

**COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN  
Sawyer International Airport**

**Airport Advisory Committee Minutes  
Thursday, January 7, 2010, 4:30 P.M.**

**Airport Services Center,  
Second Floor Conference Room  
Gwinn, MI 49841**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Struck called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m

**Members Present:** Bob Struck, John LaCourt, Steve Rodgers, Scott Schulz, Fred Benzie, Andy Sikkema, Frank Rosado

**Staff Present:** Keith Kaspari, Scott Erbisch

**Approval of the Agenda** – John LaCourt made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of 5C By-Laws Review, 5D Goals and Expectations, 6D Runway Sweeper, and informational items Terminal Bathroom Update, and 2009 passenger statistics. Frank Rosado seconded the motion and was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**Public Comment - None**

**Approval of Minutes (December, 2009):** Frank Rosado motioned to approve the December 2009 minutes. John LaCourt supported the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

**Organizational Items:**

**Appointment of Officers**

**Chairman nomination:** Scott Schulz nominated Bob Struck for Chairman. Steve Rodgers seconded the motion.

John LaCourt made a motion to nominate Fred Benzie for Chairman. Fred Benzie declined the nomination.

The motion to appoint Bob Struck Chairman was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**Vice Chairman nomination:** Fred Benzie made a motion to nominate John LaCourt as Vice Chairman. Scott Schulz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**Secretary nomination:** Fred Benzie made a motion to nominate Steve Rodgers as the Secretary. Andy Sikkema seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**Establish meeting days and times:** John LaCourt made a motion to hold the regular Airport Advisory meeting on the first Thursday of each month as 4:30 p.m. in the Airport Services Center. Scott Schulz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**By Law Review:** Chairman Struck stated that he wanted this item added to the agenda to make sure that everyone takes the time to review the By Laws.

**Goals and Expectations:** Chairman Struck stated that he felt this section should be added so that Committee members had the opportunity to express their concerns or suggestions about the direction of the Airport Advisory Committee.

Fred Benzie stated that he was frustrated that it does not have more authority. He felt that some suggestions, such as the terminal restroom or crosswind runway items, do not garner the respect they should. Fred further discussed some general aviation priorities such as the grass crosswind runway. He also stated that he has noticed that some County Board Commissioners are paying attention and this could get more political in 2010. Fred also asked for an update on the runway broom review.

John LaCourt stated that he part of the responsibility rests with the Airport Advisory Committee. John talked about WAAS and how he would like to have updates like this for other items on each agenda.

Andy Sikkema asked if it would be possible to have the agenda out to the Committee the Friday before the meeting. That way, the Committee could have time to add items to the agenda.

Fred Benzie made a motion to have the draft meeting agenda sent to the Airport Advisory Committee the Friday prior to the next regular meeting with a reminder in the e-mail to committee members that they may add items to the agenda. John LaCourt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Additional discussion took place on preparing a priority list for the Committee and that sustainability is the key for the airport.

Chairman Struck advised that the County Board is looking for leadership because they have tough decisions to make in the next couple of years.

### **Items for Discussion**

**WAAS Update:** Keith Kaspari advised the WAAS is still scheduled for publication in April of 2010. The flight check was scheduled for 1/7/2010, but was not sure it was completed due to the inclement weather.

**Fuel Flowage Fee:** Scott Erbisich advised that the fuel flowage information was provided to the Committee since there has been an ongoing discussion about fuel flowage. He did not anticipate discussion, but felt that the Committee should have that opportunity. No Committee discussion occurred.

**Web Site Content Review:** Scott Erbisich stated that the web site content sheet was a break down of suggested content for the second airport web site. This was a continuation of the marketing and awareness efforts that Staff has been doing over the past couple of years. Scott asked that the Committee feel free to contact staff if they had additional suggestions or comments about the proposed content. The web site can be modified easily to add or delete content.

**Runway Sweeper Status:** Scott Erbisich stated that he talked with John LaCourt prior to the Christmas Holiday about scheduling a trip to Traverse City to meet with maintenance personnel to see their broom in action. Keith Kaspari was tasked with coordinating a meeting with Cherry Capital and to coordinate with John LaCourt who will fly them there.

John LaCourt stated that he felt they should also ask about maintenance cost.

### **Informational Items – Projects Update**

**Renewafuel Status:** Scott Erbisich stated that the County has submitted the lease to the FAA for its review. The FAA has not provided a formal response to date.

**Navy Laser Winter Test in February:** Scott Erbisch advised that a division of the Navy is planning to come to Sawyer Airport for two weeks in February to test a laser camera. They will pay approximately \$13,000 for the use of the grounds, facilities, and our expense to keep a portion of the taxiway clear.

**Passenger Statistics and Upcoming Flight Schedules:** Keith Kaspari presented the final passenger numbers for 2009. Although, Sawyer International was below 2008 by just over 4%, it could have been much worse.

Keith Kaspari stated that it appears that Delta will be bringing back the Minneapolis flight. He is in the process of trying to verify this information. Steve Rodgers stated that American Eagle is looking at some flight options.

**Terminal Bathroom Update:** John LaCourt stated that he and airport staff and most recently, Tom Swick, have been investigating the options for a restroom in the secure area of the terminal. All indications that a section on the South wall in the secure area will work for a unisex restroom.

The estimated cost just for construction is approximately \$20,000. The airport will need have the project designed and bid, so staff will contact Mead & Hunt engineering for estimates for this work and to discuss financing options for the project.

A motion was made by Fred Benzie and supported by Steve Rodgers to Direct staff to look into the options for financing a restroom facility in the secure area of the terminal and bring said option to the County Board of Commissioners. The Airport Advisory Committee places the need for a restroom as a high priority. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**Public Comment:** None

**Staff and Committee Member Comment:**

Keith Kaspari discussed an upcoming opportunity to bring continued awareness to Sawyer Airport this spring with a visit from the University of Michigan's new medical aircraft. He further advised that all Airport Advisory Committee members were sent a copy of letter the airport sent to the FAA regarding the Jobs Bill.

**9. Adjournment:** John LaCourt made a motion and it was seconded by Steve Rodgers to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.