

# Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

## Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 4/12/2024

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Place:** Club House

**Executive board members present:** ☒ Blain Tarrant, ☒ Kim Yancich, ☒ Mike Woodward, ☒ Barb Hobson, ☒ Janice Clous, ☒ Larry Clous, ☒ Lisa Gulliver, ☒ Brandon Jenkins, ☒ Ham Hobson, ☒, Greg Thon  
☒ Jim Luper ☒ Todd Benson (Past President)

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by President Blain Tarrant

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Membership and a prayer was given.

3 deaths were reported over the winter. Marty Playter, Bob Bonczyk, and Allen Bowen. A moment of silence was held for them.

The following members were ill last month, Tony Suykerbuyk, Denney Ream, Tom Barber, Glen Seagraves, Clara Porter, Jay Buyze, Lee Lowing, Jo Rebman, and Fay Wurm. Cards were passed around.

Blain introduced Greg Thon as the new trustee.

Secretary Mike Woodward read the minutes from the November membership meeting. They were approved as read.

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson read the income reports for December 2023 through March 2024.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported read the December 2023 through March 2024 with an ending checkbook balance of \$103,166.47 as of the end of March, Savings had a balance of \$11,971.47, and the Money market account has \$100,224.92.

All reports were approved as read

No new members were inducted.

Blain read a thank you letter from Isabell Gulliver for her scholarship and a thank you from boots for kids.

Carl reported on donations, a person has a tractor available and he is going to look at it, combine parts are available which were turned down.

Mike W reported that the contract with the Osceola mounted posse contract is finalized for parking supervision for the same price as last year. They will camp on the north side of the old horse pull track.

The machine shop is now complete as far as the contract that was signed. A couple of punch list items still need to be completed for repair of a couple of things. A sign for the name requested by the donor, Jim and Jan Dunmeyer will be made and put up on the building. A plaque for Jim Gunnett was discussed to be placed on the inside.

The big train is in need of attention. An inspection of the tracks and train is due from the state this year. A lot of ties need to be replaced. More volunteers are needed or it may be necessary to hire it out. The train brings in a

lot of people. Tom Graham is stepping back and more people need to come forward. Greg Thon has talked to a company about pricing for repairs. More information will follow. Paul Raffel spoke about the need for volunteers. Because of the way the track was originally built, it wears out the ties quicker. Ballast was not put down on the sand first. Buying new ties was discussed at the last e board meeting. Options were discussed including having the Antique machinery club possibly do some work for widening out the curve if they come to our show in the future.

The rail car restoration is underway. More volunteers are needed to fix the deck and roof. Work will start as the weather permits. The train platform and depot need work as well. This may be an area where youth workers could possibly help. A cribbing bucket is needed to help with tie replacement.

The Wrangler repairs are being done at the Graham shop over the winter. The bushings, pins, and hydraulics are being worked on. As of now it is under budget.

The Pettibone needs repairs, Transmission oil needs to be changed and the fluids checked.

The backhoe that was purchased will be repaired when parts are obtained.

Harness shop: The surplus items are in the basement of clubhouse. It will be offered to members at a future date. There are buckles, rivets, and other items. What is not purchased will be possibly sold at the swap meet. A few items were pulled for use on the grounds. A budget for the harness shop has been given for supply purchases. They would like to purchase a sewing machine. A price is being obtained and it will be discussed by the e board.

Hospitality booth has submitted a budget for items to sell. A \$12,000 budget was approved at the e board meeting, and she will start procuring items to sell.

Several club maintenance items were discussed: wall and floor painting, swap meet flyers are being printed, Ellens came and did maintenance on the Zero turn lawn mower, the other mower will be worked on by Fergusons, help mowing with the big tractor was asked for, Todd will be working on the toy box building, Ham and Jim will be working on the post office.

DTE will be bringing natural gas to Buckley. They want to give the club a price on bringing it on the grounds. A BTU total will be given to them. Todd has been talking with their rep about giving better pricing and DTE will be sponsoring events on the grounds like Education Days.

Todd reported the add book is progressing, It is very close and they are trying to get it ready for May. Bids have been obtained for printing. All in, it should be close to last year for revenue and cost. More help is needed next year for ad sales.

Blain reported he has planned a committee chair meeting at 5:00pm on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> after the swap meet. He as another planned for the week after show on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm along with an E board meeting. He wants all committee chairs to have written budgets to turn in at the May committee meeting. He will also ask after each member meeting for committee issues.

It was proposed that the Huber steam engine be put up for sale and a different one purchased. The steam committee says it is hard to run, it is underpowered, and it does not build heat properly. There was much discussion on the engine, its value, the historical significance and whether it should be sold or kept. Many felt it should not be sold as once it's gone, there will not be another and even if it doesn't run it should be put on static

display. Items that need to be fixed or could be fixed to make it run better were discussed. The discussion was tabled for future discussion when more members involved are available.

A committee for by-law changes and policy and procedures is going to be formed. 15 members are needed. A sign-up sheet is at the front table for anyone interested in serving on this committee. Term limits, additional trustees and new policies were discussed. Many voiced that the lawyer needs to be consulted. Larry Clous clarified his position on why he feels we need more trustees, he proposed that more are needed to help oversee the many committees to make it easier on those with officer positions that require a lot of work.

Budgets for all areas need to be turned into the E board as soon as possible.

Blain has proposed pulling the vendors out of the tractor area and consolidating them in the flea market. The tractor parking, threshers, and big prairie tractors need more space. There is room up by the animal barn to take the finger that sticks out west of the small pavilion. It should happen for the 2025 show.

The Oakley Club wants to borrow the Eagle tractor for their show. It is the same week as ours. Carl VanWylen is talking to them to find out what they can do for us if they use our tractor. They will also need to have insurance and provide transport. Carl will report next month.

There will be plow days on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. They will be put on by the IH club. They have met the requirements put forth by the board to make it happen. It will be open to all. They will plow down our Rye so Oats can be planted.

Some Members walked the grounds today looking at buildings that need maintenance. Bids will be requested to complete some of the items. Many buildings on Front Street need painting. Roofs need replacement or repair on the Steam building and the foundry as well as other buildings. It was asked if the building committee was invited on the walk. They were not there. Concrete work needs to be done at the machine shop, powerhouse, Webber barn, and Kids play area.

Blain would possibly like to put a QR code somewhere so members can print the agenda.

The e board approved a raise in the rent of the Clous barn where many club items are stored. It will go up from \$1200 per year to \$2500. This is the first increase asked for by the family.

DTE will be sponsoring Education Days this year. This sponsorship will help to cover most of the food, products, and paper used.

Blain congratulated Ham and Barb on their retirement from their jobs.

Dues are do and payable to Barb.

Auction flyers are on the front table if anyone is interested.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46pm

Submitted by Secretary Mike Woodward.