VAN WERT — When the Van Wert County Fair Board held its public meeting on Saturday, a familiar topic was featured — grandstand entertainment at the fair. Driving the discussion was local resident Deb Venderley who has been collecting funds to bring in popular musicians at the fair. She told the board she has donations totaling $12,000 already and hopes to get to $20,000 in an effort to secure popular entertainment for a grandstand show.

Venderley asked for permission to continue to seek donations and to receive proposals from a Lima-based firm for possible acts. As part of that firm's contract, marketing of the show would be accomplished through barter of show tickets, with 298 tickets requested for promotional purposes.

The board told Venderley that they would meet shortly after Saturday's public meeting to talk about the matter and take official action. The decision left Venderley admittedly disappointed.

"They told me to go ahead and pursue sponsors," she said. But they think they can get the advertising cheaper. They think they can do that cheaper. Personally, I don't think they can, but if they think they can then great! But I don't think they'll get the [same] exposure."

According to Venderley, she is going to continue to raise funds and to speak with the Lima-based company about possible bands but she thinks the board will try to do things their own way.

"I guess I don't have a definite answer until we go back for the next meeting on the 20th," she replied. "I'm a little disappointed but if that's what they choose to do, that's what they choose to do."

The Times Bulletin is conducting an informal poll about the genre desired for fair entertainment. Choose between country and classic rock by going the home page at www.timesbulletin.com and scrolling down the right column to find the poll. Votes will be taken for one week, and the results will be announced in both the print and online editions of the The Delphos

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