

1. Meeting Called to Order:

President John Lund called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. John extended a welcome to all of the members present.

2. Minutes Approved:

The minutes of the April 2018 Annual Meeting were read by Secretary Patrick J. Donegan

Motion, Carried;

Brad Nudell moved and seconded by Mark Helfter to approve the minutes of the April 2018 Annual Meeting. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

3. Presidents Report:

John Lund talked about the business plan, one of the main areas of funding that needs attention is the funding for salaries and operational expenses. The Budget Committee was comprised of members from each of the other committees in order to provide a well-rounded group of minds. The budget was approved in December of 2018.

Facility maintenance, deduction equal to that of depreciation. 2018 maintenance and repairs totaling \$38,532.00 and \$113,000.00 in capital expenditures. A majority of which was spent on existing buildings and improvements. \$151,000.00 was spent on improvements to the museum and collections. Some expenses were not planned but rather came up due to issues that had risen. The goal for 2020 is to invest more into the buildings.

Annual audits for 2016 and 2017 are completed and the 2018 audit draft has been received to be reviewed tomorrow morning by the board. Audit reports are available to all members upon request

Murder Mysteries were a new event out at Bonanzaville this last year and is played similar to the game of clue. This year's event was a 1920s theme. Attendees dressed up and the events went over well and were fun to see.

Partnering and strategic alliances are important to the success of Bonanzaville and have been improved upon in the last year. Relations with the RRVF have improved over the last year as John Lund and Brenda Warren have attended their board meetings. The city of West Fargo wished to bill us for specials even though we are not a part of the city, Brenda and John attended a city commissioner meeting and expressed opposition to this. Good support was found from the mayor and other commissioners to not proceed with the specials. Relationships with the air museum are also improving.

The Board is working to develop a plan to address buildings and artifacts that are acquired and have been acquired by Bonanzaville. Two buildings are unfortunately beyond repair. Them being the Thue-Brink Store, and the Wheatland Town Jail. Bids to fix the Thue-Brink store were in excess of \$200,000.00. Unfortunately due to a lack of funds, both buildings will be torn down this spring. A generous donor has offered to pay to put up a new building in place of the Thue-Brink Store. Bonanzaville houses more than 400,000 artifacts and only a small percentage of those are actually in the inventory. Working to improve the inventory is another main goal and ongoing project.

John Mentioned that with the revisions made to the By-Laws at the 2017 Annual Meeting, there is also an Advisory Board. We have yet to add a member to that board and are looking for members.

John Also mentioned raising the goal for the endowment fund to \$2,000,000.00. There has been little to no progress this year but is to become a larger focus this next year.

A Thank You was extended to all of our volunteers and was briefly mentioned that there is always a need for more volunteers.

4. Executive Directors Report:

Brenda stated that Antiques Roadshow has never been to the Moorhead, Fargo, or West fargo area before and that Bonanzaville is honored to have been chosen. The show has an average of 9,000,000 viewers per episode. The producers have been out to Bonanzaville already and will be back on May 30th, setup on the 31st, and film the show on the 1st of June.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Bonanzaville to honor Glenn Ellingsburg to name “Ellingsburg lane” which passes the law enforcement museum, “Wanzek Way” was also named.

In the last year.

Six roofs were repaired throughout the village including:

Transgrud Elevator, - new steel roofing was donated thanks to the Transgruds.

Embdon Depot- A new roof was donated by Glenn Ellingsberg.

Hagen House, re-shingled with funds from the Plummer Estate.

Houston Mansion, new roof thanks to a grant proposal to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Pioneer Fire Hall, new roof, windows, siding, and doors were installed thanks to the Fargo, West Fargo, and rural fire departments which helped to raise the money to support this.

South Pleasant Church – Gateway Builders donated a crane and manpower to fix the roof on the church after strong winds had blown shingles from it.

2019 Building Priorities include the Hunter Times, Arthur Town Hall, The Brass Rail Saloon, The Machine Shop, Fargo’s First House, The Train Shed, Katherine Depot, The Medical building, and the Furnberg General Store.

Snow removal this last year cost Bonanzaville \$12,000.00 more than it has in the last 10 years.

Bonanzaville has a brand-new website created by Glenn Ellingsberg.

There are three Bonanzaville billboards. The I94 one has been redone, the second one on I94 is to be replaced soon, and the one on I29 is owned by the township and a new billboard will be placed there as well.

Melissa and Sydney are working on May School Tours for this next year and we are expecting upwards of 5,000 students to come through the village.

Curator Kaci Johnson provided a review on the collections and new exhibits opening this spring which include the 100th anniversary of national suffrage, "Women's rights to vote up through 2020", why are we called Bonanzaville, "Why Bonanzaville, the history of Red River Farms," "Main Street North Dakota," items from the upstairs of Thue-Brink store which has been closed off to the public for the last few years, native American exhibit upgrade, working with the local natives, and Dr. Angela Smith will be replacing the uncovering vice exhibit with Company B volunteer military group from Cass County ND during the Spanish-American war

Upgrades are progressing on the inventory within the main museum and the staff is looking to start going building to building.

5. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee – Leaha Clarke, Brad Stedman, Brenda Warren, John Lund, and Lowell Disrud

Brad Stedman gave the report and stated that he had been contracted by Bonanzaville for about a year now and is working through positive processes. Over all it has been a good year and things are coming together. As far as numbers, there were no other adjustments and we don't expect any other major changes. Highlights of the last year include the change in net assets, positive net income of roughly 14,000 for 2018, very many generous donations, and an increase in county appropriations from the last year to thank for that net income vs. net loss. Roughly \$8,800 under budget. The 2019 budget based off of the 2018 budget. Currently there are two loans out now. The debt is decreasing by \$47,000.00 a year. One of the loans is set to end in 2021. When paid off, it should free up about \$22,000.00 annually. The other loan is set to mature in 2033. Cash at the end of the year for operating was a little tight but we made it through

Copies of the finance reports are available to the members upon request.

B. Grounds Committee - Bob Clarke, Leaha Clarke, Brad Nudell, and Glenn Ellingsburg

The Case eagle and air museum roof are currently being looked at. 2 years ago, a detailed report was constructed to list the needs of all of the buildings on the grounds. Glenn Ellingsburg also gave a detailed report about the new carriage house that will be constructed in the summer of 2019.

C. Safety committee – Elton Solseng, Bob Clarke, and Leah Clark

A list of safety rules are being compiled to ensure the safety of the volunteers, employees, and visitors.

6. Election of the Board of Directors:

The nominating committee was comprised of Jonathan Haux, Lowell Disrud, and Angela Smith.

Five current board members including Leah Clark, Bob Clarke, Glenn Ellinsberg, John Lund, and Elton Solseng were up for re-election and all five of them were eligible for another 3-year term. All five of the previous mentioned members stated that they would run again. Two new candidates were also placed on the ballot, they being Jana Tronier, and Christy Goulet.

Nominations were closed after no further nominations from the floor.

Motion, Carried:

Bob Bensen Moved, and seconded by Rose Peterson to cast for a unanimous ballot.

Motion approved unanimously on voice vote.

7. Old Business – None

8. New Business – None

9. Adjournment

Motion, Carried:

Eugene Christl moved, and seconded by Mark Helfter to adjourn the meeting. **Motion approved unanimously on voice vote.**