

Airport Commission minutes August 16, 2017

Members present: (Chairman) Gary Schwartz, Gary Schulz, Joe Malsack, Ryan Schwartzman (Alderman).

Also present: Rich Mccullough (Airport Manager), Mary Ball, Don Kromire and Anthony Kromire (Camera Man).

1. Gary called meeting to order at 7 pm.
2. A motion was made to approve the July 19th minutes as printed by Gary Schulz. Joe M. seconded. Motion passed.
3. Vouchers were discussed and passed around for inspection. A motion was made by Joe M. and seconded by Gary Schulz to approve the vouchers to be paid. Motion passed.
4. Brown property status: We own the property; all the paper work is done.
5. Runway 16/34 project: On the desk of the regional gentleman at the FAA. We are now waiting for him to review. On hold, again. We will have to update the ALP and environmental study again. We have the data from 2006 on the environmental study but will have to be updated for the new project. Gary asked the State of Wisconsin if we could get the study done this fall. How to fund this is by using the state entitlement money. We have \$33,000 left over from 2016. In 2017, we have \$20,000 left over after paying Antigo airport back on the money we used prior. We would like to use this money if possible to help fund the environmental study. Gary also asked to have a meeting in Madison to meet the new people due to Keith Gerard is retiring. Mark Arnold also retired in spring. Due to all the delays it maybe 2018 or 2019 before finished.
6. Lightening Suppression Project: Roger Strand waiting on AWOS plans but not available. He does have the fence plan. He is still working on the plan and date to come and get the problem corrected. Per Mar has been out and working on the fence to stop problems with their circuit boards. They have been putting dedicated grounds for the north gate circuits.
7. Merrill Airport Day: Joe M. working with vendors and organizations to make sure all is ready. Flea market is almost full. We have someone who wants to sell egg rolls by the flea market area. Consensus from the commission is this is ok. Something different so we have more variety. We have been in contact with NTC and getting fliers and schedules organized. Parking persons we have to wait on until they start school. Police and fire will be there. No k9 units available for the weekend. Tom O'Neill is letting us use his trailer to move picnic tables.
8. Flight instruction status: Rich Lussow reported 5 students, 1 solo, 3 persons checked out to rent the airplane. We also have 1 more possible student. Face book page helping to get the word out. All positive comments at this time. Brian Krueger is checked out to instruct in the Sundowner.

9. Airport Signage: Working on a new person to get a price and idea for the sign. All the other sources will not return calls or give us a price. Any ideas on a sign or someone to make one let Rich M. know.

10. Rents and Leases: Only 1 chance per year to change. We need to look into a bench mark study to see where we are at compared to other local airports to make sure we are charging correctly for the city. Rich will make calls and check on rates.

11. Review of airport equipment: Big plow truck we would like to replace, single axle with aluminum body to replace our 1991. The crew car is looking rough and starting to cost us a lot in maintenance to keep running. Tires on small plow truck may need to be replaced prior to plowing season. Tractor ok. Trees on south of 7 getting bad, needs to be cut this winter. Ford 8n running ok, we need to purchase a brush hog to cut ditches and banks. 4-5 foot would fit the size of the tractor, 6 ft too big. The cost of new one is about \$1100, Rich will look around and see if any used is out there and report back to the commission.

12,13. Managers Report and Airport General Maintenance: Air lines in hanger installed. Light system repair on outside lights by new terminal building. Photo cells need replacing on some of the lights, parts ordered from RTL. Waiting on estimate for changing the t hanger lights to LED. AWOS still not working. Parts still not here, approval has been made. Rich has talked to BOA about why display is important with students and pilots transitioning thru. System is broadcasting. Not a safety concern to escalate and get parts here sooner. We have 35 registered airplanes on the field. Crack filling done 7/25, taxiway to 16/34, and the parking lot. NTC has been contacted about trucks turning around in our parking area. Spraying the ramp, Rich has someone with a 20 ft. boom. They will have to spray in spring. All the spray equipment put away for the season. This will clean up the gravel areas we have set up for the new areas to develop. Wiring in the t hangers cannot be moved to prevent water from getting into the power boxes. Only option was to seal up areas where water is getting in the switches and drilled drain holes for the water to get out if it does get in. Rich would like to thank Gary and Bev Schulz for the new/used furniture in the old terminal building. Stop in and see how it dressed up the place.

14. Chairman's report: EAA Cup race. May need something in conjunction to keep people busy while waiting for the airplanes to fly over. 97 entries this year which was a record for the 20th anniversary. They stated they are very interested in coming back next year. Very good feedback from all the people involved to the city. We should have detailed plans for planes wanting to stop for fuel, to reduce the risk of a possible accident if they come back next year.

15. Aviation happenings: Basic med is growing in numbers. Privatization of ATC not good for general aviation. Senate is against this. FAA needs funds to modernize the ATC not privatize per EAA. Something new in the government is they are looking at designating airports to house supplies for nation and natural disasters. Giving them a staging area close to the disaster. This is still in the works with the Federal Government. We should see if we could throw our airport into the hat for this privilege.

16. Public comments. Rich Lussow states Alpha taxiway has blank panel and should show FBO and 7/25. We will get this added for safety and direction for new pilots flying in.

17. Agenda items for next meeting. Brush hog.

18. A motion was made by Ryan S. and seconded by Gary Schulz. to adjourn, motion passed

Minutes by Joe Malsack