

Minutes

Airport Commission Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Present: Gary Schwartz, Joe Malsack, Gary Schulz, Lyle Banser, Chris Malm and Airport Manager John Miller

Also Present: Larry Wenning, Steve Krueger

(1) Call to Order: Gary Schwartz called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

(2) Approval of the May 1, 2013 Minutes: Joe Malsack made a motion to ratify the minutes of the May 1, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Chris Malm. The motion passed.

(3) Approval of Vouchers: The vouchers were reviewed and signed by all. Joe Malsack made a motion to approve the vouchers. The motion was seconded by Chris Malm. The motion passed.

(4) Update on 2006 Project: John Miller said a pre-construction meeting was held on Monday, May 13th with all contractors attending except Fortress Fence. Ray from American Asphalt, the general contractor on this project, said he would get in touch with Fortress and make sure they know when they should be here. John said Van Ert Electric is currently getting the cans poured and put into the ground for the lights. John said it will be at least another week before they install the conduit for the lights. Merrill Sand and Gravel will start May 20th and bring in the last of the gravel.

John said American Asphalt will start laying blacktop the day after Memorial Day or the following Monday. John said there is an issue with weeds that were poisoned last year growing back. John said Nick from Beecher Hoppe said he has spoken with the company that poisoned the weeds and they will come back free of charge to do it again. John said there are other weeds out there that need to be poisoned and they will do it for \$500.00. John said this money will come out of the project.

John said there will be some runway closures during the project. John said there will only be closures during the day but there could be up to 10 of them. John said the project is estimated to be completed by July 1st.

John said he has spoken with Steve from Beecher Hoppe regarding the size of the hangar for Brian Hough. Steve said an 80 x 100 would fit but the parking would be close to the building if enough space was left in front of the building for aircraft parking.

Gary Schwartz said he would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony when this project is completed. He would like to hire a consultant to handle this ceremony. Gary said it should be held as soon as possible after the completion.

(5) 2013 Terminal Project: Gary Schwartz said that he has been in touch with the state regarding the light poles. Gary said he and John have also met with Todd Berndt from Van Ert Electric. Gary said he is proposing he and John meet again with Todd and see if we can get all the parking and hangar area lights done for the money that has been allowed in the Capital Budget. Gary said he believes Van Ert will work with us to get this done within our budget.

Joe Malsack made a motion for Gary Schwartz and John Miller to continue talking with Van Ert to try to get all the lights that were in the original bid done for the \$50,000.00 available. Gary Schulz seconded. Motion carried.

(6) Discussion/Decision Approval of Hangar 9 lease to Dan Sire: Gary Schulz made a motion to approve the lease of Hangar 9 to Dan Sire. Joe Malsack seconded. Motion carried.

(7) Discussion/Decision Creation of Airport Safety Committee: Will put this on the agenda for next month.

(8) Discussion/Decisions Airport Day 2013: Sky Divers Insurance, Dual events with NTC Safety Campus: John Miller stated that he has not had the time to check into the insurance for the sky divers, but will do so before the Airport Day planning meeting. Gary Schulz said that he and Bev will match any donations toward the approximate \$500.00 cost of the insurance up to \$250.00. John Miller thanked Gary for the offer.

John and Bryce Kopleck have not yet spoken about Airport Day. John said he will speak to him before the planning meeting.

(9) Discussion–Airport Name: No discussion this meeting but will be kept on the Agenda.

(10) Discussion of RRL Marketing Program: No discussion this meeting but will be kept on the Agenda.

(11) Manager's Report: John Miller reported that the floor painting and hangar refurbishing project is coming along. John said that his company has spent a fair amount of money getting the hangar floor to look nice. John said the walls came out nice. John said with all we have done and getting the roof repaired, we are extending the life of this building for many more years.

John said he has been speaking with different pilots about the light situation on Runway 16/34 and leaving them on low seems to be working. John said in a couple of weeks when everything dries out he will switch the lights back to auto and will monitor them to make sure that they are working. John said that this was a good alternative for the wet period this spring.

John said that with the water table being so high this year he has been having problems with the water sensors in the fuel system. John explained they are not the sensors inside the tanks but they are in the man wells for the pumps. John said this is not a big issue.

(12) Chairman's Report: Gary had nothing to add at this time.

(13) Aviation Happenings: Gary Schulz said the general aviation manufactures have felt that the certification process was too long and difficult. Congress has stepped in and the FAA is working to change this certification process.

Gary said John Chmiel, the Airport Manager from Wausau, has come up with a plan for a Wednesday Night Hamburger Fly-in. This has been done for many years at a private hangar in Wausau but now John Chmiel would like to get the surrounding airports involved. Gary said John Chmiel has gotten a very positive response and each airport in the area will host a hamburger night this summer. Steve Krueger suggested that the City Officials and Council Members be invited on August 7th when it will be hosted by John Miller Aviation here in Merrill.

(14) Public Comment: Joe Malsack asked if there has to be insurance on the airplane to cover skydiving. John Miller said that the aircraft itself should be insured.

Steve Krueger said that he would like to let the sky divers know if they will be jumping because they need to get certified. John Miller said to tell them that we will make this insurance work and to go ahead.

Larry Wenning said that he would pledge \$100.00 toward the insurance.

A motion was made by Gary Schulz to get insurance for the sky divers on Airport Day and to pass the word on to them. Chris Malm seconded. Motion carried.

John Miller stated any aircraft we use must be insured, properly registered and within Annual Inspection

(15) Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Insurance for Skydivers Policy, Safety committee and NTC.

(16) Adjournment: Joe Malsack made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Chris Malm. The motion passed.

These Minutes were recorded by John Miller, the Airport Manager and will be ratified at the June 19, 2013 Airport Commission Meeting.