Linda Redmon, Cold Suhr, Nancy Redmon, Michelle Earney, Marty Huseman

**Call to Order-** President, Trent Hall, called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

**Secretary's Minutes-** On a motion by Betty Kelly and seconded by Keith Altman the minutes from the December 6, 2023, was approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report-** Keith was present to report. Keith didn't have a physical report for the meeting. It is basically the same as December. There have been three bills that came in that need to be paid, but they're inconsequential. The Cass Township check for \$50,000 came in, which was reported in December minutes.

**Jr. Leader Report-** Blaine Reiff was present to report. Nothing new since the last meeting.

**4-H Update-** Molly Childers is out on maternity leave, but Hillary Hawkins is present to report. The Priority 4-H deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>. Currently there are 148 4-Her's, 55 mini-4-Her's. They were saying today in the office that is down a lot, normally there are around 400 registered at this time of year. Currently there are only a little over 200. Trent said to post on the Facebook page a reminder. Encourage people to get registered. They can call the office or come in during business hours.

**Committee Reports**

- **Development-** Jon Tebo was not present to report.
- **4-H Programming-** Doug Morehouse was present to report. All auction buyers have now paid.

- **Event-** April Hall was present to report. There have been bands that have reached out to us via email. Some from the past. If there were some you really enjoyed in the last few years feel free to throw those out to her. April is still thinking about the inflatables area. There's a lot of usable space. She'd like to have the inflatable guys come out and if anyone has ideas or wants to come out during the winter to measure to figure out which ones would work in the best space, she'd appreciate it.
- **Grounds-** Randy Freshour was present to report. If it's okay, he'd like to get bids on painting the extension building. It's been asked, he doesn't believe it's been done since it was renovated 27 or so years ago. Trent said he also has another big job ahead of him – sound. Luke hasn't filled Randy in on that yet, so we may leave Luke on the sound project. Randy said that there are still a bunch of lights still not working. Joe Demerly said he had a bunch of lights donated to him so he's going to come in and change them all out. He originally thought we'd have to put all new fixtures in but thinks these lights will last a little longer.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- **Goat Arena/Multipurpose Arena & Beef Barn Expansions-** Trent started off by stating we need to come to a conclusion, and he knows we've talked about it a few times. Basically, what we need to figure out now is that there is 19' in between the two barns. It needs to get to 20' at the very least. 30' preferably, but 20' definitely. Basically what it's come down to is that Trent has talked to John Gooding a couple of times and they know that if it's going to be 20' there will have to be a new variance on the goat barn arena. Which, if we talked to Melissa, who has been doing the variance before, shouldn't take very long for her to get her part done. That will be \$500.00 that the Ag Association will pay for. Hopefully the state can get through it quickly and we can get rolling. What we need to figure out is how to get an extra foot or two. Right now, at 19' it will not go through. Our recommendation right now is to get the variance done and preferably, if we can, can we get a drawing of both blueprints on one sheet. The goat blueprints and beef blueprints drawn up on one set of blueprints and sent to Melissa. Brian Furrer asked who the lady was that did the variance. Trent replied that her name is Melissa Tupper. Brian asked if he could confirm with her, because he was under the understanding that the goat barn variance required 30' in between. Trent said that it does right now and they're good at 30', but if we are going to have it at 20', they have to get a new variance. Brian Furrer asked the way the variance is now it would require 30' between the two? Trent replied with yes, but as of right now it's at 19', he thinks they can get it to 20' and they can get that variance moved on. Melissa would also really like to get that blueprint so she could see exactly what is needed in between the two barns and see what variances need done. Jeff Campbell understands, and correct him if he's wrong, right now the variance that the goat barn has allows them to build current space. It doesn't have anything to do with where the beef barn's future barn is going to be. We had to have a variance because of the footprint size and fire suppression. That's the only variance we were required to have. So, as of right now, we're scheduled to start on the goat barn project build next week. It was put on hold by the Ag Association

