

**CABLE UNION AIRPORT  
AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023 – 4:30 PM  
CABLE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Rowe called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Attendance:** Chairman Doug Rowe, Commissioners Ray Ebert, Jeff Hurula, Kelly Nelson, Bob Rasmussen, Sue Thurn; Airport Manager Mike Nichols, Treasurer Dale Kruse; Secretary Holly Holly.

**Guests**

Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Thurn, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes – June 27, 2023**

Change title of Libby Hangar Update to Terminal Update. Motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Hurula, to approve the June 27, 2023, minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report 6/1/23-6/30/23**

Expenditures were \$21,906.06. Receipts were \$2,433.44 (\$1,467.46 - nine fuel sales). Balance on 6/30/23 was \$119,836.85.

Commissioner Thurn questioned where insurance money received for the hangar and tractor are noted in the budget. Motion made by Commissioner Thurn, seconded by Commissioner Ebert, to amend the budget to reflect the income for the insurance claims. Motion carried unanimously.

Expenses for the storage building are estimated at \$11,500, which is being reflected in maintenance expenses. Motion by Commissioner Thurn, seconded by Commissioner Ebert, to amend the expenses and add a new line for the storage shed. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Hurula, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen, to accept the treasurer's report and file it for audit. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Manager's Report**

Joe Garceau donated labor, equipment for concrete, and a load of gravel for entry to storage building. He also volunteered to do landscaping around the building and seal the concrete. The commission is very grateful for Mr. Garceau's generous contributions.

Toro lawn mower is currently running well, but is a 1990's model and parts are difficult to find. Mike is aware of a local, compatible mower available for parts (engine is not functional) for \$3,000. Commissioner Nelson suggested we continue to use it and purchase a new one at which time it is no longer feasible to repair rather than purchase a parts mower, Commission agreed.

Deputy Ryan Miller, Bayfield County Sheriff's Department presented a request to utilize the ramp portion of the airport for PIT vehicle training in September for two full weekdays. Commissioners all agree that making this available to law enforcement is necessary, but the FAA requires the airport be fully operational. An area 60 feet wide and long enough to reach a speed of 30 mph is required. Commissioner Hurula noted airplanes are at times tied down on the tarmac which would make that area unusable. Mr. Volker suggested using the parallel taxiway. Mike will coordinate with Deputy Miller on dates for training and be onsite to monitor the radio during the training exercise.

Motion by Commissioner Hurula, seconded by Commissioner Nelson to allow Bayfield County Sheriff's Department to hold PIT training for two days in September, contingent upon the airport remaining fully operational. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rasmussen loaned a brush hog to Mike to use in clearing brush and trees up to 1 inch diameter. This implement would maintain grounds once necessary clearing has been done. If purchased new from John Deere dealer in Rice Lake cost is \$3,500 (60" by 5' pto driven). Chairman Rowe suggested this implement be considered for the 2024 budget. Discussion included locating a used one through auction, Wisconsin Surplus website, or Mr. Volker suggested DRMO (excess federal government equipment that is available at no cost to government/non-profit agencies). Mike will contact Shell Lake Airport Manager, Jerry Winch for more details on DRMO.

National Park Service did an onsite visit where Libby's Hangar was for the scenic easement review. Mike was onsite for the review and informed the National Park Service needed to be notified before replacing the hangar. Mr. Volker read the scenic easement document which states the owner has the right to replace if destroyed by natural disaster (copy of easement attached). Mr. Messina will need to be notified. Commissioner Hurula questioned if cutting trees is restricted within the easement, Mr. Volker does not think so.

Fuel has been delivered, 1,200 gal at \$4.76/gal, retail price will be \$5.41 after current gas is sold (current price \$5.80/gal paid \$5.15). Commissioner Hurula verified online price is now correct (Sky Vector, ForeFlight). A higher rate displayed online and his concern is that has prevented

pilots from stopping in Cable. Commissioner Nelson reported a bolt missing on the pump and Mike will repair it.

Young Eagles is scheduled for Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, and seven kids are currently signed up.

Town of Namakagon has extra gravel and dirt available to build up the road to avoid the mud that was there last year during the bike races.

Discussion about the number of planes currently at the Cable Union Airport and the need to have ten in December to retain FAA funding, \$160,000 annually. Several pilots have expressed interest in having their planes in Cable and Mike will follow up with each.

## **Public Comments**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update BOA – Matt Messina, absent**

#### **EA Update/Hangar Expansion – Brad Volker**

Chairman Rowe spoke with Matt Pobloske, nothing new to report, but hoping to have it wrapped up before the end of August. Mr. Volker checked to see if they have updated easement. Matt is questioning what an approximate compensation is for easement.

Mr. Volker met with Matt and Malory, DOT, and within the week there will be a newer and more detailed version of the EA and it will be forwarded to Chairman Rowe for distribution. It is suggested that two commissioners continue to work on the plan until it is ready to be presented at a public meeting. Mr. Volker would then like to have a meeting with sponsor reps, Matt Messina, and Amy to discuss the preferred alternatives for threshold displacements in order to keep moving. Each alternative is affected by how many trees need to come down. Commissioners Rowe and Nelson will meet with Mr. Volker to discuss further.

