ETGRA General Membership meeting July 16, 2022 at ETGRA property

Conference call mandatory votes completed prior to initiation of GM meeting.

BOD/officers Present: Curtis Shoemaker, Andrea Thompson, Donnie Driver, Dempsey Walton, Gwen Vandermartin, Charles Johnson, Tony Thomas

BOD/officers absent: James Kyle, Pat Thomas

Members and visitors present: Kim Keplar, Richard Myers, Danette Shoemaker, AJ Ford, Fred Vandermartin

Meeting called to order at 10:43 by Tony Thomas

Minutes-minutes from May 14, 2022 GM meeting read by Andrea Thompson, copies given to those in attendance. Gwen V made motion to accept, Charlie J. 2nd, minutes approved.

Treasurer’s report-submitted by Pat in absentia and printed for those in attendance-presented by Gwen. Total in accounts as of June 30,2022: $16,512.85 -GF $5,509.73, BF $6330.49, YF $1,392.56, SF $2,580.07 DF $700.00. Curtis Shoemaker made motion to accept, Charlie 2nd. Treasurer’s report approved.

Membership-report presented by Gwen Vandermartin-1 renewal, 36 total members-25 adult, 4 lifetime, 7 junior membership. All potential drop memberships did not renew. Gwen-if we vote to discontinue association, does she need to continue to send out renewal reminders. Richard asked what is involved in reminders-Gwen stated that they are email reminders only, unless member does not have email. Recommended to continue with current process for now.

Newsletter-no volunteers, no report

Website-no report-no volunteers. Fred V and Andrea T are monitoring facebook pages. Website was closed due to hacking, increased fees for anti-hacking security.

Old Business- Tony Thomas-stated that appraised Ag value has dropped by $200, but total valuation of property has increased by $7000. Unsure of total tax bill at this time. Farm Bureau membership of $45 is also due.

Tony-spoke with James Kyle via phone, due to recent illness for James. Per Mr. Kyle, he recommends surveying property prior to listing property for sale. If property is sold, recommends disbanding association, as likelihood of meaningful gatherings of members in rotating sites is not likely, based on recent attendance at events in different locations other than at the property. 14 ballots of 34 mailed out received by mail-all in favor of selling property. Per Richard Myers, he marked his ballot “do not sell”, however, ballot was not received. Noted that 15 total votes submitted-14 to sell, 1 not to sell.

Curtis Shoemaker-commented that although there is desire not to sell the property based on history of the organization and the goal of the founding members, there is a reality that most members are not participating in person at meetings or events, membership has dropped below sustainable levels, and to keep the property would require maintenance that current active membership could not provide due to aging, health, or distance from property. Fred Vandermartin asked how much monthly fees are if all services are turned off between meetings. Per Curtis and Tony, there is a base rate for water, electricity, taxes, and insurance that total approximately $2500-$3000/year even without using utilities.

Fred asked if additional members joined, if sale of property would be reconsidered. Multiple members present indicated that additional members are needed to fill offices and duties, not simply for affording property expenses.

Any sale of property would require dispersal of sale proceeds to another charity, due to ETGRA non-profit status. Kim Keplar recommended conferring with real estate lawyer who specializes in non-profit status/property sales, to confirm need and amount of financial dispersal required.

Tony recommended finding legal advice based in Cherokee Co, who is familiar with local tax regulations. Dempsey Walton asked if realtor/legal advisor could attend next general membership meeting, to have direct discussion of implications of sale.

AJ Ford stated that there have already been several people inquiring about purchase of property, while she and Kevin have been present doing mowing.

Curtis-talked to a commercial realtor, who recommended obtaining survey prior to listing property. Curtis can call surveyor Monday, also will ask commercial realtor if they know about non-profit lawyer who can help with tax/proceed information.

Motion made by Gwen Vandermartin for Curtis Shoemaker to proceed with contacting of surveyor to start process of listing property for sale. Charlie 2nd. Motion approved with 1 dissenting vote-Fred Vandermartin.

Sale: Kim Keplar volunteered to learn about organizing goat sale-Gwen will meet with her to discuss information.

Youth-Andrea-2 children submitted show information for points. Have ordered ETGRA-embroidered personalized pillows as awards. Will submit receipts for reimbursement.

Scholarship-Andrea-1 application submitted today at meeting. August 1 is deadline. Kim, Richard, and Charlie will meet via conference call to interview applicants.

Education-Curtis/Tony will try to get realtor/CPA/lawyer for October 22 general membership meeting.

New Business-Curtis recommended starting with sale of unused assets (lawnmower, unused equipment) earlier than final property sale if that is wanted by members. Tony stated he would be willing to meet for sale/pickup of items if members wanted to purchase, or can pickup at general membership meeting if desired. Richard reported that if we wanted to simplify process, all unwanted items could be conveyed with sale, if of nominal value. Will review.

Next conference call Aug 9 at 6:30 pm

Next GM meeting October 22 10 am at ETGRA property

Charles Johnson made motion to adjourn, Gwen V seconded. Meeting adjourned 11:50 pm-potluck lunch followed.

Andrea Thompson, Sec.