in early December and we had a meeting with the beef committee and executive committee and the beef committee, and the goat committee agreed initially back in May/June that both could be mutually exclusive and that we could, based on the plans submitted at that time, have both barn projects going. The beef barn changed in scope at some point in time in the fall, which the goat committee was unaware of, and so they had applied for their variance for fire suppression in August and received it in November. They got with FBI and scheduled their build date, which is next week, unless the Ag Association votes no and that's what we are going to wait for. So right now, we (the goat committee) are all set to go. They have all their permits, they have everything they need, and they need to start the project. They've put a lot of effort into getting that barn ready so the only thing they have left to do is take down the west wall of the barn so that FBI can start building onto it. They have already cut the concrete out, they pulled the shavings, they've taken a whole bunch of stuff down inside of the barn to prepare for that. They have a concrete guy ready to come in, they have an electrical guy ready to come in, and finish up the work so they can be ready. The intent is to have that barn ready for Ag Day. So that is what their goal was. That is a big part of the program, having three stations set up in that barn for the fourth graders coming in for part of their program on Ag Day. So, any delay past that week now puts that in jeopardy from happening. Let alone maybe not having the arena ready for the fair. So, if there's, any Jeff knows the beef committee is working on that plan for the barn. They want them to get that done and at that last meeting we had in December the beef committee agreed to move their barn back 2'. That would give us 21'. Craig Byroad replied – no, it was in the minutes, he just went through them, 1' and then in the goat committee's minutes yours says 2'. So, that's not the case. Jeff thought he heard two feet and went on stating that they have the 20' to apply the variance for. To have the goat committee stop when they have a start date to go would jeopardize Ag Day and potentially the fair. They need an arena for the fair or they will have to have the Ag Association's assistance in getting something else together to have an arena for their show. Trent said he knows John talked to Melissa this morning and he asked if John understood it as frontage for the 30'? It's more or less for frontage in between? John replied that it's a general code. Square foot is the occupancy type. Frontage and all the square footage of the building occupancy type play into the distance requirements. Trent said that is what Melissa told him too. 30' is the magic number for nothing, but if it's going to be 20' she is going to have to do a new variance for that expansion on the goat barn. Brian Furrer had two questions. One – When they submitted their permit did they make FBI aware of what the beef committee was planning to build? Jeff Campbell replied that they had no plans. Brian replied that the plans have been well displayed at the fair. Jeff replied – right, and at that time, that they had that information, Brian, all they knew was that they were going to extend the current roof line out and it would be 24' between the original plan and our barn. Brian then asked if it was true if the variance requires 30'. Is it true that the goat barn's variance requires 30'. Jeff said that they did not have to have a variance for anything other than fire suppression underneath their roof. Brian asked again if it was true that if the variance, that they currently have, requires 30'. Jeff replied with no. Brian then stated that it is true. The variance that they have requires 30'. John Gooding

said the code requirement is 30' as the variance is written. Jeff then said they aren't within that with any barn. The closest barn or building is the Homemakers Extension Building. Brian replied – so if the beef people would submit today, under the same that the goat committee submitted under, the goat barn hasn't been filled. But if the beef people submitted a permit, today, they could say the closest barn is "this" far away. It would absolutely be misrepresenting what is taking place and if they did that the way the beef barn is designed it will not require a variance. So, if the beef barn were built and the goat barn were built today, and their variance requirement is 30', and it wasn't fixed, at some point an inspector will catch that. Jeff replied absolutely it's going to the state and the state would catch it because they already have the goat barn's permit on file. Brian said if the state catches it, it's unlikely that the state would catch that at this point. So, what you're suggesting is, if you build and it requires 30' then the beef people are screwed from doing what they want to do. Jeff said no, that's not what he's saying. What he's saying is, if they agree to move it 1', that will give 20' space, so the beef would have to apply for a variance to get that 20'. Brian doesn't think that will be granted. Trent said that the way Melissa said it would be the goat expansion that would have to do the 20' variance. John Gooding replied – which he didn't know because to understand with the beef expansion requires any variance whether it's a prior fire suppression frontage or distance between buildings, it depends on occupancy. But the beef barn is going to have to have a fire suppression variance because Indiana Code 903.2.1.1 says any A1, A2, A3, A4, A5 occupancy rated buildings, of which the goat barn is A3 and A4. A4 is the arena and A3 is the penning area. The beef will be A3, any building over 12,000 square footage requires a fire suppression system or a variance has to be applied for. Jeff said that they aren't saying they don't want the beef barn to build. They want them to build. That's what the committees agreed on back in May when they met. Brian then asked if it's reasonable to submit both plans at the same time to the state? Jeff said that they already have theirs submitted. Cindy asked if theirs was ready to go because as of Friday they were told by FBI the process hasn't begun at all. No blueprints, no plans, nothing. Brian said that it would be ready very quickly. Cindy said but it hasn't been, because you got approval in the fall, what have you been doing for the last 3 months? Trent then stopped the conversation. John asked what type of information does Melissa need. Is it all the way to the blueprint, final drawing stage. Trent said that she wants both sets of blueprints on one thing. Goat permits are fine. She needs that to know what variance she needs to make. She said that it will take her no time, she already has all the information, it's the state that we will be waiting on for the variance. John didn't remember how long it sat in the state conference last time. John thinks county officials allow two weeks to review before state takes action. Jeff said that three months from submittal at the end of July until mid-November could potentially cause issues. Trent said correct, but he would hope with Melissa not having to do as much due diligence this time. Jeff said but it's on the state and we don't control that. Michael Thompson asked if we were only talking about 1'? Jeff said 11' without a variance period. Brian thinks that it's unlikely that you will get a variance that allows 20' in between building for a fire suppression. Jeff said that there would be two variances that the beef would have to apply for. Distance between the building and the fire

