

Airport Advisory Committee Minutes

March 19, 2016

Meeting called to order at 11:05am. Members present: Rich Pewe, Jeff King, Roy Szarifinski, Bob Flynn, Ginger Moore, Mike Nye (via Skype), Jason Walters (airport manager), Adam Stockford (city council member). Absent: City Manager David Mackie.

Approval of minutes from December 19th meeting was tabled, as minutes were not available.

AIRPORT MANAGER REPORT

FUEL PUMP REPAIR: Jason reported that repair is ongoing. Identified problems fixed, then new ones pop up. Need to post pylons so no one hits the pump. Also need an emergency stop button for pumps. Roy Szarifinski said pump handle should be yellow or red in color, not green, to conform. Walters said the new inspector found a number of issues with the fuel delivery system. RW Mercer was called in to instruct staff on what to do with AB fuel and work on other issues. Chairman Pewe stressed that compliance issues must be taken care of.

GATE: Walters stated that the gate at the end of the roadway has been fixed.

NEW APRON: Walters gave an update on the apron situation, saying the current apron is in bad shape, and the weight from larger aircraft is causing further problems. Walters said current apron has not been addressed since it was installed in 1968. Current load capacity is 12,500 pounds or less. Larger aircraft weigh much more. Walters said safety is an issue on whether or not airport can continue to service larger aircraft. Michigan Aeronautics has acknowledged that Hillsdale Airport has a “failed apron”, and suggests an engineering team be brought in to test apron, and give guidance. Chairman Pewe suggests pressuring state legislature to help rectify the problem. A new apron would cost approximately \$750,000. One option: a USDA rural development loan. Nye said council needs to be convinced that the money would be repaid

FUEL: Walters reported that fuel sales have increased dramatically. Competitive pricing, along with an increase in air traffic have increased sales and revenue. Having fuel available 24/7 is working out much better than expected. Skywalker Aviation of Adrian is now buying all of their fuel in Hillsdale.

FLY-IN: Walters said the annual fly-in is being moved from the end of June to Sunday, September 11th. Events will be held the weekend of September 9-11. An airshow will perform on Sunday, paid for by Patriot Aviation. Events will include a cookout for police, fire, and emergency personnel on Friday September 9, educational events for pilots on Saturday, September 10, followed by an evening concert, then the fly-in breakfast and airshow on Sunday, September 11th.

AAC REPORT: Jeff King said the annual Airport Advisory Committee report needed to be approved. An amendment regarding a courtesy car at the airport was added to the report. Motion by Bob Flynn to accept the AAC Report as presented. Seconded by Jeff King. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councilman Adam Stockford mentioned that he would like to step down from the committee. Stockford reminded AAC members that he was appointed as a temporary member. He said he would stay on until a new member was appointed. Curt Sarles was mentioned as a possible replacement.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS: Jeff King again emphasized that the AAC committee be notified by the city when issues concerning the airport come up on the city council agenda. Adam Stockford indicated he would take this to the city.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Flynn