

**Vermilion County Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium
And Office Building Authority**

Minutes of the Board of Directors
July 1, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Present: Jason Baer, Jakob Dazey, Dylan Haun, Kim Hoffman, Erik O’Kane, Dean Shore, Matt Sims and Stephanie Yates.

Absent: Ryan Brumfield, O. J. Harrison, Alex Rosdail, and Maruti Seth.

Attending: Andrew Mudd, Jeremiah Brady, Dwayne Gaylor, and Teri Gaffney.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: The roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of April 23, 2025, were reviewed. ***It was moved by Dean Shore, seconded by Jakob Dazey, and carried to approve the Minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2025, Board meeting as written.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments were received.

It was the consensus of the members to reorder the agenda and move up the Executive Session prior to all other business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Jakob Dazey, seconded by Erik O’Kane, and unanimously carried to recess into Executive Session to discuss lease of real property. (5:35 p.m.)

The Board meeting was reconvened into regular session at 6:10 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

HVAC – Part of the system has been installed and is working well. We are still awaiting the arrival of the boards for the other part of the system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: The financial information for the month of May of 2025 was reviewed. ***It was moved by Dean Shore, seconded by Jakob Dazey, and unanimously approved to accept the May 2025 deposits, debit card expenditures, bills paid and accounts receivable as presented.***

Events Committee: The Minutes of the Events Committee meeting of June 11, 2025, were reviewed.

Ice Racing – Anthony Barlow of Xtreme International Ice Racing has proposed to return to the Arena for a one-night event in late March of 2026. The cost of the event is \$15,000 with \$3,000 due at the time of the signing of the agreement and the remainder to be paid in cash on the night of the event.

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The glass must be in place for this event. We will need to secure 100 bales of hay to surround the interior of the rink for the event. ***It was moved by Dean Shore, seconded by Jakob Dazey and carried unanimously to approve entering into a contract pending finalization of the agreement by legal counsel for a one-night ice racing event with Xtreme International Ice Racing at a cost of \$15,000.***

Comedy Show Proposal – Jakob Dazey reported that three comedians have tentatively agreed to perform at the Arena on November 22nd. The three performers are Carsen White, an RN who has worked in the emergency room at OSF Sacred Heart, Nick Guerro has been on the Jimmy Fallon show and has performed with Nurse John, and Jim Perry, a retired police officer who also has his own comedy club. It is hoped that Chris Hightower will emcee the evening. The plan is to have at least 23 tables that surround the stage area that will be sold to sponsors, etc., and then additional seating behind that. It is believed that the three performers can be secured for approximately \$5,000. The initial plan is to secure bartenders to provide table service. It was thought that we would limit the drinks to beer and wine but after discussion, it was the consensus that we would also offer mixed drinks to the audience members. ***It was moved by Erik O’Kane, seconded by Jakob Dazey, and unanimously carried to approve moving forward with the Comedy Show on November 22, 2025, as outlined.***

NEW BUSINESS: Coach Spezia has again approached the arena regarding the sale of the basketball court and goals for an organization out of the country. The Arena also has some music equipment that has not been utilized for several years. ***It was moved by Erik O’Kane, seconded by Jakob Dazey, and unanimously passed to begin the process to sale the surplus properties of the Arena.*** The appropriate paperwork, including complete descriptions of all items declared as surplus property, will be presented to the Board for approval and an appropriate bid process.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

The Management Report that was contained in the Board packet was highlighted by Ms. Gaffney.

Danville Youth Hockey continues to have concerns with their numbers for the season. The organization has asked for permission to sell wall banners as a fundraising effort, with the proceeds to be shared with the Arena similar to the arrangement made with the Flyers for the dasher boards. It was the consensus of the members of the Board to allow this for the 2025-26 season.

Dwayne Gaylor and Teri Gaffney had a very productive meeting with the management of the Decatur Civic Center recently. That organization recently secured an electric Zamboni through funding secured by its local State representative.

The Visitors Bureau staff that are in place are a very enthusiastic group of individuals that are bringing many new ideas and opportunities to the area. They have been able to secure a state group to hold its annual meeting in Danville and specifically at the Palmer Arena for its meeting space. Through new engagements by this staff, they have learned of numerous opportunities that this area could submit proposals to secure sporting events.

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At the Arena, we become limited at the present time to host those events due to the flooring during the summer. There are 'multi-sport floorings' available that could support a wide range of sports beyond hockey, such as basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, gymnastics, handball, pickleball and roller derby, in order to maximize year-round usage. By hosting more sports and events, the arena and the Danville area could attract more users, leagues and tournaments which would boost our rental income as well as community engagement.

The Visitors Bureau has asked the Mayor for a meeting to determine funding opportunities for new flooring and Representative Schweizer and Senator Faraci have both voiced support and a willingness to meet with us. Early estimates look like this flooring could be secured for a little less than \$100,000 but we may want to secure new mats for gymnastics, new basketball goals, etc. This is in the early stages.

Ms. Gaffney gave an overview of the history of the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) that began in 2020. In 2021, the Arena had received notice that it did not qualify for the benefit. However, later that year, the Arena received a check in the amount of \$49,978.08. The IRS next notified the Arena that a portion of the money was refundable. Those monies were returned while the appeal was pending. However, since that time, penalties and interest have accrued while the appeal has continued. After discussion, ***it was moved by Jakob Dazey, seconded by Dean Shore, and unanimously passed to move forward with resolving the issues with the IRS for the ERTC payment, up to and including payment of the penalties and interest if necessary.*** Ms. Gaffney will work through this process with legal counsel for resolution.

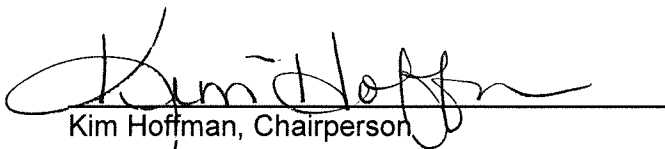
OTHER BUSINESS: None reported.

NEXT MEETING

The members will be contacted to determine their availability for a special meeting next week to discuss issuing a Request for Proposal for a hockey team. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors is Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.


Kim Hoffman, Chairperson