

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
Sawyer International Airport
Airport Advisory Committee
Thursday May 9, 2019 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: County Commissioner Adamini, Walter Paegel, County Commissioner Alholm, Bob Muelle, and Vito Carello, Sr.

Members Absent: Steve Rodgers and Frank Rosado

Staff Present: Duane DuRay, Airport Manager and Steve Schenden, Director of Operations

Staff Absent: None

Guests Present: Bob Wilson, Roger Bentlage, Fred Joule, Ted Kirkpatrick, and Ray Brown

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alholm at 4:00 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion was made by Commissioner Adamini, supported by Member Muelle to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: Mr. Ray Brown wanted to thank the airport staff for a great job throughout the winter season with the snow removal.

4. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Chairperson Alholm, supported by Member Carello, to approve the minutes of March 14, 2019. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Items of Discussion:

A. Airport Fees Review:

- a. Hangar Rates: DuRay provided a briefing for the Committee on the hangar rate comparison. The rate study covered the state of Michigan and parts of Wisconsin. The prices varied from \$105 to \$700 per month for comparable space. The majority of the sampling provided equivalent hangar rates for similar space. Discussion took place on the available space for the construction of new hangars and the option of lowering the current rates to increase hangar usage. DuRay will do a little more research on hangar construction and come back at the next meeting with further information.
- b. Fuel Flow Fees: Mr. Steve Rodger was unavailable to provide an update.

B. T –Hangar Icing: Member Muelle provided information on the ice accumulation issue with several hangars. Mr. Muelle contacted some local contractors to explore possible corrections to reduce the icing issues. Superior Paving proposed to mill off or adding pavement with the cost estimate of \$6,187 or \$9,292 respectively. Discussion took place. Director Schenden felt further inspection of the pavement was needed.

C. Future Airport Funding: Discussion took place on the ongoing concern with future funding of the Airport. Director Schenden briefed the Committee of the ongoing struggles with airport funding with

the declining stabilization. Looking at funding sources with a millage as a funding mechanism in the future. A continued need for public awareness of the cost of the operation is needed.

- D. Engine Test Cell: Director Schenden advised the Committee of an agreement that was reached between Marquette County and U.S. Turbine Accessory LLC. on the purchase of building 742/ engine test cell. U.S. Turbine Accessory LLC. agreed to purchase the building for \$75,000 and they will dismantle the building and transport it back to their location down state. Director Schenden feels it would be a benefit to have the building removed at no cost to Marquette County. Discussion took place.

6. Informational Items & Project Updates:

- A. Launch Initiative: Director Schenden briefed the committee on the interest to locate a satellite launch site within Michigan with Marquette County as a possible site. Currently there are five different proposed sites in Michigan and Director Schenden provided a hand out of the proposed development for the review by the committee with more information to follow. Discussion took place on some of the particular requirements. Chairperson Alholm requested this remain on the agenda.
- B. RFQ Update (FBO): Director Schenden provided an update to the Committee; the Committee that reviewed the FBO proposals will be completing an interview of the two entities that provided proposals. Discussion took place.
- C. 20th Year Celebration: DuRay informed the Committee on the planned business after hours to celebrate the 20th year anniversary of Sawyer International Airport. Ms. Lindberg is working with the LSCP on the arrangements and the current schedule reflects Aug 21, 2019, as the date. Please mark your calendar.

7. Late Additions: None

- 8. Public Comment:** Roger Bentlage is working with several groups to develop an aerobatic practice weekend event at Sawyer International Airport. The desire is to have several aerobatic flyers participate in a schedule practice event at Sawyer with the intentions to build the event into something larger in the future. Mr. Bentlage continues to work with several contacts and the Airport staff for the dates covering May 10th thru the 12th. Discussion took place.

- 9. Staff and Committee Member Comment:** Member Muelle wanted to express his view that the hangar ice issue is a legitimate problem and needs to be addresses at some level.

- 10. Adjournment:** Member Muelle made a motion, supported by member Carello to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Duane R. DuRay, Airport Manager