

Sanders County Fair Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2025  
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 6:00 pm by Randy Woods

Present: Randy Woods, Brian Crain, Jim Newman, Rick Sanders, Jolene Burke, Kristy Sheehan

Also Present: Tracy Scott, Ed Moreth, John Holland, Marie Owens, Juli Thurston, Leslie Baldwin, Sandy Everson

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the February meeting minutes made by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Newman – Motion Passed

**NON-AGENDA:** Randy Woods called for public comments on Non-agenda items. None

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** Leslie Baldwin presented the board with proposal about bringing the Golden Circle of Champions to our rodeo. It is a pediatric program for cancer patients where they can bring children going through or just finished chemotherapy can come to the rodeo and hang out with a rodeo contestant for the day then go to the rodeo to watch them perform. The child would have lunch and dinner with the contestant along with participate rodeo games. Leslie asked if they could bring 4-6 kids to our rodeo to do this, she would contact the contestants and match them up with the kids. Leslie and her board would handle everything on their end and only asked the board for seats during the rodeo for the child and their family on the night that they are here. Leslie also asked if the kids could possibly go on the carnival rides before it opens up on Thursday. The board was open to the idea of becoming a “Golden Rodeo” and having the kids here. Kristy would need to call Powder River Rodeo and ask them first to see if they would be ok with it since it would involve a flag being added, the kids coming in on the barrel truck, and a short script for the announcer to read. Kristy would also need to contact the carnival owner to see if it is an option for the kids to arrive an hour early to ride the rides before anyone else so they are not exposed to any germs for safety reasons. Motion made by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jolene Burke, that if everything is good to go with the rodeo stock contractor for the kids to come in, we support them coming to our rodeo.

We had three (3) bids placed for the Security during the fair.

The first one was from the Sanders County Sheriff’s office in the amount of \$15,044. It read as follows:  
**Sanders County Fair Commission and Sanders County Sheriff Office (Contractor) who will provide personnel to ensure the public’s safety, well-being, and site security during the 2025 Sanders County Fair.**

**Sanders County Fair Commission** agrees:

1) To pay the **Contractor** for actual hours billed for two (2) deputies from 17:00 hours until 08:00 hours (this is to include travel time) Wednesday 8/27 through Monday 9/1 and not to exceed the amount of ten thousand nine hundred Forty-four dollars (\$10,944.00). Payment shall be made by “county warrant” issued by the Sanders County Treasurer.

- 2) To pay the Contractor for actual hours billed for all available deputies, or a minimum of five (5) deputies, for an hour prior to beginning of the demolition derby until 0100 hours for a cost not to exceed the amount of four thousand one hundred dollars (\$4,100). Payment shall be made by "county warrant" issued by the Sanders County Treasurer.
- 2) To provide an office on the fairgrounds for use by the **Contractor**.
- 3) To provide a reserved parking space for the **Contractor's vehicles by the beer garden fence and the pavilion fence**; said space shall have easy ingress and egress from the fairgrounds and shall be reserved for the exclusive use by the **Contractor**.

**Contractor** agrees:

- 1) To provide two (2) deputies to ensure adequate, comprehensive safety, security and surveillance of the grounds and buildings of the Sanders County Fair during the annual county fair. Minimum hours/days of coverage during the annual fair shall be from 17:00 hours until 08:00 a.m. on Wednesday 8/27 through 07:00 a.m. on Monday (9/1, Labor Day) following conclusion of the fair. This timeframe includes one hour on each side for travel time. This ensures security during each main event of the fair to for crowd control, and overnight security on the fairgrounds.
- 2) To provide a minimum of five (5) deputies, or all available deputies, maximum, for coverage of the Demolition Derby on Sunday, 8/31, from 1600 to 0100 hours for crowd control and security (to include drive time).
- 3) To invoice the Sanders County Fair for actual hours worked, not to exceed amounts listed herein.

**This contract may be canceled by either party upon sixty (60) days written notification.**

Another bid was from Joseph Bettis with Northern States Security and Investigation, Inc. It read as follows: Hello Sanders County Fair Board. My name is Joseph Bettis and I am the owner and president of Northern States Security and Investigation Inc. I recently had a conversation with my friend, Montana Highway Patrol Trooper Steve Spurr. Trooper Spurr asked me to provide you with a On Site Security Proposal for the Sanders County Annual 2025 Fair Event.

So, first a little background information for you. Northern States has been in business since 1994. I have owned it since February of 2004. I am still currently a part time Deputy Sheriff in Mineral County Montana as well as the owner of Northern States. I am in my 22<sup>nd</sup> year of law-enforcement.

It should be noted that we have provided inmate extradition serviced for Sanders County Sheriff's office for many years as well.

I am very proud to say that we actually have the best EMR (experience modification rating) insurance rating in our entire industry for the Western half of the whole United States. That is a huge accomplishment. We also have a general liability insurance "zero loss" rating, that stretches back over 20 years.

