



1 Convention Center Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phone: 217.788.8800  
Fax: 217.788.0811  
www.theboscenter.com

Jodi Davis  
*General Manager*

**SMEAA OFFICERS**  
Mike Coffey, Jr.  
*Chairman*  
Mary Frances Squires  
*Vice-Chairman*  
Brad Mills  
*Secretary*  
Jeanette Goza  
*Treasurer*

**SMEAA MEMBERS**  
Deborah Grant  
Marissa Lesko  
Jason Loftus  
Gail Simpson  
Tony Smarjesse  
Bill Taft  
Terry Young

***Springfield  
Metropolitan  
Exposition &  
Auditorium  
Authority***

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**December 16, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

The regular Board Meeting of the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority was called to order at 12:00 PM in the Boardroom of the Bank of Springfield Center by Chairman Mike Coffey, Jr.

A roll call was taken and the following Board Members were present, representing a quorum:

Ms. Goza  
Ms. Grant  
Ms. Lesko  
Mr. Loftus  
Mr. Mills  
Ms. Simpson  
Mr. Smarjesse  
Ms. Squires  
Mr. Taft  
Mr. Young

Also present were Jodi Davis, General Manager; Janet Jennings, Dir. of Finance; Rich Sherwood, Dir. of Operations; Greg Sronce, Legal Counsel; Scott Dahl, SCVB; Jim Dickey.

Mr. Coffey lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Coffey asked if there were any statements from visitors or guests.

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to approve Action Items A, B & C, which were the Board Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2024, 2025 Board Meeting Dates and the Lease Contracts. A motion was made by Mr. Mills, and seconded by Ms. Simpson. A voice vote was taken, motion carried.

Mr. Coffey presented the Chairman's report. Mr. Coffey stated that he and Ms. Davis held a call meeting with Todd Hunt from Venue Coalition. He stated that he inquired into how to get four events to the BOS Center. He explained that The Center is on the Venue Coalition list as a potential site. However, when Ms. Davis gets on the monthly call, there are 100 other people on that call too. Mr. Coffey stated that he asked Mr. Hunt what The Center needs to do, in which Mr. Hunt stated that The Center has to be willing to spend and lose money. If The Center is not willing to do that, The Center will not get anything. Mr. Hunt explained that The Center needs to be willing to spend between \$250,000-\$300,000 and willing to lose that in order to get an event. Mr. Coffey stated that he asked Mr. Hunt how would The Center get Venue Coalition to bring artists to The Center. Mr. Hunt said that for an additional \$60,000, they will assign a dedicated person to do

***Board Meeting Minutes***

December 16, 2024

Page 2 of 5

recruiting and bringing talent to the location. Mr. Coffey stated that he also spoke with Brian Oaks about what kind of acts they are getting in Arkansas but they have three (3) different venues. Mr. Coffey stated that when Brian was here, The Center was not making money on the events. And that there were some events that The Center lost substantial amounts of money. He stated that the Board needs to determine if they want to spend the extra money and take a chance. Ms. Simpson inquired into there being a way of tracking entertainment that goes from point A (Chicago) to point B (St. Louis) with Springfield being a central stopping point. Mr. Coffey stated that the Venue Coalition would have someone who is tracking that but it all depends on how much money The Center is willing to spend. Ms. Squires inquired if there was money in the budget. Mr. Coffey stated that The Center has the money but he isn't sure if we would want to get on a track for losing money every year for entertainment. Mr. Loftus stated that it is basically the price of doing business and that The Center owes it to the taxpayers to bring in entertainment. A discussion took place regarding the fact that The Center is taxpayer funded, do we want to improve the quality of life for the taxpayer so they are getting a return on their tax investment. Ms. Grant stated that her constituents asked her about entertainment at The Center and thinks the Board should consider giving it a try. Mr. Mills stated that it would show that The Center is doing something other than conventions. Mr. Coffey stated that he will get with Venue Coalition to see what kind of proposal packet and possibly set up a Music & Entertainment Committee to meet with Ms. Davis and Venue Coalition for potential acts. Ms. Goza stated that she wants to be on the Committee if one is created. A discussion took place regarding the venue and available dates. Mr. Coffey stated that this needed to be a Board decision and that it really should not fall on just one person to make the decisions. Mr. Coffey stated that he will put something together for the Board to vote on at the next meeting.

Mr. Coffey called upon Ms. Goza to give the Finance Committee Report. Ms. Goza stated that the Finance Committee met at 11:52 AM.

Ms. Goza stated that the Finance Committee approved the list of bills as presented, but needed full Board approval.

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to approve the list of bills. A motion was made by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Taft. A voice vote was taken, motion carried.

Ms. Goza stated that there were four (4) expenditures over \$1,000.00, but needed full Board approval.

1. Capital City Fire Extinguisher - \$1,691.50...Semi Annual Service, Inspection & Extinguisher Recharge
2. Springfield Overhead Doors - \$2,350.00...Overhead Door Panels to keep in stock for future damage.
3. Webstaurant - \$3,639.00...Commercial Garbage Disposal for Kitchen with Triad, who is local, having a quote of \$3,659.00. Ms. Goza stated that the Finance Committee opted to recommend going with Triad if the 5% variance works out and stay local.
4. Venue Coalition - \$8,500.00...Annual Membership Fee (2<sup>nd</sup> Installment)

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00. A motion was made by Ms. Simpson, and seconded by Mr. Smarjesse. A voice vote was taken, motion carried.

There was no General Counsel report presented at this meeting.

***Board Meeting Minutes***

December 16, 2024

Page 3 of 5

Ms. Davis presented the General Managers report. Ms. Davis stated that the first of December Christmas parties have all been finished. The next two weeks will be getting ready and gearing up for the Abe's Rumble HS Wrestling Tournament that happens right after Christmas.

Ms. Davis informed the Board that there is a new Concessions Manager, Elaina Antenan, who started last week. She stated that Craig Moreland is moving on and will be missed.

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ms. Simpson, and seconded by Ms. Goza. A voice vote was taken, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

---

Tracy Motter  
Office Manager

---

Mr. Mike Coffey, Jr.  
Chairman