suppression. Maddie Clark said that the goat barn would still have to apply for the 20' as well, correct? Trent said that it has been his understanding. Brian said that if FBI submits this with both on it, it will be one project. Jeff said that Brian is right in one aspect. If the Ag Association votes tonight to hold their project. Then when the beef submits then they both will have to apply for a variance. If the Ag Association votes tonight to let them continue with their construction build next week, then it will be just the beef applying for that variance to be within 20' plus their other variance that they are going to need to apply for. Brian asked why they want to build an arena that's 30' wide and 80' long. And why do they want to put bleachers under 9' trusses. Cami Owens asked to speak. She has two daughters that show goats and when they show dairy goats first, if their grandparents want to come watch the show they have to leave once the pigmy show starts because it's jammed packed full of people. They have people that want to watch the whole goat show and it's not possible because it's like sardines in there. Then when shooting sports, which is the biggest club in White County, when it rains that's the space they use. They also can't fit into our arena currently to get the time they deserve to shine. John Gooding said that the show ring conventionally is larger than what the show ring is today. As Brian understands the dimensions, the new ring will be 30'x80'. John replied that it would be 32'x83'. Brian feels that is really odd shaped. His second question is - why do they want to try to put bleachers under 9' trusses. Jeff replied that they've had bleachers in there the same height. What Brian is suggesting is that he thinks there are better plans than the one they've submitted. That would look much nicer and would accommodate everybody. Seems that they're hellbent on one thing and that's get FBI to build as fast as they can, and it doesn't matter how it's going to look. Jeff replied that they have a window of opportunity and Cindy said that it's not accurate state of Brian's. Brian replied that it's what it feels like. Jeff said that when they originally did their expansion on the east end, Brian replied he knows, he was the largest supporter of the project, Jeff said that they appreciate that, and they still have his name on the sign. Brian said that that isn't what's important to him. Jeff said that they also submitted a phase two as part of that project to build an arena on the west end as a T. It was turned down by the Ag Association. Brian believes that was a mistake. Jeff said the limited cost that they've put into their barn expansion is what they believe they will need to get them by for quite a few years for what they have. They have to limit the size of some of the classes, they have very limited space for the people, they have people on the outside looking in to watch the show. So, they did this because it's the most efficient thing to do. They have already paid for all the materials for this barn expansion. They are planning on starting next week. Brian isn't sure that that is true. Jeff asked if they've paid for all the materials. John said they haven't submitted checks, but they have funds to pay for the whole project. Brian asked how much down payment they had given FBI. Lisa & Jeff said around \$26,000.00. Maddie believes that we are getting off track and we are not negotiating anything. We are just arguing with each other. Jeremy said going forward we need to get on one page. It'd be nice to get stuff in writing from Melissa because right now it's just word of mouth. It sounds terrible, but right now there's not a whole lot of people in this room that he trusts right now over this issue. Trent thinks that turning in the two blueprints asap so they can get started on what they need to do

