

MINUTES of EXPO-ICE CENTER BOARD MEETING

Held Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Location: Expo Merchant's Building – 4921 Expo Drive, Manitowoc WI

Present: J. Hawig, S. Binversie, PJ Albert, K. Behnke, T. Dvorak, M. Hoffman, R. Kohlbeck, K. Kohlmann, M. Lentz, T. Loritz, E. Mueller, N. Newberg, S. Pinkerton, M. Plate, C. Schleis S. Schuette, P. Strouf, B. Ullman, R. Voss, R. Zipperer

Absent & Excused:

County Board

Supervisors

Present:

Others Present: J. Shelton, C. Breit, Barb Palzewicz

Pledge of Allegiance

Called to Order Meeting called to order – 7:00pm.

Minutes Minutes were reviewed from the previous meetings. Motion was made by Zipperer, seconded by Newberg to approve the amended meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Chairperson called for public comment three times. No public input was given.

Review & Act on Subcommittee Recommendations:

A. Finance Subcommittee

1. ***Election of Officers; Policies and Procedures; Fair Budget***

Plate reported on the following:

- Election of Officers – recommend approval of PJ Albert as Vice Chair.
- Fair Budget – Reviewed.

Motion was made by Plate, seconded by Kohlbeck to approve the committee report and recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Operations Subcommittee

1. ***Election of Officers; Manitowoc County 4-H Silent Auction Request; Special Olympics Date and Route; Working Group Updates: Exhibition Bldg; Parking-Building Hours, Release and Load-Unload Location***

Lentz reported on the following:

- Election of Officers – recommend approval of Tammy Loritz as Vice Chair.
- Manitowoc County 4-H Silent Auction Request – recommend approval.
- Special Olympics Date and Route – recommend approval of Wednesday, Aug 26, with same route.

Motion was made by Lentz, seconded by Plate to approve the committee report and recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Entertainment/Vendors Subcommittee:

1. ***Election of Officers; N.E.W. Motorsports-Modified Truck & Tractor Pull; Working Group Updates: AG Adventureland; Grandstand-Outdoor Entertainment; Woman's Day; 2027 Entertainment***

Voss reported on the following:

- Election of Officers – recommend approval of Russ Zipperer as Vice Chair.
- N.E.W. Motorsports-Modified Truck & Tractor Pull – recommend approval of contract for \$8,050.

Motion was made by Voss, seconded by Plate to approve the committee report and recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Marketing & Advertising Subcommittee

1. *Election of Officers; Fair App; Advertising-Media Budget; Working Group Updates: Fairest of the Fair-Fair Ideas-Marketing; Social Media-Marketing*

Schuette reported on the following:

- Election of Officers – recommend approval of Tonya Dvorak as Vice Chair.
- Fair App – recommend approval to review and purchase a fair app for this year's fair.

Motion was made by Schuette, seconded by Voss to approve the committee report and recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action on Fair Matters

A. *Heart of the County Blood Drive Update*

Schuette reported on the Heart of the County Blood Drive including: Donors Registered – 11, Total Units Collected – 11. Discussion including hosting the blood drive during the fair.

B. *Subcommittee and Working Groups*

Newberg reported that the Rules and Regulations group is missing from the report.

C. *Contests and Liaisons*

Dvorak reported there will be an upcoming meeting soon for Brew Competition.

D. *WI Association of Fairs Conference Update*

Board members reported on their attendance at the WI Association of Fairs Conference.

E. *Supply Orders*

Reminder to submit standard supply orders no later than April 1.

F. *Manitowoc County Fair Board Name Recommendation*

Hawig reported on the possibility of a name change from Manitowoc County Expo-Ice Center Board to Manitowoc County Fair Board. Discussion. Request all board members to submit their recommendations via email to Hawig, Binversie, and Shelton.

G. *Future Election Process*

Motion was made by Binversie, seconded by Dvorak to change the election of Board and Vice Chair as well as Subcommittee Chairs and Vice Chairs to October and November elections. Motion carried unanimously.

H. *2027 Proposed Budget*

The 2027 Proposed Budget was included in the board packet and will be on the next Finance Subcommittee agenda.

I. *Fair Update*

Binversie reported that Kohlman will be handling sympathy cards.

Dvorak reported that District 4 meeting is on April 1.

Comptroller's Financial Report – Review; Capital Projects Update

Staff reported briefly on the financials and Capital Projects included in the board packet.

Update and Possible Action on Other Fair, Expo Buildings, and Grounds Projects and Issues

A. *Expo-Ice Center Month Events; Expo Grounds Update*

Staff provided a brief report.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Voss, seconded by Newberg to adjourn at 8:14pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennell Shelton, Manitowoc County Expo Facility Manager