

## **SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**March 10, 2026**

The Finance Committee of the St. Clair County Board met on March 10, 2026 in the County Board Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marty Crawford at 6:30 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marty Crawford, Chairman  
Lonnie Mosley, Asst. Chairman  
John Coers  
Steve Gomric  
Sue Gruberman  
Jana Moll  
C. Richard Vernier

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mark Kern, Chairman, County Board  
Debra Moore, Director of Administration  
Robert Allen, County Board  
Robert Trentman, County Board  
Scott Greenwald, County Board

Jackie Krummrich, Chief Deputy, Auditor's Office  
Herb Simmons, Director, 911/EMA  
Major Lee Graham, Sheriff's Department  
Ann Barnum, Manager, Human Resources  
Jann Severit, Director, Fairgrounds

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken.

There were no public comments or questions asked at this Meeting.

Upon a motion by Mr. Gomric and seconded by Mr. Mosley, it was unanimously agreed to approve the February 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Kern explained there is a promoter helping us line up the acts. They are not contracts yet, but we have a featured artist locked in for Friday night. There will be an opening act, and bands performing on Thursday including a big act and smaller act. Saturday night there will be the race. To continue he asked for a motion not to exceed \$360,000 to buy the entertainment and rides. We have already raised \$250,000, which Jackie has in the bank account. The featured artist is \$130,000, and we would make our money back through ticket sales. The ride person is \$60,000, but if he makes \$60,000 then he is free, anything over \$60,000 we get a cut of the ticket revenue. We of course will be selling beer at the county fair and will be making money from that. We will have the exposition hall, which we will charge vendors to set up inside. There will be people sponsoring the fair. The race will be on Saturday night, so we will be selling tickets to that, and we will get money from the racetrack concession stands. The goal is that the fair not just breaks even but makes enough seed money so there can be a county fair next year. This will then be a perpetual motion machine that as people get used to coming it gets better, we get better, and we will be able to have a continuous county fair. The pageant is coming back, so we will have a Miss St. Clair, and we have pageant promoters on board and already working. The pageant actually happens on the Monday before the county fair, and then the queen will do ceremonial things throughout the fair.

Ms. Gruberman asked what the age group on the pageant is.

Chairman Kern answered it is 21 years old by a certain date because Miss St. Clair will then compete for Miss Illinois in January or February with its own age restrictions. The information can be found online where they have already begun taking applications.

Ms. Gruberman asked for clarification on the ride guy. If he makes \$60,000, we do not have to pay him. However, if we make \$30,000 then we have to pay him \$30,000.

Chairman Kern explained that was correct, and he will be bringing in twenty rides, all of the corn dog stands, lemon shake ups stands, and games. You will need to have individually bought

**SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, cont'd.**

**March 10, 2026**

**Page 2**

tickets or \$30 wristband for unlimited rides. The wristbands will be good for one day worth of rides. This is cheaper than most other fairs. We are trying to keep our prices lower. We are working with security and already have the state police who say they will help us, but we will need to hire help as well.

Mr. Gomric asked how we are reconciling the tickets and wristbands.

Jann Severit answered the ride company is going to sell them and will have a digital system that they will share with us.

Chairman Kern stated the Shriners have agreed to sell the alcohol, and hopefully soda for us. We have not locked into a distributor yet. Illinois Distributing is talking to us, and we are talking with Chick Fritz Distributing. It is an active committee. We have really never run a fair before, and the people who did before are gone. We are going to have a significant agricultural portion with petting zoo animals, some farm equipment, pedal tractor races for little kids, car cruise and car show, and a backyard barbecue contest. The barbecue will be backyard style grilling with non-professional contestants, we will not be able to sell to people, and is a sanctioned event run by Missouri Barbecue Associations.

Mr. Crawford asked how parking would work.

Chairman Kern explained part of the \$360,000 will be used to hire a parking consultant to help us. We are hoping to get the one who do it at Gateway International because if we are not parking in the Fairgrounds, they will be parking up connecting streets. Belleville Police will be working outside the fence patrolling, and there will be Sheriffs and other security inside the fences at the fair. There will be one way but may need another spot to potentially have buses transport from the county garage. Security will be in Auffman parking lot, so that may become the bus stop.

Someone asked when tickets for the concert would go on sale.

Chairman Kern answered the goal is they will go on sale June 1st. Typically, tickets are sold up to two months before.

Dr. Moore asked if there would be premium seating for the concert.

Chairman Kern answer it will be premium standing right in front of the stage. There will be a certain amount of meet and greets for the featured artist, which may be the sponsors.

Mr. Crawford asked if there will be portable restrooms on site.

Chairman Kern explained there will be, and that we do have significant restrooms that we built in the exposition hall, so it is a lot better than it use to be. There will also be restrooms in the track as well. They also need to have restrooms for the acts.

Upon a motion by Mr. Gomric and seconded by Ms. Gruberman, it was unanimously agreed to allow Chairman Kern to execute fair entertainment and rides contracts not to exceed \$360,000.

Upon a motion by Mr. Vernier and seconded by Mrs. Moll, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Debra Moore, Director of Administration