variance wise so we can keep these projects on track and get both rolling. He doesn't want to see either one of them stopped. Jeff said that FBI is waiting on an answer tonight so they can decide whether they're going to continue next week. If they get it in another slot, they don't know when that will be. Ross thinks that FBI would prioritize that County Fair. April suggested a deadline to get the blueprints together to give to Melissa so that she can look at the variance so they can be turned in together. April had another question on how much more seating will this new goat barn expansion make. Jeff said they go from two sets of bleachers to six sets of bleachers. They will also have room for handicap seating. Cindy replied - it would be up to 300 people. April asked verses what was? Cindy replied 75 maybe. Jeff said that they never talked to a fire marshal about capacity. Trent asked if there was motion to make. Doug asked if they needed the variance before they continued construction. Trent said that it's his understanding. Jeremy asked if it was possible to get FBI's project manager to put everything under one project and move forward? Maddie thinks they should be able to. Jeremy said that Brian knows better than he does. Brian said that's what FBI feels should be done. He happens to know those people pretty well and they feel the right thing to do is to submit both projects together to get the state approval. Bob Oliver is asking on what the option on each barn taking 8' off since the rafters are 8' most likely, now you'd be at 32' with no question. We are in this for the same purpose. Brian replied that the beef barn is pretty crowded the way it's drawn up now. The reason the beef barn stopped there and didn't go wider, was because there was a really nice shade tree that they were trying to protect. That doesn't matter now because it's been cut down. John Gooding wanted to interrupt and didn't want to turn it into an argument. He wanted to let everyone know that there's no one in this room that had a greater infinity for that area than himself. That's why there was a memorial to his aunt and uncle who donated the initial money for the barn. So, that's the only reason the tree was removed, it wasn't because we thought we could get by without it. It could not stay and allow the expansion to occur. Brian wasn't aware that at one point in time that the goat people had proposed a T typed style barn. He doesn't know if it was a T style that the Ag Association rejected to or if it was the expansion in that area at that point in time, but I really believe that revisiting that would take time. I know you want to get the project done by Ag Day and stuff but to him it's always much better to have really good projects at the table at one time then hurry it and have things covered. Take your time, do it right. It may take another month, but he thinks it's still doable to have it done by fair time. We've had Ag Day in the existing facility before, he knows that it would be nice. What we are trying to do for this fair speaks for itself, to him it's important to have a nice fair that we are all proud of much more importantly than having tension and what's going on. We are much better off sitting down together and come up with some really good plans and move forward. You can do what you want to do, I (Brian) am not on the Ag Association, his opinion in that will never change.

Trent said that we've had plenty of discussion and that someone needs to make a motion. April Hall makes a motion to turn in both plans to FBI and have them look at it then move forward from there in regarding to needing a variance or not. Maddie

believes we need to decide if the goat barn can go on with their build next week first, correct. Or does that need to be part of April's motion? Don White asked if the beef barn even knows what they're building. Trent replied yes. Don said that he hasn't seen a change, that's why he's asking that question. He's never seen anything. They've not applied for anything so has anyone seen what they're actually doing? The Ag Association and Michael Thompson replied that they have seen plans for the new build. Michael said that they had the layout plus the amount they needed. Brian said the reason the beef barn hasn't moved is because if it were to move it would make a mess for the fairgrounds. When down in Boone County they made a move, and they were out of compliance on the variance and the state fire marshal came down and literally shut down the Boone County Fair. FBI was involved with that; they are painfully aware and know what can happen. They don't want to see it happen again. If both barns were built as proposed today it would be in violation in variance and it's highly probable that the state would permit those without realizing what they did. He doesn't know anyone in this room that would want the state fire marshal coming in and shut down the fair and it would be the goat barn that would be out of compliance.

One parent who has no investment in either building asked – since the beef has their plans and they're able to submit them are you guys going to submit a deadline for them so that there is not too many delays and what happens if the deadline isn't met? Brian suggested that the deadline be set for 5pm January 4, 2024. Trent said that's what we discussed in the executive committee is to set a deadline.

Jeremy asked if we wanted to break this down into multiple motions. April Hall withdraws her original motion. Ron Byrd suggests not to make the motion all one. Jeremy Lemmings makes the motion that all plans need to be submitted by 5pm January 4, 2024, for the Beef to FBI Buildings Inc. Maddie Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a question in the crowd if we have to wait until February's Ag Association's meeting to know if you guys have voted on this. Trent replied that we could do a zoom meeting to approve it before the February meeting. If it passes, we can give approval to restart the project. Randy asked if we are submitting the beef plans as they are currently. Jeremy said that we are submitting the beef plans, what they have is what we are going to submit. Randy said that it's going to be 19'. Trent was going to ask the same question. Caleb McClure said if Melissa and FBI Buildings see it side by side then they can tell us what we must do.

