Meeting opened at 7pm. Both pledges were led by President Zane Carey. *All officers present* (Zane Carey, VP - Rebecca Herzig, Secretary - Wendy Stevens, Treasurer - Evelyn Okkema, Adult Advisors - Doug Richard and Tiffany Spedowski). *Youth representing clubs sitting at the table also present include:* Elizabeth Mishler, Macey VanSyckle, Summer Gravelyn, Rose Goltz, Morgan Carrick, Julia Doughty and Margaret Robinson.

**Treasurer report:** There is currently $2,509.26 in the account as of September 15, 2014. We are still waiting for payment of $6,107 from a buyer at the JLA Auction this past fair. We should be receiving payment on that soon. There is also an outstanding bill for $344.50 from the Pioneer. Motion to pay in full was made my Elizabeth Mishler, seconded by Julia Doughty.

*Secretary notes* read and approved; motion by Elizabeth Mishler and second by Julia Doughty.

**Reports**

- **Fair Board – Steve Cramer, Fair Board President:**
  - Next year’s fair will be July 5th through 11th, 2015

- **Beef - Steve Doughty, Superintendent:**
  - Weigh-in will be December 13th, time not yet determined

- **Dairy/Dairy Beef – Jennifer Marfio, Superintendent:**
  - Weigh-in will be December 13th, time not yet determined

- **Goats - Kerri Merrill, Superintendent:**
  - No report

- **Llamas - Laurie Deater, Superintendent:**
  - Trying to get a llama show in next year’s fair. Amy also sent Laurie new information from campus to aid in her promotion of the llama project.

- **Poultry - Jennifer Sylvester, Superintendent:**
  - Great year for poultry kids! We had a lot of poultry showman who are skilled showman but need to work on the educational “why they show” part.
  - She is hoping to make an educational face book page to help poultry showman learn and gain more skills.

- **Rabbits – Marie Goltz, Superintendent:**
  - No report

- **Sheep – Ramona Okkema, Superintendent:**
  - Anyone looking to breed next year’s fair lamb should start looking now
  - There is also a Sheep Breeders Workshop that will be taking place at MSU the first weekend of January. This is a great educational event with hands on, practical application and quiz bowls! Talk to Ramona if you would like more information.

- **Swine – Ryan Jernstadt, Superintendent:**
  - No report
- 4-H – Amy Miller, Program Coordinator:
  - Thank-you letters need work for next year. Reviewed what was acceptable and what was not acceptable.

New Business

a. Fair Jobs 2015:
  - Groups need to be present at the next meeting to draw fair jobs for next year and discuss any possible additions to the jobs list. Tiffany Spedowski pointed out that 3 clubs are transitioning, so it would be best to table to fair jobs until next meeting so we can see if the club sizes differ and assign accordingly. Motioned to table by Elizabeth Mishler and second by Julia Doughty.
  - It was also mentioned that Paws and Claws set up the poultry barn – need to think who will take on that role since that club is currently without a leader.
  - Steve Cramer also suggested adding in “clean up fair gates” since there are quite a few that are dirty from this past fair. He also added that the small white building behind the wash racks needs to be cleaned out ASAP.

b. By-Laws Meeting – Sara Rasmussen, Trudy Herzog, Rebecca Herzog, Julia Doughty, Jennifer Marfio, Andrea and Steve Doughty, Steve Cramer, Doug Richards and Tiffany Spedowski all volunteered to be a part of the by-laws committee. They will meet before the next meeting in November to present the new by-laws for approval to the group.

c. Elections – 2015 officer elections will take place at the next Jr. Livestock meeting, November 17. Clubs without a 4-H member present will not be allowed to vote in the election.

d. Calendar of Events – There will be a calendar distributed to all members of the Mecosta 4-H, by email, Facebook post and given to each leader at the leader meets in October.

e. Wish List - The next meeting will discuss the “wish-list” for next year’s fair. Ideas already listed are as follows:
  - Fix wash rack (by the pit), beef barn awning, fix pig wash area, new barn signs, digital scale for all animals, better garbage system (pick up earlier), keeping the public out of the barns on the day of show, run power to the east end of the show arena, have auctioneers go slower, permanent fence for the ends of the pig barn, awning in the poultry barn, flat screen TV to use during auction.
  - Technological committee formed consisting of Evelyn Okkema, Donna and Elizabeth Mishler, Dawn Gravelyn, Trudy and Tyler Herzog, Mary Katke, and Amy Miller. Committee will look into acquiring a TV. Jennifer Marfio also stated that she knew of a company who would be willing to help offset the cost. Steve Cramer then stated that there is some sort of program available; someone could get trained with it.

f. 4-H Marketing Award – Amy presented the group with the opportunity to bring back this award. A motion was made by Elizabeth Mishler to pursue bringing back the 4-H marketing award as well as have the businesses to fund the $100 savings bond. The motion was seconded by Julia Doughty.

g. Rate of Gain – Amy asked that it be mandatory for all livestock. Discussion finally ended up with having beef, sheep, dairy feeders, and beef participate for 2015. Goats are still on the fence, will get final decision by the next meeting.
h. Auction - Discussion on moving sale day to Friday night. Members voted to keep the sale on its current day. The final decision will be made by the fair board.

Committee Reports

a. Trophy Committee - Marie Goltz - Ribbons need to be ordered earlier next year since we have a better idea of what we’re working with and what to expect for 2015.

b. Buyers Luncheon Committee – Sandy Carey – Report: Each meal averaged $5.09, which was less than the 2013 luncheon, which was $7.62/person. Total amount spent was $1,425.33 and 280 people were served. Will remember to purchase more condiments for next year! 😊

c. Educational Committee - There will be two spring clinics; the first clinic will take place on February 7th at the MCSB and will be primarily based on the building blocks of education. Jennifer Sylvester is going to contact Neil Ketner to see if he would be able to talk about poultry and sheep, although beef, rabbits, horses, swine, and raising techniques were also discussed as options.

- Steve Doughty, Beef Superintendent, will be looking into setting up a separate day for beef education and was going to follow up with trying to obtain Kurt Sterwalt as a possible speaker.

- The second clinic is scheduled for April 25th at Chippewa Hills high school. It might be moved to accommodate the Osceola Cross-Roads Classic Beef Show. There was also discussion on adding the Quiz Bowl to Ag Olympics, and having ALL species be represented.

Upcoming Events

- Block and Bridle Little International Show: 9-21-14 at MSU
- National 4-H Week: October 5-11
- TSC Clover Campaign: October 8-19
- Fair Board meeting: October 16th at the Fair Office
- Fall Leaders meeting October 20th and 22nd – at the MCSB

Motion to adjourn was made by Evelyn Okkema and Margaret Robinson. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm by President Zane Carey. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2014 @ 7pm @ the Mecosta County Service Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary Wendy Stevens