

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

**Thursday, November 4, 2010, 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes**

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

Members Present: Committee Chairman Bob Struck, and Committee Members Scott Schulz, John LaCourt and Fred Benzie.

Members Absent: Committee Members Jim Cihak, Frank Rosado, Andy Sikkema and Steve Rodgers

Staff Present: Scott Erbisch, Director of Operations and Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager

Staff Absent: N/A

Guests Present: N/A

1. Call to Order:

**NOTE: With no quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 4:14 p.m. by
Chairman Struck.**

2. Public Comment: None

3. Approval of the Agenda:

The Committee Members reviewed the agenda for November. A request was made to include agenda items B (FBO Agreement), and C (Runway Length).

With no additional revisions offered, a motion was offered by Committee Member John La Court, with a second offered by Committee Member Scott Schulz. Motion did not pass due to no quorum present.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Committee Members reviewed the minutes from the Advisory Committee meeting held on October 7, 2010.

Mr. Kaspari requested revisions to include the first and second paragraphs of Page No: 1, Public Comment, revisions to the Trip Report as described on Page No: 4, and Page 5, second paragraph of the first bullet point regarding the runway at Battle Creek.

With no additional revisions offered, a motion was offered by Committee Member John La Court, with a second followed by Committee Member Fred Benzie. Motion did not pass due to no quorum present.

5. **Items for Discussion:**

A. **Long Range Planning**

Scott Erbisch led discussion and provided a handout regarding budget information for the airport department.

An example of the budget was a discussion point on the improvements to the airport parking lot and resulting revenue projections, due to the installation of the electronic or automated parking revenue equipment.

Discussion continued with regard to parking permits for terminal area employees and business (corporate) parking users.

Discussion ensued with regard to parking rates.

Committee Members requested that current parking rates be discussed at future Committee Meetings prior to the FY-2012 budget discussions with senior County staff and members of the County Board of Commissioners.

NOTE: Committee Member Steve Rodgers arrived at 4:32. This now provides sufficient attendance for a quorum.

Additional discussion continued by the Committee with regard to the current rates of the General Aviation T-Hangars.

Staff commented that it was prior to CY-2006 since the monthly rates were adjusted down to make the hangars more attractive to based aircraft owners.

Committee Member Fred Benzie provided comment regarding increasing revenue to the airport, and provided a Motion of Support to increase the monthly rates of General Aviation T-Hangars and End Storage Units, beginning on January 1, 2010, and pending the approval of the County Board of Commissioners and Civil Counsel:

- Single Engine T-Hangars - \$5.00 per month
- Twin Engine T-Hangars - \$10.00 per month
- End Storage Units - \$5.00 per month.

A Second of Support was provided by Committee Member Scott Schulz, with a voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Committee Members Schulz, Benzie, Struck and Rodgers

Nays: Committee Member LaCourt

Motion Passed.

Mr. Erbisch continued discussion on fees with regard to the current and proposed fees of Sawyer's Fixed Base Operator (FBO).

Committee Member Schulz requested of staff to provide an updated summary of the key (core) subject areas of what has been discussed and approved with Committee motion.

Mr. Schulz further requested that this be a constantly updated report to the Committee.

Discussion continued with regard to a proposal of allowing the use of the empty GA T-Hangars for seasonal storage by aircraft that are not based at Sawyer.

This was followed by a Motion by Committee Member LaCourt, with a Second by Committee Member Benzie.

Motion Passed.

B. FBO Agreement

Mr. Erbisch led discussion and updated the Committee Members regarding the final execution of the FBO agreement, due to the recent resignation of former Chief Civil Counsel, Harley Andrews, who was performing legal services for the airport department.

Mr. Erbisch continued that Mr. Andrews had promised to get the completed documents to staff for its review before the conclusion of his employment with the County.

C. Discussion Point: Length of Sawyer's Runway

Committee Member La Court opened discussion regarding the overall length of Sawyer's runway. (Current runway is 12,366 feet long).

Mr. La Court expressed comment regarding requesting of Marquette County officials to contact Sawyer's Congressional representatives, and request that the U.S. Department Commerce to contact the Federal Aviation Administration.

Committee Member Benzie expressed concern with Mr. La Court's comments.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Members and Staff discussed the merits of fighting for (requesting support) for retaining the full length of the runway.

Staff provided comment to the Committee Members that staff would be meeting on Monday, November 8th to discuss the contents of the letter of request to the FAA dated April 16th.

Committee Member La Court provided a Motion to fight for (requesting support) for retaining the full length of the runway.

A Second of Support was offered by Committee Member Schulz, with a voice vote as follows:

Ayes: Committee Members Schulz, La Court, Struck and Rodgers
Nays: Committee Member Benzie

Discussion continued.

Committee Member Benzie requested that for the preferred long-term support of the airport, and for future use by both General Aviation and Air Carrier aircraft, that if the FAA does not provide the support for the full-length of the current and only runway, to advocate support for the construction of a cross-wind runway at 6,000 feet located near the intersection of Taxiway Bravo.

6. Informational Items:

A. UPDATE: Terminal Restrooms -

Scott Erbis led discussion regarding the future construction of two unisex restrooms for the airport passenger terminal.

A Notice to Proceed (NTP) has been issued effective November 15, 2010, with a pre-construction meeting scheduled for November 19.

B. Energy Audit (Outcomes) – Sawyer Air Traffic Control Tower

Scott Erbis provided a handout and led discussion on the findings / outcome of a recent energy audit completed for Marquette County facilities, as follows:

- Courthouse and Annex;
- MCSO Jail;
- Negaunee Service Center;
- Medical Care Facility;
- Youth Home; and,
- Sawyer Air Traffic Control Tower

General discussion ensued.

7. Public Comment None

8. Staff and Committee Member Comment

- Committee Member Rodgers provided comment that he has received approval for the hiring of 20 new mechanics to supplement his existing staff of 250 total employees at the American Eagle Airlines maintenance base.

Mr. Rodgers continued comment that he anticipates completion of the hiring process by December 15, with an anticipated start date beginning in February, 2011.

Mr. Rodgers provided additional comment, in that he felt that it was only a matter of time until American Airlines divests of the American Eagle subsidiary (regional airline affiliate) of the larger AMR corporation.

- Chairman Struck provided comment on the outcome of the recent election, with his term expiring on December 31.

Chairman Struck thanked the Members and Staff for being a part of the Airport Advisory Committee, and that the outcome will now allow him to spend more time with family.

- Staff handed out copies of the recent airport newsletter.
- Staff provided a copy of an email letter that was sent to all members of the Michigan House of Representatives regarding requesting their support for Michigan House Bill 5773.
- Mr. Erbisich provided a debrief of his recent trip to Atlanta for the following:
 1. National Business Aviation Association annual exposition; and,
 2. Meeting with officials at Delta Airlines regarding the recent decision to suspend service to Minneapolis-St. Paul for a period of approximately 60-days effective January 4 through March 2, 2011.

9. **Adjournment**

A Motion to Adjourn the meeting was offered by Committee Member John LaCourt, with a Second offered by Committee Member Steve Rodgers.

Motion Passed.

Time of adjournment: 6:22.