The next step Trent wants to discuss is variance. He was under the impression that if it's a 20' that the goat barn has to be redone variance wise anyways. He doesn't want to stop their project at all but wants to get the variances right. He thinks if we can get it submitted to Melissa and she figures that out and resubmits that 20' variance I think we can get it done. John asked if as soon as she knew that the data inputs in that it kicks it off to state to try to get it done faster and be on schedule. Trent said that it's his plan,

more of a hope. Obviously, a hope and a prayer thing, but he's trying to keep both projects rolling. Brian asked if all construction is on hold until both projects have permits. Brian said we keep talking about variances, but the important thing is the permit. I think you need to put everything on hold until there is a permit for both buildings. Once you have the permit, we know that you are done, it's finalized. The permitting process is just a couple day process once the state does their approval.

Natalie Altman asked if the variances are approved, and the goat barn already has their plans and their permit then why do they have to wait for the beef barn to have their permit to proceed. April Hall said that she believes that the Ag Association owns these buildings so we need everything as an entity to work together and make sure that one is going to continue and that will unfortunately put another one on hold because it's not meshing. That is April's thought, this is a beautiful fairgrounds and she truly believes that esthetically she's been to fairgrounds. Like Boone County, it's amazing, it's all under roof, but she's been to some and if we can keep them esthetically nice instead of each building their own building and making it new. She knows everyone wants a new building and new expansion, but we need to work together on this. If FBI Buildings is building both buildings that they will make that mesh better. Brandon Bell asked if it was a fire issue that both the buildings couldn't both be bigger and touch each other. Ron Byrd said a fire suppression would have to go in then. John asked Trent if Melissa said they could run into traffic because of how far along the arena project is and they both get done as we're proposing. Can't they just both, knowing that they are both going forward, but theirs right now are a couple days ahead because of the extra work that's already been done right now that still needs to be done on the beef, but she says we're further along. But she says they'll both get done this way and they're further along why can't they finish that just to get the construction build. They have more finishing work and doing it themselves on the project. John wants to make sure he has enough time for them to be able to get done too. He's saying where they are currently with their information. With a fire suppression they have to have Redico come out and give you a quote for what it costs to put a suppression system in because that's what they had to do on theirs. That took a couple of weeks to get done. April Hall said that once we get the information together, there won't be any questions. Trent said that the question will still be the 1' and that's what we need to figure out. That is the hold up. Bob said if we let the one go on then if there any changes that have to be made then it's all on the beef barn, correct? Because the goats have already started and to him that's not working together. He thinks it needs to go to FBI and have Melissa see it.

Doug made a motion that both building projects may proceed once both variances are approved, and permits are approved. Maddie Clark seconded the motion. All were in favor except for Roger Geisler and Betty Kelly who opposed. The motion still passes. Jeff clarified that what he heard there is that we voted that neither project could move forward until both projects get variances and permits completed. Maddie Clark said that it was correct.



Trent Hall closed this discussion and told the guests they were free to leave if they didn't want to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

### **New Business:**

- **Zoom Meeting with Josh Winrotte** – Josh is the Area Director for Area 8, which is pretty much highway 31 from Tipton up to Fulton County and surrounding counties then also director in area 10. So, he works with about 14 different counties with a bunch of different educators that his role is for this evening is he's part of the 4-H staff that two of the area directors work to do a lot of the problem solving. Working with boards and committees and working with policies and procedures. If there is a question about state policy or interpretation needed for state policy himself and an educator from the southern half of the state, Lisa Wilson, are the two that primarily do those things. Molly contacted him and said that we were concerned about some fees that have been charged in the past, and wanted to talk a little bit about what the expectations were with the state level on those. The biggest thing Josh has is what questions do we have around charging late fees because as a state we do not endorse any late fees any longer moving forward. Trent Hall asked – say a person's animals checks in after July 1<sup>st</sup>, what are they allowed to do? Are they allowed to show fully? That's what we are asking the question on. Josh said that there are two different levels to that question. You say that they show up with their animals – are their animals entered in 4-H online and entered by May 15<sup>th</sup> correctly? The second question is had they done fair entry when they arrived. Trent said nothing on May 15<sup>th</sup>, everything after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Josh said that us as a county, we're allowed to elect what we feel like the consequences at our local level could be. We could say that they're not allowed to show. We could say yes you can show but is exhibition only. We can say you can show in your normal classes and win, but you can't sell at the auction. That's where they're allowing us at the county level to have the freedom to elect what those things are. Josh said that it's entirely appropriate to enforce a boundary like that by having some sort of consequence that comes along with that. He would encourage us to not let them do anything because we want to celebrate the fact that the kid had been raising the animal for 8 months and it may be a parental mistake, or it may be some other mistake. The idea of allowing a mechanism for them to enter with consequences is absolutely allowed. Rodney Hall asked why there can't be a late fee. Trent said that is kind of what we were getting at. If they didn't do the late fee, the way we had it. We don't have them do the late fee but they could do showmanship then if they paid the late fee they could show everything fully. Win classes, win champion, sell, etc. Josh said the question he'd ask is when you go about writing your documentation for that, you need to make sure you separate your May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline the away from your fair entry deadline because that's what has caused some issues in some of our other counties is there's not clarity on that. If they miss the May 15<sup>th</sup> animal deadline, that is now a hard deadline across the state. So, if somebody says – “Hey it's May 16<sup>th</sup> and I forgot to put my last heifer in.” That's a hard out everywhere. All 92 counties that's a hard enforcement of that date. We are allowed to set that fair entry deadline somewhere in between 1 week and 3 weeks out, but if somebody hasn't