We would be happy to provide Security services for the 2025 Sanders County Fair.

Due to my relationship with Trooper Spurr I would be willing to offer you some special pricing as follows.

Normally we charge .62 cents per mile for each patrol vehicle, but I would waive this for you and only charge you reimbursement for actual fuel used. For example, if I were to bring four patrol vehicles from my Coeur d' Alene office, use them for the few days of the fair on site then travel home, I imagine that would probably be maybe 25 gallons per vehicle total. At today's gasoline price that would roughly be a cost of \$320 total to have all four marked patrol vehicles on site. If you didn't think we needed that many vehicles of course that amount would go down. I can offer you a discounted rate of \$31 per hour per officer. \$25 a day per diem per officer unless food is somehow provided. I would need to house my staff for 5 nights assuming we arrive Wednesday and depart Monday morning. After some research, that housing cost looks to be right around \$2100 to house 7-8 officers. Since I have not worked your project before, and I do not know how many Officers you require. This can vary depending on many factors, including if you have a beer garden area and you need dedicated personal at that location etc. etc. Terms for this pricing would be invoiced at the end of at the fair and due on receipt.

The final bid came in from White line Training in the amount of \$9000. The bid read as follows:

I would like to bid \$9000 to provide security for the Sanders County Fair.

Myself and at least one person who will work this event have security background and experience. I also have Search and rescue experience as well as Law Enforcement experience. All persons helping with security will be first aid and CPR trained. My ground has done several large events, which has included looking for missing children and one adult with dementia. We have excellent communications skills and can work under pressure. We have worked with other agencies including EMS and law enforcement during our events.

With this bid I would provide our own uniforms, flashlights, radios, and housing. Before the event, I will get everyone up to par on what the fair board wants done as far as security and all contact phone numbers needed. I have worked EMS at this event several times and feel I have a good understanding of the layout and what is expected.

The board had several questions on a couple of the bids, so they asked to table the decision and have Kristy call them to find out the specifics on how many people and what hours they will be working. There was a motion made to table the decision until more information is found out by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Newman – Motion passed

Kristy presented the board with an estimate from Smith Electric in the amount of \$7,615.34 to replace and add more electric pedestals in the commercial vendor area. This will help with the lack of power provided to our vendors during the fair so we have less power outages. There was a motion made to approve the vendor area electrical by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Newman – Motion passed

Kristy brought up to the board about a discrepancy with the back fence between the fairgrounds and Marie Owens property. The commissioners asked Kristy to have that corner surveyed to see exactly where the pins are and where the fence needs to be. According to the pins, Marie's fence is on at one pin, but approximately 8' on the fairgrounds property at the other pin. Marie stated that on her map from the surveyor's office, it shows her fence running straight across from pin to pin and that it does not

angle like the survey pins show. The board asked Kristy to call Rocky Mountain Surveyors office to have them come out and go over where Marie's fence needs to be placed. Kristy asked the board that once the discrepancy is taken care of, if she could look at continuing the fence along that section of the fairgrounds. The board asked her to get a couple of bids on the project and put it on the agenda to be voted on.

**4-H Report:** Julie Thurston stated that she really did not have much to go over with the board. She did ask Kristy if she had heard from Dallas Bender on the replacement of the Hog and Sheep barn roof. Kristy stated that he had just stopped in to let her know that it will be in May now when he starts it because weather had put him behind on other jobs. Kristy let him know that it will need to be completed before Fair and for sure by the end of the 2025 year.

**Fair Managers Report:** Kristy said that she has not received any bids for the parking contract during the fair. She also has not gotten in any applications for the Administrative Assistant position yet either.

She has been busy updating all of the signage that is faded or not in good condition around the fairgrounds.

The deadline was getting close on the PRCA contract so Kristy had to get it mailed in to them with the fee before it increased. With her needing to do this, there will not be breakaway roping during our rodeos this year. We will look at redoing some of the pens this year to accommodate the extra cattle for the event.

Kristy talked to Tim Obrien and he said that he thinks that he is going to have to put a cap the amount of cars that he signs up for the Demo Derby. He said that he is getting a lot of interest and a lot of people wanting to sign up to participate. Tim was thinking about capping it at 60 cars. The board asked if we could possibly contact him to maybe look at capping it at 80 cars instead. Rick Sanders was going to contact Tim to see if he can do that.

Kristy brought up the option of moving the inspection ramp that they use to a different location. Rick asked if it was possible to move it to the field across the road where the Demo Derby cars park until Sunday morning. The board thought that was a good idea, so they asked Kristy to get with Derek to see if he can help with the move of the ramp.

**CLAIMS:** Motion made to approve the claims made by Jolene Burke, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Crain – Motion Passed

**FINANCIALS:** Motion to approve financials made by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jolene Burke – Motion Passed

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn made by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jolene Burke – Motion Passed  
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