

Minutes

Airport Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

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

Also Present: Larry Wenning, Steve Krueger

(1) Call to Order: Gary Schwartz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

(2) Approval of the February 19, 2014 Minutes: Chris Malm stated that the members for the FBO/Airport Manager Search were appointed rather than they volunteered. With that change, Chris Malm made a motion to ratify the minutes. Joe Malsack seconded. Motion carried.

(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) Terminal Project Status: Gary Schwartz stated he has a list of dates for the bids for the terminal. A pre bid meeting is scheduled on April 9th with opening of the bids on April 18th.

Gary Schwartz said that the decision to raise the level of the terminal 12 inches for storm water drain off has caused some problems. Gary said it would require that the blacktop going to the entrance would have to be cut out and reshaped for the handicap requirements. Gary said they are talking about cutting out a substantial amount of blacktop all around the building and this would be an additional cost of \$20,000. A discussion was held as to other options.

Lyle Banser suggested using a ramp in front of the building running parallel to the building. Gary Schwartz said he would suggest that to the engineers and the Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA)

(5) Update on 2006 Project: Gary said that there is nothing new from the last meeting.

(6) Fixed Base Operator/Airport Manager Search Process: John Miller reported he sent out 285 e-mails with a letter written by him and Chris Malm and approved by the rest of the committee. The letter addressed the Airport Manager/FBO Contract opening. These e-mails were sent to Airport Managers, A&P/AI Mechanics and Certified Flight Instructors (CFIs).

John said that he had a reply from a pilot named Mike Stein. Mike has flown into Merrill for Stark. John said Mike manages aircraft for different companies and is based out of Waukesha. John said he replied to his questions. Mike wanted to know if the house was still part of the contract and what the fuel sales were for the last two years.

John Miller also said on Sunday afternoon a guy named George Fabain from Madison stopped in. John said George is currently working for State Farm Insurance but has enough years in to retire at age 56. John said he has had a private pilot license for five years. John said he answered all George's questions about the Airport Manager/FBO Contract and his questions about possibly buying John Miller Aviation. John said he stressed to him that the Airport Manager/FBO Contract and the sale of John Miller Aviation are two different items. John said he has passed this information on to the other committee members.

The next meeting for the Search Committee will be April 9th. Joe Malsack said he has a list of CFIs from Minnesota for John to mail to.

Larry Wenning said that he took information about the Airport Manager/FBO Contract to a Pilot Safety Seminar in Oshkosh. Larry said he feels that there are some items in the Airport Manager's/FBO Contract that need to be addressed. Larry feels that there needs to be a rental plane available here. It was decided that the content of the contract needs to be discussed at the Search Committee Meeting on April 9th.

(7) Manager's Report: John Miller said the snow blower was sold for \$400. John said he had quite a good response to the ad but 90% of the callers did not have a large enough tractor. John said that the snow blower requires at least a 90 horse tractor.

John said it has been a hard winter on the runway and taxi lights. John said there are about five lights that will need to be repaired or replaced

John said the belts on the south gate had to be replaced. John said the north gate has been working good lately and not tripping the system.

John said he has complained to Beecher Hoppe about the design of the vault building. John said the way it is designed the snow from the metal roof falls right in front of the door and freezes on the sidewalk so you cannot open the door. John said the door was placed on the wrong side of the building and the cement was poured to close to the threshold. John said there will be a meeting this summer with regard to warranty issues before the one year warranty period is up.

(8) Chairman's Report: None for tonight.

(9) Aviation Happenings: Gary Schulz said he thought the Search Committee has been working hard and doing a good job. He thought going to Minnesota was a good idea and also suggested Iowa.

Gary said Cessna Aircraft is owned by Textron and Textron recently purchased Beechcraft. They have formed a new parent company named Textron Aviation. They have said both Cessna and Beechcraft will retain their own identity. Gary said it will be interesting to see how this will affect the models being produced for those two companies.

Gary said Cessna also announced they are discontinuing the Skycatcher. Gary said they will most likely concentrate on larger and better selling aircraft

Gary Schulz said that he thought General Aviation is slowly coming back but still has many issues to contend with. Gary said there are fuel issues, issues with the length of time it takes to certify aircraft and the FAA still has not made good progress on using a driver's license for a Third Class Medical for Private Pilots.

(10) Public Comment: None

(11) Agenda Items for Next Meeting: No new items.

(12) Adjournment: Lyle Baser made a motion to adjourn and Joe Malsack seconded. Meeting adjourned.

These Minutes were recorded by John Miller, the Airport Manager and were ratified at the April 16, 2014 Airport Commission Meeting.