put their animals in by that date, they can't do anything. It is a statewide date for every animal in their system. They must be in by May 15<sup>th</sup> for the livestock categories. Trent said that it makes that a lot easier because we've had people sign up after the July 1<sup>st</sup> for their animals and didn't think about the May 15<sup>th</sup>. Josh said at the point you should hand them a record sheet and say go ahead and fill this out and you can get credit for having participated in the project, but you're not going to exhibit at the fair because you didn't follow the guidelines in place by the state or adhere by local board as well. April asked what if you have everything in fair entry, but July 1<sup>st</sup> you don't have your paperwork in? Trent said they have everything in on the May 15<sup>th</sup> date, but don't turn any paperwork in until July 7<sup>th</sup>, day before fair for example. Josh asked what paperwork we require just so he understands. He (Josh) wants to clarify what we're asking for between May 15<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of our fair. Roger and Trent said what they're showing. Example – for swine if they submit 15 pigs for one child, we try to get them to cut it down to 3 or 4 pigs by July 1<sup>st</sup>, so we know how many they're bringing. That way they can have barns and stalls/pens set up. Josh explained that's where we have the policy to put out now or next month at the latest that says, "if you miss the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, here are the exact consequences that come along with it". Like we already said, it maybe that they can't show in their regular classes but can do showmanship and sell in auction or some other standard of what that is. Communicating that early and giving families multiple months of hearing that, it would safeguard us on the backside if somebody came back and said they paid \$20.00 before and got to go in. Well, that's not the policy telling you. Molly and the office have been communicating it, we've put it out in the handbook, it's very clear that here is what the expectation is. It's a statewide expectation that this fair entry deadline is going to be followed moving forward. Roger asked if we could add the fee do what we have been then as long as we have a clarification. Josh clearly stated that we cannot add the fee. You cannot charge 4-Hers for late fees. It's not allowed anywhere, and he said he's gotten rid of it in other counties around us. Cass County still had one, up until last year. They eliminated Cass counties and Whitely County; they are working to eliminate any late fee charging for youth across the board. So, it's not just our county that is hearing this. April asked what the other counties have done in lieu of late fees. Josh said that Cass County was an educator change when they found out that it was happening. The Cass County Educator informed him in July during the fair that it was occurring, and it was immediately put in place what he's describing to us. Which is a hard fair entry deadline. He doesn't know what their fair directors decided, but he can get a copy for us once they decide and what several other counties surrounding us do. He doesn't have access to them right now as he's on vacation. He will get that information to Molly & Hillary so we have it the information for us to see what the other counties do. We agreed that it would be great and would give us some direction. April Hall asked what the reason for no late fee is as to why it's an absolute no. Josh said that it's because the argument can be made that they'll charge a late fee for every project. So now they're taking an activity that is supposed to be limited cost and we could say well we're going to charge a late fee and it's \$150.00/head for every animal that wants to get in. Now you have a family that has limited means that can't afford to pay that, and their children can't. Then you have a