Hangar Area Phase 2, Mr. Messina will talk with Mark Graczekowski to set a bid date and then fill in the plan. The estimated 5% match from the airport will be \$45,000.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Airport Operation Ordinance – Tabled until August 22, 2023**

#### **Chamber of Commerce Discussion**

Chairman Rowe met with Heather Ludzack, Cable Area Chamber, and was advised that non-profit organizations are given a 50% discount making the annual cost \$125 at the silver level membership.

Motion made by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Hurula for the Cable Union Airport to join the Cable Area Chamber of Commerce at the silver level. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Fall Bike Races**

Dale will send an invoice to each coordinator for two days of parking at \$500/day. Mike will meet Angela Brooks on site next month for the Interscholastic Cycling League race. The Fat Tire Race will be held September 16th, boulders may need to be moved and another gate installed. Commissioners agreed that each organization may move boulders as needed and requested they are returned to their original location(s).

### **Pancake Breakfast**

Chairman Rowe met with Cable Chamber President, Heather Ludzack regarding the date for the Pancake Breakfast Fly In. President Ludzack stated it will be fine to have the fly in on the same day as Cable Fall Fest, but it is important the pancake fly in be advertised and operated as a stand-alone event for liability purposes. The Commission agrees. The fly in will be Saturday, September 30, 2023.

### **SRE Building Update**

Mr. Messina requested proposals due July 28, 2023. Several architect/engineering firms have shown interest. FAA has an advisory circular on how to plan out snow removal building and addresses eligible funding. Commission can be involved along with BOA and consultant selection.

Mike has been approached by individuals interested in building hangars and Mr. Volker is willing to help them situate hangars to be sure they are placed correctly for the taxiway.

### **Storage Building Update**

Construction is complete except for an issue with the garage door not opening correctly. Commissioner Rasmussen has contacted a professional installer to troubleshoot. Joe Garceau has volunteered to do landscaping around the building. Commissioner Hurula will install electric this fall with the assistance of Commissioner Ebert who owns a trencher. Value of the building, for insurance purposes, has been set at \$25,000.

Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with this project, Commissioner Rasmussen for organizing and overseeing it, and Joe Garceau for his donations.

### **Terminal Restoration**

Commissioner Thurn reported most windows have been installed, siding on half the building has been removed, two exterior outlets installed, and several unexpected repairs have had to be addressed (rotten threshold, insulation issues, and change in window locations). Commissioner Hurula donated 30 siding boards from LP. Expenses so far include windows (\$1,500) and 88

hours of labor (\$5,632) for a project total of \$7,132. Commissioner Thurn is requesting an additional \$4,000 for labor to complete window installation and siding removal.

Motion made by Commissioner Hurula, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen to allocate no more than \$4,000 for labor to finish window installation. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission would like to have siding and trim replaced, completing the outside renovation of the terminal building. Cost of siding and trim would be approximately \$6,500 if purchased from Cable Lumber. It is unsure at this time if the siding would be able to be installed yet this fall, but there is room to store it in the Town Shop until spring if needed. Commissioners will investigate finding volunteer labor for installation.

Motion by Commissioner Hurula, seconded by Commissioner Nelson to purchase siding/trim not to exceed \$6,500 to complete terminal building. Motion carried unanimously.

Several changes were made to the original plan such as 30" windows (instead of 36") on west side based on what was available, eliminated window on south side of bathroom and installed in office area instead, and shower moved from north wall to south wall because it would be easier to run plumbing. Commission agreed the shower does not seem necessary at this time, but may be addressed in the future. Commissioner Thurn will request Town of Cable post a thank you on the website for volunteer time and donations on various airport projects (LP siding, concrete by Joe Garceau, Cable Lumber & Home).

Discussion about hangar owners participating in hosting a fundraiser to help with capital improvements was discussed. Commissioner Kelly was not sure when the group of hangar owners was meeting next.

### **Tree Clearing**

The Birkie crew worked for five days to take down trees on runway 8 which is making the runway much safer. Thank you to this organization for the work they have done.

Additional clearing is still required and Commissioner Hurula stated the Town of Drummond has used inmate labor from Gordon Correctional Center, Commissioner Rasmussen said Town of Namakagon has also used this service and it worked very well. It is a six-man crew cutting approximately six hours each day for \$282/day with an option to chip the debris for \$45/day. The estimated cost for week of cutting/chipping would be \$1,650. Commissioner Hurula offered to contact the center for possibility of clearing trees yet this fall or next spring. Commissioner Thurn noted \$6,200 is budgeted for airfield maintenance.

Motion made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Thurn for Commissioner Hurula to contact the Gordon Correctional Center and schedule one week of cutting and chipping this fall at an approximate cost of \$1,650. Motion carried unanimously.

**Items for Next Agenda:**

Toro Parts Mower

Airport Ordinance

SRE Building Update

Pancake Breakfast

Terminal Building Update

Tree Clearing

Bike Races

Chamber of Commerce

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 4:30 pm at the Cable Community Centre

**Adjournment**

Chairman Rowe declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.