

**CABLE UNION AIRPORT
AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 16, 2024 – 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 Jeff Hurula, Bob Rasmussen, Susan Thurn, Airport Manager Mike Nichols, Treasurer Dale Kruse, Secretary Holly Holly.

Absent: Commissioners Ray Ebert and Joe Garceau.

Guests

Rich Boley - Hangar Owner

Joe Hickey - Hangar Owner

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Thurn to approve as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hurula.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2024

Motion by Commissioner Rasmussen to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Expenditures were \$412.07. Receipts were \$2,792.12 (\$1,903.16, 314.57 gallons gas, 15 fuel sale). Balance on 06/30/24 was \$112,082.92.

Chairman Rowe expressed gratitude to Sue Rosa for being instrumental in procuring the \$5,000 contribution from Bayfield County for the airport contingency fund. This contribution brings the County in line with the 2024 contributions of the three towns.

There were several donations to the airport at the Hamburger Fly In; Chairman Rowe will send thank you notes. Kerri Nelson has offered to cover the cost of the buns and burgers for the event in memory of her late husband and former Commissioner, Kelly Nelson. The commission is very appreciative.

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

Manager's Report

Mr. Nichols reported the airport sign previously located along Hwy M is missing. Joe Connelly, Town of Cable, will have a new one installed.

The fuel pumps must be calibrated every two years as required by the State of Wisconsin and Westmor Services will be on site in the near future to do the maintenance/calibration.

The annual Young Eagles event will take place Saturday, August 3, 2024, from 10 am - 3 pm. There are currently seven youths registered to participate. Mr. Nichols will arrange food for pilots at the event.

Chairman Rowe continues to do the mowing at the airport and his assistance is greatly appreciated. He plans to brush all areas in the next few weeks in an effort to maintain the clearing work that has been completed to date. A tractor window was broken and will cost approximately \$200 to have repaired by Schraufnagel's Glass in Ashland. Commissioner Rasmussen and Chairman Rowe will trailer the tractor to Ashland for repair. Commissioner Hurula volunteered to take a look at the Toro mower as it is not starting consistently.

OLD BUSINESS

Update BOA/EA – Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering (Matt Brynick, BOA - Absent)

Environmental Assessment (EA) - Mr. Volker is working on the RPZ analysis as it has been requested by the BOA. It is tedious in trying to complete the cost analysis of easements, land acquisitions for easement, tree trimming/clearing as this needs to include differentiation between each of the alternatives.

Chairman Rowe questioned if the public hearing will still take place this fall as originally thought and Mr. Volker encouraged the commission to remind Mr. Brynick of our intent to have it this fall in an effort to keep the project moving forward.

SRE Building Update - Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering

Mr. Volker reported the 60% Design Meeting could be scheduled for late July and a date of Friday, July 26, 2024, at 10:00 am was set; commissioners may join in person or virtually. The BOA is coordinating with the National Park Service and as of yet, there has not been any comment so Mr. Volker will proceed with working on the plan in preparation for the design meeting.

UW Milwaukee made a site visit in early July to determine if the project would disturb any nearby historical properties. Mr. Volker is confident there will not be any delays, but the visit was required due to utilizing federal money.

Phase 2 Hangar - Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering

Mr. Volker held a pre-bid meeting today (7/16/24) for the hangar development project and he reported several builders who had expressed interest were not present. Bids will open next Thursday, July 25, 2024. Contractors were encouraged to make a site visit prior to bid opening and Mr. Nichols will ensure the gate is not locked so they will be able to drive and/or walk the site. The BOA has said they will do what they can to have a contract executed yet this year as the money is in place; it will take approximately 30 days to award the contract after the bids open. Chairman Rowe will be in contact with the BOA regularly to be sure there are no avoidable delays.

NEW BUSINESS

Bayfield County Board Update

Chairman Rowe expressed the importance of Bayfield County understanding the significance and importance of the Cable Union Airport. Not all aircraft who utilize the airport actually sign in, but there is a significant amount of traffic in and out of the airport.

Correspondence

A letter was received from the National Park Service (scenic easement) about the airport being good stewards of the land. No action is required of the airport at this time and Mr. Volker commented that the airport is in compliance.