family that has means that can. We want to give a level playing field as much as possible when it come to those kind of things; and financially across the state when it comes to those kinds of things is that's the biggest barrier for some of our families is they're scraping by just to be able to bring their single pig in while we have other families that have more means and could say well we will be late and pay the late fee because this pig was better over the last 3 weeks than that one. Josh said that is a challenge for them, because they didn't realize that some of these policies were replaced so they haven't had adequate communication on their why over the last few years because they don't see every handbook as they go out from the state office. Unless an issue arises or a question gets brought to them, a lot of times they can't help with those situations because they don't realize. April Hall verified that the May 15<sup>th</sup> we can come back with the state in stone rule. Can we use the July 1<sup>st</sup> as the state as well and is there a cushion? Josh asked what date our pre-fair judging starts. It's a week before the fair, so around the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. Josh said that we must give 1-3 weeks ahead of time is when we can set that hard deadline. So, if the 9<sup>th</sup> is our day, July 2<sup>nd</sup> would be our hard deadline. He knows that we've used the first because it's an easy date, but 7 days out from that up to 21 days out, you can pick the date and say this is our date that fair entry must be completed for these things. That gives us the freedom to say we need it to be a little longer because our office staff needs longer or we want to put it right to the very last minute to give our people as much time as possible, but that's where that flexibility and time comes so that we have that freedom. Josh said they have some groups that don't have internet access at their fairgrounds where their office staff is, so their office staff has to have everything preprinted before they get there. Where we are in a different situation where we have everything contained in one place where it's easier to do things last minute. Trent said that we may throw this on the end of the agenda tonight to talk about again and be something we vote on. Josh says that he could probably get us between 8-10 different counties' rules and consequences on how they've set that out. April says just for giggles since Josh explained this so well. What is should a county continue with the late fee? Josh said that right now this is the gentle reminder right now to please don't do that and the second reminder would be harsher and would involve a change in leadership of your console. The reason being is they don't want to dictate everything that we do. They understand the valuable volunteer resources you put in, but we want to provide you with that framework that everybody works in to allow you guys to be successful within it. They don't want to come in and be heavy handed and say hey this is it, but they do the non-negotiables, the fees being one of them. If we came to them saying this is what our consequences are Josh is not going to come back and argue and say you shouldn't do that as consequences. That's part of our decision making as part of being the rule making body of local programming, but those hard and vast statewide things, that's where they have to take heavy handed approach that they don't necessarily want to have to do and ideally you wouldn't put us in a position to have to enforce it that way. Randy asked if there was no appeal process for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Josh said that there is, there's the grievance process that families can fill out. The grievance process is something where if the family feels like that a rule, decision, or consequence was applied inappropriately to their youth they can fill out the grievance form. The

grievance form will allow them to provide evidence of how their youth was harmed individually by a rule or decision or by something else. That would go to a local grievance committee who would make a ruling whether or not there was actually injury provided to the child in that situation that was outside of that expectation. Then there's an appeal form that comes to Miss Wilson and himself at the state level. So, if somebody feels like their grievance was heard at the county level but wasn't appropriate or response wasn't appropriate they can appeal to the state level and that goes before Miss Wilson and Josh. Josh said there were 34 filed during the 2023 fair season, 32 of them they have held the counties positions of what they have ruled under the initial grievance. The only two situations where they did not where they overturned the counties was because the county was in violation of the state rules. So, if somebody misses the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, it's May 17<sup>th</sup> and they come to the office crying and call you all and you say you're going to enforce the rule because the state gave us this rule, they can file a grievance and we are going to overturn it because we are following the state rule and then we will send it to Josh and as long as he reads it we are following the state rule; they won't get their satisfactory with Josh. If we (Ag Association) are following the state rule and state policy they will back us up. Randy asked at county level if we deemed it okay, we could overturn the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline? Josh replied not for placing livestock in without state office approval. In that situation, if we wanted to overturn this. Mom and Dad were in the car putting animals in and had a car wreck we'd want to give extenuating circumstances we'd call their office or contact Josh through Denise and Josh would say okay let's hear what the extenuating circumstances are, because at the local level if you're going to change a state rule. We'd ask to let us get involved they could either be the bad guy for us or we could hear from them they at the state agree with us in the situation. Josh can almost guarantee if we came and said this mom forgot and we feel bad – that's why we communicate these things months in advance and communicate multiple times why we share deadlines over and over again. That's why the extension office reaches out and contacts families who don't have their animals in yet or haven't enrolled yet for the year etc. that's something we encourage our 4-H educators, and we ask them to do.

