

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020 – 1:00PM
SALERNO’S OTB, HODGKINS, IL.**

Directors Present: Franco, Searle, Hansen, H. Williams, Beals, Engel, Rath, Leonard, Fairley, Chupp, Zawistowski, Grummel.

Directors Absent: Coleman, Teefy, Paul,

Others: Somone, Brubaker, Watson.

Approval of January 20, 2020 Agenda: Motion by Director H. Williams, Seconded by Director Fairley. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of the December 16, 2019 BOD Minutes: Motion by Director Fairley, Seconded by Director Zawistowski. All in favor. Motion passed.

Marty Engel spoke to the board about Tony being awarded the HHI Dominick Frinzi Person of the Year.

Tony responded that everyone in the room as well as past board members played a significant role in it and that he thought of this honor as a reflection on the IHHA as a whole.

Executive Directors Report:

2020 Hawthorne Contract signed.

We’ve asked our attorney for an opinion regarding Hawthorne’s opinion on sports betting revenue.

We are investigating the possibility of acting as a sports betting affiliate.

Join the IHHA ad for opening week at Hawthorne.

Golf cart transportation back and forth from paddock to spit box is in the works.

IRB has some suggested rule changes concerning medications and whipping that need to be addressed.

Attended USTA District 5 meeting in Springfield on Saturday Night.

A decision on our tax exempt status has been assigned to an IRS “tax specialist.” We are expecting an answer by early March.

We’ve lost a good friend in John Sullivan as he has stepped down as director at the Dept. of Agriculture.

Possibilities still exist for a racino in Tinley Park.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative –.

Steve Brubaker reported that the 2020 session begins on January 28. The IHHA is drafting several bills for introduction. Lobbyists have had meetings and discussions regarding the best strategies for passing favorable legislation for Illinois horsemen. Don Harmon will be the new Senate President, replacing John Cullerton, who has retired.

GrassRoots and Membership –

Membership renewals for 2020 have been coming in steadily and we are at about 275. A second notice will go out the first week in February.

County Fairs –

The 2020 Illinois Dept. of Agriculture stakes guides were recently mailed out.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch –

Hawthorne has been converting the track to a harness surface. Conversation was reiterated from last month's discussion on utilizing a track and driver committee to stay on top of any racetrack issues.

Legal –

The board was in agreement that the suggested new whipping rule wouldn't accomplish what was being hoped for and instructed Tony to make mention at the following IRB meeting. We will work with the IRB to find common ground.

Purse Account –

With all of the 2019 year-end adjustments still coming in, Al believes we will start the year with a deficit of approximately 600k.

Payment of Bills –

Director Beals has reviewed the bills, motion by Director Grummel to pay the bills, seconded by Director H. Williams. All in favor. Motion passed.

Finance – nothing to report.

Public Relations – nothing to report.

Public Relations/Social Media –nothing to report.

Breeders – nothing to report.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Director Chupp, seconded by Director Hosea Williams. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.