Angela Brooks, NICA Bike Race Coordinator, contacted the airport in regards to utilizing the airport for parking over Labor Day weekend as they have in the past. Mr. Nichols will be the point of contact for the event. Treasurer Kruse will send an invoice for \$1,000 for use of airport property (same fee as 2023). NICA will be responsible for mowing, airport security and cleanup. Mr. Nichols will also be sure there is ribbon 100 feet off the turf runway for safety reasons.

Joe Hickey sent an email to all commissioners regarding a weather station that can be purchased, but there is some concern by the commissioners that the system is not certified and may open the airport up to liability issues.

Future Airport Events

Young Eagles, August 3, 2024.

Hamburger Fly In Social Recap

The Annual Hamburger Fly In was held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. The event was very successful with 16 airplanes attending, approximately 80 hamburgers served and \$916 donated.

Thank you again to Kerri Nelson for sponsoring the event and donating a plaque in Kelly's honor for the terminal. Kerri has offered to purchase a griddle for the airport; Chairman Rowe will contact her with the details. Thank you to those who volunteered at the event including Kay Rowe, Dede Marty, Kerri Nelson, Deanne Allan, Heidi Ebert, Holly Holly and all the commissioners.

Hayward Airport 2025 Spring Temporary Closure

The Hayward Airport will be closed in spring 2025 for scheduled maintenance for approximately 4-8 weeks. There was discussion about some things Cable Union Airport may need to consider as there will most likely be an increase in traffic during the closure.

- Tie down area for airplanes near approach end of Runway 26
- Jet A Fuel - Rich Boley suggested contacting Hayward Airport to see if they would be willing to have it available via a truck in Cable and possibly provide an employee as well.
- Commissioner Thurn suggested contacting pilots who utilize Hayward Airport and offer Cable as an alternative.

There will be further discussion regarding these ideas at future meetings and anyone with suggestions is encouraged to bring them forward.

Terminal Restoration Update

Commissioner Thurn reported that Chris Brinker has completed 40 hours (\$2,600) to date and the remaining 40-80 hours will be completed over the next month. She will also continue to send photos of the progress. So far the bar has been moved, the refrigerator will stay where it is and remain available to be used, kitchen will need a new microwave eventually and possibly an on demand water heater (issues to consider with electric service, size of water heater for kitchen and bathroom, etc.), manager's office will have doors with windows to allow for natural light as there are no windows in that room, meeting area will have a table that can be taken down to make the room more versatile, the ceiling was sagging because a post had been removed and it has now been replaced with a new post, the bathroom tongue and groove will be taken down and replaced with wainscoting from other parts of building, framed in wall from manager's office and pilot's lounge, upgrades to damaged electrical wires, carpet has been removed.

Nick Nelson, Kelly and Kerri Nelson's son, works for an industrial flooring company and emailed Commissioner Thurn with information on an epoxy flake floor that could be used on the existing cement floor and offered a discounted price. Mr. Nichols will provide square footage for an estimate.

Tree Clearing

Commissioner Hurula reported the Gordon Correctional Facility Crew will be on site July 30 - August 9, 2024, to continue with tree clearing efforts. The Town of Drummond will provide the chipper; however they are unable to provide an employee to supervise its use. Commissioner Thurn will check with the Town of Cable to see if they can provide an employee to supervise for 1-2 days (it is not necessary to operate the chipper each day). Commissioner Rasmussen will also check for availability from the Town of Namakagon. Hal Davis, BOA, will identify any specific obstructions to be taken care of and the main focus will be on the south end (towards Telemark). Mr. Nichols and Chairman Rowe will prioritize the areas to be cleared. Thank you to the Town of Drummond as they paid the airport's portion of the chipper cost in 2023.

Update Lease Agreement - Personal Property Tax

Commissioner Garceau has spoken with Attorney Carlson to add verbiage in the lease agreement. The majority of current hangar owners are in agreement to conduct a survey so each owner will receive an individual property tax bill. Mr. Nichols questioned if the new owners, who have yet to build their hangars, have been contacted. Commissioner Garceau was not in attendance so Mr. Nichols will check with him.

Items for Next Agenda:

Bank Discussion - Seek a High Interest Checking/Savings Account
Bayfield County Board
Correspondence
Future Airport Event
Hayward Airport 2025 Temporary Closing
Terminal Renovations
Tree Clearing
Update Lease Agreement - Personal Property Tax

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at the Cable Community Centre at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Chairman Rowe declared the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.