- **Committee Sign-up** – Hillary will bring to the February meeting.
- **Civil Rights, ADA, and EEO** – Purdue is an entity that has to treat everyone equal. All programs and events must not discriminate and must have access for everybody. Please see attached for Purdue's Discrimination Policy.
- **Other** – Randy asked if the 19' doesn't work then what do we do? Deb Foutch said if things are going to FBI can't they say? It may have to be left to them. Ron Byrd said the way the plans are they won't get approved. Trent said it has to be 20'. Clint Federer asked if they could shave 1' off of it. Jeremy said that it depends on what they do between now and 5pm tomorrow. Randy asked how much it'd cost to put a fire suppression in and Ron said about \$500,000.00. Bob asked if they built both expansions the same, they said there'd be 40' between buildings. It'd eliminate all questions. But they're not willing? Trent said their thought is they already paid for some of the stuff. Maddie doesn't understand why they weren't put together from the very beginning.

Trent said because at the executive meeting we were told by one person they couldn't be because they are two separate projects, but our thought was they are two separate projects, but it's the same person doing those projects. April asked - as the Ag Association, if we have the power to overturn the plans? Trent and Randy said you could, but their funding was based on that project. So, if you want to overturn and tell them to go the other way then at that point the Ag Association needs to come up with the funding. Bob said not the funding, but the fundraisers. As long as it gets built for both people. The people who donated and helped raised the money, 90% of them probably don't know what the blueprints look like anyways. They're just trying to help the fairgrounds out and the kids. Trent said that the problem is that neither barn wants to modify. Deb said then you take it to FBI Buildings and let them decide and then tell them if this isn't going to work then they have to come up with a solution that will work. Then it will be on FBI Buildings and not us. Roger said they won't say here's what you need to do, they're going to tell you, you need this many feet. The beef barn will be the one to get denied. Trent is fully under the assumption that 20' the goat barn has to get a new variance. Maddie clarified that anything under 30' there'd have to be a new variance for the goat barn. We all agreed that we need to get both barns built by doing it the right way. Ron Byrd said that we don't always agree with Brian, but he said something tonight that he hopes everyone heard, but we need to be patient. We are not heart surgeons; nobody is going to die if it doesn't get built this year. Be patient, do it the right way, and make it look right. Bob added if we don't, it will cost a lot more in the end.

Hillary asked if FBI comes back and says that someone has to give up 1' and that it has to be 20', will the Ag Association wait until February meeting or is that when you said you'd call a zoom meeting? There will be a zoom meeting scheduled once we have information back.

- **Late Fee** – Trent said after we talked to Josh on the zoom meeting, we have figured it out that we need to get rid of the late fee and come up with our own consequence. Roger is thinking that we let them show in showmanship, but not let them do auction. Ron asked if this rule applies to only July 1<sup>st</sup> or May 15<sup>th</sup>? Trent said that we were under the impression that it was only for July 1<sup>st</sup>, so we were a little confused on it, but you have to be in on May 15<sup>th</sup>, or you can't show at all. State wise.

Ron Byrd said just so they know what they did last year in the swine barn is because their numbers were down and they were trying to let everybody in and let them participate, even if their animal were not on the May 15<sup>th</sup>, they weren't going to send them home, they just weren't going to be allowed to show in showmanship. He does agree that the rule does need to come from the Ag Association, if it's not on May 15<sup>th</sup>, then no, but July 1<sup>st</sup> we are already following their rule. We have expanded that and gave more opportunities for more people over and above that rule. Right now, the state gives this many people the opportunity and White County gives this many the opportunity because this is late fee money. If you aren't going to do that then this much

of the people are going to be cut out, which is okay. Trent said that we thought we were going above and beyond with the payment but after he explained it, it made way more sense. Trent added basically what we are going to do is Josh is going to send different county rules just to see what they do with the late consequences, and we will probably stick with what we have already, but with no money. Josh demanded no money, or he will revoke volunteer status. Rodney makes a motion to get rid of our late fee and wait until we get ideas to see what consequences to use by the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Maddie Clark seconded the motion. Trent asked if there is any discussion. Ron and April asked if the handbook has been printed yet. We don't believe that it has been, but we need to make sure that the new rule gets put in and also out to people. Josh said every month to broadcast on your Facebook page about the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. This is just strictly for livestock. Only one opposed. The motion will pass.

- **Upcoming Dates**

- January 15<sup>th</sup> – Priority Enrollment Deadline for 4-H Members
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – Roots Dinner 6:00pm (per Luke's email)
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Beef Weigh In (Snow Day March 9<sup>th</sup>)
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – Fairgrounds Clean Up Day (Snow Day April 6<sup>th</sup>)
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – Ag Day

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 7:00pm 4-H building, Reynolds**

**Adjourn-** The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.